

# Katharine J. Wright

ART HISTORIAN & CURATOR

## PROFILE

Katharine J. Wright is a curator, scholar and provenance specialist with over a decade of experience working in museums. An expert in modern and contemporary art, her writing focuses on alternative media, photography, feminist art, public art and design. Organized, diligent and creative, Katharine's career has been dedicated to developing exhibitions and public programs that activate overlooked spaces, spark new dialogues and question accepted social, political and cultural norms.

## SKILLS

### PROFESSIONAL

Archival Research & Cataloguing  
Exhibition Planning & Design  
Project Management  
Fundraising & Grant Writing  
Mentorship & Collaboration  
Social Media & Branding

### TECHNICAL

Graphic Design & Photography  
HTML, CSS, Adobe Design Suite  
TMS, Filemaker Pro, Raiser's Edge

### LANGUAGES

Italian (Advanced)  
Spanish (Intermediate)  
French (Intermediate)  
German (Beginner)

## CONTACT

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10028

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## EDUCATION

### THE INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (2015)

**DISSERTATION** "Your Art Here: Print Advertisements & Contemporary Art, 1964-1974"  
Advised by Thomas Crow & Robert Slifkin

**SPECIALIZATION** Modern & Contemporary Art

### THE INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY MASTER OF ARTS (2010)

**QUALIFYING PAPER (PRIMARY)** "I Have Nothing to Say and I Am Saying It: A Study of Robert Rauschenberg's Work from the Early 1950s" Advised by Robert Lubar & Thomas Crow

**QUALIFYING PAPER (SECONDARY)** "Following the Gaze: A Study of the Erotic and Pornographic Wall Paintings of Pompeii" Advised by Katherine Welch and James R. McCredie

### WILLIAMS COLLEGE BACHELOR OF ARTS (2007)

**MAJOR** History & Practice (Art History & Studio Art)

**LEADERSHIP** Member of the Art History Major Steering Committee,  
Member of the Art History 1960s Scholars Lecture Committee,  
President of the Gargoyle Leadership Society

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### INDEPENDENT CURATOR & SCHOLAR (2018-PRESENT)

Consulting curator, researcher and provenance specialist to top private collectors, museum curators, art historians, galleries and artist foundations. Clients include: the Philip Guston Catalogue Raisonné project, a Senior Curator at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, an ARTNews top 200 collector, a renowned international art gallery, a major American art historian and a prominent New York collector of modern art. Projects include: market research, collections development and management, archival research, cataloguing, manuscript development, exhibition planning and more.

### ANDREW W. MELLON CURATORIAL RESEARCH & COLLECTIONS SPECIALIST FELLOW (2015-2017) THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, New York, NY

Conducted provenance and collections research on the museum's modern and contemporary artworks. Corresponded regularly with curatorial, registration and research staff at other museums and art institutions, including auction houses and galleries. Created and maintained TMS entries for artworks, exhibitions and scholarly references for export to the museum's website. Collaborated with colleagues across multiple departments. Participated in committee meetings to formulate cataloguing standards for the museum and the field at large. Participated in the fellows program, conducting individual research on various aspects of contemporary American art. Presented this research in the form of lectures and colloquia for Met fellows and staffers, at national and international conferences and as journal articles.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

