

Saelan Twerdy

saelantwerdy@gmail.com

Education

PhD, Art History (in progress), 2012 –

McGill University, Montreal, QC

Dissertation title: “The Dream of Dematerialization: Information Technology and the Political Economy of Art After Conceptualism”

Supervisor: Amelia Jones

M.A. Art History and Curatorial Studies, 2011

York University, Toronto, ON

MRP title: “Riot in the Archive: Steven Shearer’s Alternative History”

Supervisor: Dan Adler

B.A. Art History and Film Studies, 2005

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Professional Experience

RACAR

Managing Editor

2018 – present

Momus

Contributing Editor (Montreal)

2014 – present

Freelance art writer

2010 – present

Published in various Canadian and international venues including *Momus*, *Canadian Art*, *Esse*, *Border Crossings*, *C magazine*, *Blackflash*, *Magenta*, *Bad Day*, and *The New Inquiry*, as well as in various books and exhibition catalogues.

Course Lecturer

- McGill University, Winter 2018
ARTH 353: Selected Topics in Art History I (The Dematerialized Artwork)
- McGill University, Fall 2017
ARTH 205: Introduction to Modern Art
- McGill University, Winter 2016
ARTH 202: Introduction to Contemporary Art

Teaching Assistant

- McGill University, Winter 2015

- ARTH202: Introduction to Contemporary Art. Prof: Erandy Vergara-Vargas
- McGill University, Winter 2013
- ARTH314: "The Medieval City". Prof: Jean-Sebastien Sauve
- York University, Fall 2010
- 200-level 19th-century art course. Prof: Brian Grosskurth

Research Assistant

- Amelia Jones, McGill University, Fall 2012
General research and assistance.
- Marcus Boon, York University, July 2011
Research for a lecture on drugs in contemporary art that was presented at the 2011 Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant program conference in Philadelphia.

Graduate Assistant

- Daniel Adler, York University, 2009-10
Research directed towards a proposed book project on contemporary sculpture of "critical display," focused on artists such as Geoffrey Farmer, Rachel Harrison, Isa Genzken, and Scott Lyall, among others.

Conference Presentations

University of Waterloo – October 25-27, 2018

UAAC Conference

"The Precarious Era: Anxious Affects and the Periodization of Post-Contemporary Art"

Concordia University – October 21, 2016

"Networked Art Histories, 1960s to the present day (in Canada and elsewhere)"

"Missed Connections: Relational Aesthetics and net.art, 1996-2004"

University College London – March 5, 2016

"Playing Games: Power and Pleasure in Art After the Internet"

"Gamifying Precarity: De- and Re-materializing Post-Internet Art in Brad Troemel's Art and Aesthetics"

Concordia University – March 7, 2015

AHGSA Conference: "Constellation, Clusters, Networks"

"Attention Ecology: Biological Metaphors in Post-Internet Art"

University of Toronto – March 20, 2014

Wollesen Memorial Graduate Symposium: "Art/Work"

"The Ghost of the Worker: Spectral Labour in the Work of Geoffrey Farmer"

Banff Centre – October 18, 2013

UAAC Conference

“Re-materializing the Labouring Body: Carey Young, Kelly Mark, Klara Liden”

Rutgers University – April 26, 2013

Art History Graduate Student Symposium: “Networks”

“Contemporary Art in/as Networks: Moments from the Post-Internet Condition”

Awards and Grants

Media@McGill Advanced Dissertation Grant, \$5000, 2017-18

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council – Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, 2013-2016, \$105,000

McGill Excellence Award, McGill University, 2012, \$4000

Abner Kingman Fellowship in the Arts, McGill University, 2012-14, \$40,000

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council – Joseph-Armand Bombardier Scholarship, 2010-11, \$17,000

York University Graduate Scholarship, 2009-11, \$21,000

Speaking Engagements and Service

Conversations in Contemporary Art Series

(Concordia University, Montreal, QC) Nov 9, 2018

Guest lecturer

Peer Reviewer

Art Journal Online

May 2018

ArtNOW Speaker Series

(Lethbridge, AB), Nov. 25, 2016

Guest lecturer, invitee of the Lethbridge Visitor’s Committee: “Searching for the Post-contemporary: a report on the 2016 Berlin and Montreal Biennials”

RBC Canadian Painting Competition 2016 Jury Member

Winner announced at The Power Plant, Toronto, on Tuesday, September 20, 2016.

“Live Chat” panel discussion

(Montreal, QC), Feb. 28, 2015

Curated and facilitated a panel discussion on digital networks and social media as part of “Talk Show,” an exhibition at SBC Gallery in Montreal. Invited guests included Rob Horning, Jennifer Chan, and Molly Sauter.

Canadian Art Foundation Montreal Gallery Hop

(Montreal, QC) June 14, 2014

Tour of contemporary art galleries in the Belgo Building.

Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art

(Toronto, ON) July 14th, 2012

Tour of the exhibition "TRANS/form: Matter as Subject" in discussion with participating artists Niall McClelland and Sasha Pierce.

The Power Plant

(Toronto, ON) March 27, 2012

Member's-Only lecture tour of Kerry Tribe's exhibition "Speak, Memory."

The Power Plant

(Toronto, ON) August 1, 2010

"Sunday Scene" tour of current exhibitions.

Selected Publications

Book Chapters

"A Theory of Everything: On the State of Theory and Criticism," and "Morbid Symptoms: Searching for the Post-Contemporary at the 2016 Montreal Biennial," in *Momus: A Return to Art Criticism Vol. 1, 2014–17*, edited by Sky Gooden (Toronto: Momus and /edition, 2017).

Catalogue Essays

"Nicolas Grenier's Working Systems" in *Nicolas Grenier*. Montreal and Los Angeles: Antoine Ertaskiran & Luis de Jesus, 2018.

"Alexis Dirks," in *Reflections & Refractions*, ed. Noa Bronstein. Gallery 44 and Black Dog Publishing: Toronto and London, UK, 2016.

"Gesture and Ritual in the Work of Julie Favreau," in *Julie Favreau: an entire day an entire month*, ed. Jake Moore. FOFA Gallery, Concordia University: Montreal, 2014.

"Form and Pattern in the Texture of Being: Zin Taylor's Unit Operations," in *Zin Taylor: Lichen Voices/Stripes and Dots*, ed. Rosemary Heather and Nicholas Schafhausen. Fogo Island Arts/Sternberg Press: Toronto, 2013.

"The Tangibilities of Form," and "Interview: Jaime Angelopolous," in *trans/FORM: Matter as Subject*, ed. David Liss. Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art: Toronto, 2012.

Features and Reviews

"Kim Waldron," esse n. 94 (Autumn 2018)

"Recognition and Reckoning: Montreal's Alternative Art Spaces at the Crossroads," Momus.ca, July 27, 2018.

"Chto Delat," *Canadian Art* (Summer 2018).

"Touch, Desire, and the Trinket Box: Celia Perrin Sidarous Shifts Time," *Momus.ca*, June 1, 2018.

"Speaking from a Wound: Jesse Darling on Faith, Crisis, and Refusal," *Momus.ca*, January 9, 2018.

"Living with Crisis: Art, Anxiety, and Vulnerability," *Canadian Art* (Winter 2017-18).

"In Search of Expo 67," *Canadian Art* (Fall 2017).

"Montreal Report: Darkness in Summer," *Canadianart.ca*, June 28, 2017.

"Réponse," *Canadian Art* (March 2017).

"6 New Montreal Art Spaces to Watch," *Canadianart.ca*, November 29, 2016.

"Morbid Symptoms: Searching for the Post-Contemporary at the 2016 Montreal Biennial," *Momus.ca*, November 22, 2016.

"Satellites: Marie-Michelle Deschamps," *Canadian Art* (September 2016).

"Who Was Edmund Alleyn? Rediscovering a Mercurial and Untimely Talent," *Momus.ca*, August 4, 2016.

"The Sadean Woman: Tricia Middleton and the Violence of Art," *Momus.ca*, February 9, 2016.

"This Is Where It Ends: the Denouement of Post-Internet Art in Jon Rafman's Deep Web," *Momus.ca*, July 9, 2015.

"Aiming to Please: Division Gallery Surveys Post-Internet Entertainment," *Momus.ca*, March 17, 2015.