- WHITNEY MUSEUM  
of AMERICAN ART  
New York, NY**      **CURATORIAL ASSISTANT, PREWAR PAINTING & SCULPTURE (2011 - 2013)**  
Prepared loan forms and insurance valuations for works in exhibitions. Aided in planning, installation, and marketing of major retrospectives on David Smith and Robert Indiana and a large show of modernist works from the permanent collection. Organized and led exhibition tours and events. Compiled research and edited catalogue essays and wall texts. Researched and aided in planning for future exhibition on Stuart Davis. Conducted daily administrative tasks such as writing correspondence, maintaining supervisor's schedule and contacts, updating TMS entries and exhibition modules, and creating scale models of artwork.
- WHITNEY MUSEUM  
of AMERICAN ART  
New York, NY**      **CURATORIAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT, PREWAR PAINTING & SCULPTURE (2011)**  
Prepared and submitted application for immunity from seizure, finalized exhibition history, and aided in installation of first American retrospective on Lyonel Feininger in nearly fifty years. Wrote lender correspondence, organized catalogue distribution, and drafted and maintained guest list for exhibition's opening events.
- MUSEUM of  
MODERN ART  
New York, NY**      **CURATORIAL INTERN, PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT (2010)**  
Researched contemporary photographers for the New Photography exhibition series. Made scale models and organized TMS collection information for works in upcoming exhibitions. Organized artist contact information for museum events. Conducted research on Eastern European and Feminist art for the first American retrospective of the photographer Sanja Ivekovic.
- THE MORGAN  
LIBRARY and MUSEUM  
New York, NY**      **CURATORIAL INTERN, DRAWINGS DEPARTMENT (2009-2010)**  
Researched comparative figures for catalogue essays and organized collection and loan information for an exhibition on Roy Lichtenstein's early drawings. Aided in the location of original, previously unknown, popular media sources for the artist's drawings. Researched artworks owned by Herbert Kasper for forthcoming exhibition. Worked with curator and conservator to decide on reframing for new acquisitions; researched new acquisitions. Maintained TMS exhibition and collection files.
- WHITNEY MUSEUM  
of AMERICAN ART  
New York, NY**      **CURATORIAL INTERN, PREWAR PAINTING & SCULPTURE (2009)**  
Edited text and researched sources for catalogue essays associated with Georgia O'Keeffe and Lyonel Feininger retrospectives, plus permanent collection exhibition. Organized TMS exhibition and collection files. Coordinated loan and reproduction rights forms. Wrote proposal and chose works for potential exhibition. Researched artists for upcoming exhibitions. Compiled exhibition history for publication in catalogue *Lyonel Feininger: At the Edge of the World* (WMAA & Yale University Press, 2011).
- NEW ART CENTER  
Newton, MA**      **EXHIBITIONS ASSISTANT (2007-2008)**  
Installed and de-installed work for exhibitions at educational facility and gallery. Gave tours of current exhibitions. Photographed artwork and wrote press releases. Repaired exhibition walls and room dividers. Organized and hung exhibitions at satellite galleries. Designed promotional materials and online gallery for annual benefit auction. Helped organize special evenings and bi-monthly openings.
- JULIE CHAE GALLERY  
Boston, MA**      **GALLERY ASSISTANT (2007)**  
Researched potential artists and exhibitions. Photographed artwork and wrote press releases. Maintained donor and artist directories. Installed and de-installed exhibitions. Collaborated with artists and curators.
- WILLIAMS COLLEGE  
MUSEUM of ART  
Williamstown, MA**      **CURATORIAL ASSISTANT (2006-2007)**  
Researched artists and specific works in the collection to augment museum's biographical and provenance information. Met with professors to plan classes around museum's collection; selected and prepared artwork for subsequent classes. Organized museum's flat files and rare books collection.

Additional internships held in the Education Departments of the **MUSEUM of FINE ARTS, BOSTON**, the **ALDRICH CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM** in Ridgefield, CT and the **WEIR FARM ART CENTER and NATIONAL HISTORIC TRUST** in Wilton, CT.

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## SCHOLARSHIP

### DISSERTATION

#### **YOUR ART HERE: PRINT ADVERTISEMENTS & CONTEMPORARY ART, 1964 - 1974**

Emboldened by the cultural appropriations of Pop art, many artists in the 1960s and 70s began directly interposing their work into the pages of mass media publications. This dissertation establishes artist-generated print advertisements as paradigms of this avant-garde trend, revealing the incisive dialogues they fostered on feminism, sexuality, commercialization and other important issues facing the art world during this critical period. Investigating magazine ads and newspaper classifieds placed by Yoko Ono, Ray Johnson, Tery Fugate-Wilcox, Ed Ruscha, Judy Chicago, Bruce Conner and Lynda Benglis and other American artists between 1964 and 1974, this study classifies these works as exemplars not only of each artist's oeuvre and but also of wider artistic movements challenging post-war cultural norms.

### BOOKS and EXHIBITION CATALOGUES

**MINIMALISMO, POSMINIMALISMO Y CONCEPTUALISMO, 60s' - 70s**, author and editor, Buenos Aires: Fundacion Proa, 2019.

Essays on Jenny Saville, Deborah Kass, Kiki Smith, Louise Bourgeois, Sophie Calle, Miwa Yanagi and Zuka in Linda Nochlin, **WOMEN ARTISTS: THE LINDA NOCHLIN READER**. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2015.

"The Unbearable Lightness of Curating, or, How to Write a Curatorial Essay on Young Contemporary Artists that Situates their Work in the Annals of Art History While Also Resisting the Need for Such Contextualization," in **SENIOR HONORS STUDIO**. Exhibition catalogue. New York: New York University Curatorial Collaborative, 2015.