"Bad Dream of the Bauhaus: Juan Ortiz-Apuy's IKEA Fantasia," *Momus.ca*, February 16, 2015.

"Year in Review: Montreal from the Ground Up," *Momus.ca*, December 31, 2014.

"Playing the Double Agent: Kathleen Ritter's 'Camoufleurs,'" *Momus.ca*, December 29, 2014.

"Notes On the Art of Writing—And Rewriting," *Canadianart.ca*, November 14, 2014.

"Future Forecast: The Montreal Biennale 2014," *Momus.ca*, November 10, 2014.

"A Theory of Everything: On the State of Theory and Criticism (Part II)," *Momus.ca*, November 3, 2014.

"A Theory of Everything: On the State of Theory and Criticism (Part I)," *Momus.ca*, October 30, 2014.

"Julie Favreau: Mastering the Moment," *Canadian Art* v.31 n.1 (Spring 2014).

"Saelan Twerdy's Top 3 of 2013: New Views," *Canadianart.ca*, December 18, 2013.

"Construction Ahead: John Zeppetelli," *Canadian Art* v.30 n.4 (Winter 2013).

"Eccentric Anarchy: Staging the Work of Christopher D'Arcangelo," *Magenta* v.4 n.3 (Fall 2013).

"Sherry Walchuk: For My Dad," *Canadian Art* v. 30 n.3 (Fall 2013).

"Karen Kraven's Magic Evident at Centre Clark," *Canadian Art* v. 30 n.2 (Summer 2013).

"Noel Rodo-Vankeulen," *Border Crossings* n. 125 (Feb. 2013).

"How Luc Paradis' First Big Show Rocked the White Cube," *Canadian Art* v. 30 n. 1 (Spring 2013).

"Laurent Grasso Creates Must-See Labyrinth in Montreal," *Canadianart.ca*, February 14,

2013.

"Re-uses of Language: the exhibition Postscript brings together experimental literature and contemporary art," *Magenta*, Oct. 11, 2012.

"Zin Taylor," *Border Crossings* n. 123 (Sept. 2012).

"Laurie Kang: Empty Vessels Make the Most Noise," *ION* magazine, June 1, 2012.

"Jon Rafman: Mapping Google," *Canadianart.ca*, May 17, 2012.

"Garden of Forking Paths: a conversation with Derek Sullivan," *C magazine* n. 113 (Spring 2012).

"Steven Shearer," *Bad Day* n. 11 (July 2011).

"Emerging: Alex Kisilevich," *BlackFlash* 28.2 (Winter 2011).

"Liam Crockard," *Border Crossings* n. 120 (Dec. 2011).

"Shary Boyle," *Bad Day* n. 9 (November 2010).

"Projections: Music Video," *C magazine* n.108 (Winter 2010/11).

"New Vision Revisited: Jessica Eaton's Critical Abstraction," *BlackFlash* 28.1 (Fall 2010).

Book Reviews

"Lane Relyea, Your Everyday Art World," *C magazine* n. 124 (Winter 2014).

"David Balzer, Curationism: How Curating Took Over the Art World and Everything Else," *Momus.ca*, October 15, 2014.

"Claire Bishop, Artificial Hells: Participatory Art and the Politics of Spectatorship," *C magazine* n.116 (Winter 2012), p. 59-60.

"Mystical Idiots: Lars Iyer's *Spurious* and *Dogma*," *The New Inquiry*, April 6, 2012.
<http://thenewinquiry.com/essays/mystical-idiots/>

Exhibition Texts

"Shana Moulton," Centre Clark, Montreal, Fall 2018

"Loving and Leaking: Katie Bethune-Leamen's Cute Blobs," Eastern Edge, St. Johns, Oct. 24 - Nov. 28, 2015.

"FrameWork 2/12: Saelan Twerdy on Althea Thauberger," produced for Althea Thauberger" at Susan Hobbs Gallery, Toronto, Jan. 26 - March 3, 2012.
http://www.susanhobbs.com/pdf/framework_2_12.pdf

"Chopped & Screwed" at MKG127 Gallery, Toronto, July 6 - 30, 2011.

"Jessica Eaton: Strata" at Red Bull 381 Projects, Toronto, Nov. 18 - Dec. 18, 2010.