**EXPAND//FOLD//COLLAPSE: SCULPTURES BY MARTA CHILINDRON**, digital exhibition catalogue, Institute of Fine Arts, Fall 2014. Co-authored with Susanna V. Temkin. <http://goo.gl/mtVR6E>.

**DYNAMITE PACKED THRILLERS, JOYS OF THE FLESH, & OTHER ADDED ATTRACTIONS: REGINALD MARSH & THE GOLDEN-AGE OF MOVIES**, published by the Museum of the City of New York in conjunction with the online exhibition, *Reginald Marsh*, <http://goo.gl/louElx>.

"Exhibition History," in **LYONEL FEININGER: AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD**. Edited by Barbara Haskell. Exhibition catalogue. New York: Whitney Museum of American Art; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011.

### ARTICLES

"Behind the Games: Street Art and Protest During the Mexico City (1968) and the Rio de Janeiro (2016) Olympics," **RIDICULOSA**, a French multi-disciplinary journal, Fall 2017.

"Art Everywhere: The Met's Little Known Collection of Advertising Art," article for **IN CIRCULATION**, a website maintained by the Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, November 25, 2015. <http://goo.gl/YbwvRG>.

"The Art of Protest and the Year that Changed the World: A Study of the 1968 Student Demonstration Posters in Paris and Mexico City," **UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ART JOURNAL**, August 2011. <http://goo.gl/M2GYdJ>.

### REVIEWS

Review of *Realize Your Desires: Underground Press from the Library of Stefan Brecht* (Printed Matter, Summer 2016), **CAA.REVIEWS**, March 22, 2017. <https://goo.gl/mf9HXE>.

"Performing Intimacy: Lee Mingwei's *Sonic Blossom* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art," **IFA CONTEMPORARY**, June 30, 2016. <https://goo.gl/DqMPcG>.

### RESEARCH in PROGRESS

**IN PLAIN SIGHT: INFILTRATION ART & THE AMERICAN ART MAGAZINE**, book manuscript in progress.

### ADDITIONAL RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public art, history of photography, graphic design, American art, social art history, feminist art, technology, political art, alternative media.

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## CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- TRAVELING EXHIBITION** **THE GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT: 100 YEARS OF THE SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS**, Forthcoming in 2023 (100 venues across America). Guest Curator of anniversary exhibition honoring nation's longest and most respected art education award program, featuring rare archival material and winning work.
- TRAVELING EXHIBITION** **PICASSO LANDSCAPES: OUT OF BOUNDS**, Forthcoming in 2023-2024 at the Mint Museum (Charlotte, NC) and the Cincinnati Art Museum (Cincinnati, OH). Associate Curator and Project Manager for the first major exhibition devoted to Picasso's landscape oeuvre.
- MESSUKESKUS Helsinki** **ART OF POP: BOB DYLAN, THE ORIGINAL DRAWN BLANK SERIES**, June 11 — September 26, 2011  
Consulting curator for an exhibition of over 90 works on paper by Bob Dylan; organized in conjunction with PAN Art Connections.
- TRAVELING EXHIBITION** **KEITH HARING: RADIANT GAMBIT**, Nov. 19, 2020 — May 16, 2021, World Chess Hall of Fame, St. Louis, MO; **KEITH HARING: RADIANT VISION**, May 29 — September 6, 2021, Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown, NY  
Consulting curator for presentation of a private collection of over 80 lithographs, silkscreens, drawings and posters by iconic artist and activist Keith Haring; organized in conjunction with PAN Art Connections.
- FUNDACION PROA Buenos Aires** **MINIMALISMO, POSMINIMALISMO Y CONCEPTUALISMO, 60' - 70'**, July 6 — October 14, 2019  
Showcase of the sculptures, videos and drawings of Sol LeWitt, Dan Flavin, Fred Sandback, Bruce Nauman and Dan Graham—pioneers of the Minimal, Postminimal and Conceptual Art movements.
- LOISAIDA CULTURAL CENTER New York** **EL SEMILLERO BENEFIT AUCTION**, January 19 — February 27, 2018  
An auction wall showcase of work by twenty-five local and international artists, designed to raise money for "El Semillero," a vital, cutting edge media and technology lab in the historic Loisaída Cultural Center.
- CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK New York** **GENESIS: GEORGE LOIS**, September 2017  
An exhibition presenting twenty-seven of Lois's most iconic Esquire covers alongside their preparatory sketches for the first time ever, demonstrating the development of the great adman's "big ideas."
- THE INSTITUTE of FINE ARTS New York** **FELIX GONZALEZ-TORRES**, March 30 — May 8, 2015  
**EXPAND//FOLD//COLLAPSE//SCULPTURES BY MARTA CHILINDRON**, November 3 — December 5, 2014  
Two solo exhibitions co-curated with Susanna V. Temkin as part of the Great Hall Exhibition Series to highlight key interactive works by groundbreaking minimal conceptual artists in the historic Duke mansion.
- 80 WSE GALLERY New York** **DAYS WITH FROG AND TOAD**, February 2015  
An avant-garde two man show of emerging artists Louis Kim and Peter Valenti, where objects-cum-sculptures were activated daily by satirical improvisational performances.

## TEACHING

- ADJUNCT** **ART HISTORY 214: MODERN ART SURVEY**, undergrad lecture course at Pace University, Spring 2020.  
**ART HISTORY 205: CONTEMPORARY ART SURVEY**, undergrad lecture course at Pace University, Fall 2020.
- GUEST LECTURES** **PROTEST ON PAPER: ART MAGAZINES AND INSTITUTIONAL CRITIQUE**, graduate course "From Broadsheets to Blogs: Magazines, Art, & Public Culture," Center for Experimental Humanities, New York University, November 3, 2020.  
**THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN MINIMALISM, POSTMINIMALISM AND CONCEPTUALISM**, online postgraduate course "Mirar el pensamiento" for the University of Buenos Aires, Fall 2019.  
**POSTMODERNISM IS NOTHING**, graduate course on "Nothing" in the Interactive Telecommunications Program, Tisch School of Arts, New York University, April 16, 2018.  
**MODERNISM IS NOTHING**, graduate course on "Nothing" in the Interactive Telecommunications Program, Tisch School of Arts, New York University, March 20, 2018.

## LECTURES & PAPERS DELIVERED

- INVITED LECTURES** **MINIMAL ART, MAXIMAL IMPACT: RADICAL AMERICAN ART OF THE 1960s**, symposium on Minimal Art in conjunction with the exhibition 'Dan Flavin. Espacio y luz' at the Museo de Arte Moderno, Medellín, Colombia, September 11, 2019.

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## LECTURES & PAPERS DELIVERED (CONTINUED)

- CONFERENCES**
- THE MUSEUM IS ALWAYS OPEN: CAMPUS PUBLIC ART**, jointly presented with Katharine Learned, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management & Campus Planning, Connecticut College, at the Society for College & University Planning (SCUP) North Atlantic Regional Conference, March 10, 2020.
- THE MEDIUM IS THE MEDIA: PROTEST ART AND THE INFILTRATION OF POSTWAR AMERICAN PERIODICALS**, International Conference at El Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, November 30, 2018.
- NEWSSTAND CONCEPTUALISM: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN ARTISTS, PERIODICALS AND THE DEMOCRATIC DISSEMINATION OF AN ARTISTIC IDEA**, International Association of Word and Images Studies Triennial Conference, Lausanne, Switzerland, July 13, 2017.
- SELF-DESTRUCT: THE RENOUNCED WORKS OF JOHN BALDESSARI AND DONALD JUDD**, Spring Fellows Colloquium, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, March 31, 2017.
- BENGLIS VS. ARTFORUM: VULGARITY, CENSORSHIP AND THE PRINT ADVERTISEMENT AS CONTEMPORARY ART OBJECT**, Association of Art Historians Annual Conference, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, April 8, 2016.
- RIOTOUS CONCEPTUALISM: SATIRE, COMMERCE, AND ADVERTISING IN CONCEPTUAL ART**, Metropolitan Museum of Art Fellows Colloquium, New York, April 1, 2016.
- ART INC.: SATIRE, COMMERCE AND CONCEPTUAL ART**, Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference, Seattle, Forthcoming: March 23, 2016.
- EGO-SEUMS OR JEWEL BOXES? THE CONTRADICTION NATURE OF TAX-EXEMPT PRIVATE MUSEUMS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**, College Art Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., February 6, 2016.
- ARTISTS, ADVERTISING AND AUDACITY: LYNDA BENGLIS'S INFAMOUS ARTFORUM SPREAD AND THE CONTROVERSIAL ROLE OF THE FEMALE BODY IN CONTEMPORARY ART**, The Rutgers Art History Graduate Student Symposium, April 10, 2015.
- YOUR ART HERE: PRINT ADVERTISEMENTS AND CONTEMPORARY ART, 1964 TO 1980**, Works in Progress Lecture Series, The Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, October 21, 2014.
- YOUR ART HERE: PRINT ADVERTISEMENTS, IMAGINARY GALLERIES AND CONTEMPORARY ART, 1964 TO 1971**, Parsons/Cooper Hewitt Graduate Symposium, April 10, 2014.
- LEARNING TO SEE: THE ART MUSEUM GOES TO COLLEGE**, jointly presented with Katharine Learned, Director of Facilities, Northfield Mount Hermon School at the Society for College & University Planning (SCUP) North Atlantic Regional Conference, April 12, 2012, and the SCUP Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, April 17, 2012.
- THE ART OF PROTEST: A STUDY OF THE 1968 STUDENT DEMONSTRATION POSTERS IN PARIS AND MEXICO CITY**, University of Toronto Graduate Symposium, January 28, 2011.

## ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS

- PANEL DISCUSSIONS**
- RADICALLY SEXED: THE CONTROVERSIAL ROLE OF PORNOGRAPHY, GENDER-BENDING & INTERSEXUALITY IN POST-WAR AMERICAN ART**, Convener & Discussant, College Art Association Annual Conference, February 10, 2021.
- PACE UNIVERSITY ART HISTORY CAREER PANEL**, Discussant, November 13, 2020.
- MAKING ROOM: RECENT WORK BY MARISOL CHANG, AC TOWERY, AMY WESTPFAHL**, Artist Panel Moderator, June 23, 2019.
- CAREER PANEL: WHAT TO DO AFTER THE MA**, Discussant, The Institute of Fine Arts, December 13, 2017.
- VISIONS FOR THE GREATER GOOD: THREE LEADING PERSPECTIVES ON ART, COLLECTING AND PHILANTHROPY**, Convener and Moderator, The Institute of Fine Arts, March 21, 2017.

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## ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS (CONTINUED)

- PANEL DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)** **INFILTRATION ART**, Co-Convener, College Art Association Annual Conference, New York, February 16, 2017.
- ALUMNI CAREER PANEL: THE ART MARKET**, Moderator, The Institute of Fine Arts, April 28, 2015.
- NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CURATORIAL COLLABORATIVE ARTIST AND CURATORS PANEL**, Discussant, The Institute of Fine Arts, March 6, 2015.
- GRANTS, AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS**
- PROFESSIONAL**  
The Arts Writers Book Grant Finalist, Fall 2020
- GRADUATE**  
Institute of Fine Arts Nominee for NYU's Outstanding Dissertation Award (2015-2016)  
Lila Acheson Wallace Scholarship (IFA)  
Robert Goldwater Fellowship (IFA)  
Eleanor Pearson Travel Grant (IFA)  
Leon Levy & Shelby White Travel Fellowship (IFA)  
Dean's Student Travel Grant (NYU)
- POSTGRADUATE**  
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Research and Collections Specialist Fellowship, Department of Modern and Contemporary Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- UNDERGRADUATE**  
Berkshire Art Fellow, Berkshire Art Association  
Cum Laude, Williams College  
Art History 1960s Scholar, Williams College  
Kraft Alumni Sponsored Intern, Williams College  
Dean's List, Williams College (2003-2007)
- AFFILIATIONS**  
New York City Digital Art History Initiative, Steering Group Member  
College Art Association, Member  
American Alliance of Museums, Member  
International Association of Word and Image Studies, Member  
Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, Member  
Catalogue Raisonné Scholars Association, Member
- ACTIVITIES**  
Guest Critic, Interactive Telecommunications Graduate Program, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, March 2018.
- Editor, ifacontemporary.org, an online platform for critical and scholarly writing on contemporary art, 2015-2016.
- Juror, Alternative Avenues: The 95th Annual Exhibition of the American Society of Contemporary Artists, Winter 2012.

## REFERENCES

- PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**
- Kelly Baum, Cynthia Hazen Polsky and Leon Polsky Curator of Contemporary Art  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10028  
212.650.2860 | kelly.baum@metmuseum.org
- Mary Chan, Collections Specialist  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10028  
212.650.2046 | mary.chan@metmuseum.org
- ACADEMIC REFERENCES**
- Thomas Crow, Rosalie Solow Professor of Modern Art & Associate Provost for the Arts  
The Institute of Fine Arts, New York University  
1 East 78th Street, New York, New York, 10075  
212.992.5834 | tc59@nyu.edu
- Robert Slifkin, Associate Professor of Fine Arts  
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