JUNE 1–3, 2018
PORTLAND, OR

ASSEMBLY

A CO-AUTHORED SOCIAL PRACTICE CONFERENCE

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
We are coming together (again) and it can change as we go along...

There is a German proverb saying “Man soll die Feste feiern, wie sie fallen,” which translates into something like “One should celebrate the parties as they come.” I understand this as a reminder that regardless of what is happening in the larger picture, there are certain moments in life that you just have to celebrate at the time they happen. Assembly feels like a celebration to me each year.

As every year, there will have been a lot of organizing, negotiating, running around, last minute freak outs and short nights leading up to Assembly on our end. Until the last minute it feels a little messy and unclear what it is going to be like. And then it happens and it all magically falls into place. Assembly has always felt like one of the happiest moments to me, because it reminds me of so many things that make our program unique and special.

While thinking about ways we can make our projects fun and meaningful for everyone involved, we question power systems we encounter constantly through our work. We bring together our various backgrounds, experiences and skills to cross pollinate, work together, figure things out collectively and show up for each other in support. We also goof around, go on fun trips, sing karaoke, dance like bosses or invent weird sport exercises as our first morning activity (ever saw a group crawling, sideways skipping or jumping across the street? That likely was us!). The program changes as we go along with whoever is part of the group. We shape our own education and self organize as much as possible. In many ways we function like a collective, a family, or a long term collaborative project. Never have I experienced that type of community as an art student before. I am glad that I came all the way from Germany to be part of this amazingly talented, courageous and inspiring group of people.

Part of our work is to bring what we learn in our studies class into our practice. We bring together our various backgrounds, experiences and skills to cross pollinate, question power systems we encounter constantly through our work. We bring together our various backgrounds, experiences and skills to cross pollinate, work together, figure things out collectively and show up for each other in support. We also goof around, go on fun trips, sing karaoke, dance like bosses or invent weird sport exercises as our first morning activity (ever saw a group crawling, sideways skipping or jumping across the street? That likely was us!). The program changes as we go along with whoever is part of the group. We shape our own education and self organize as much as possible. In many ways we function like a collective, a family, or a long term collaborative project. Never have I experienced that type of community as an art student before. I am glad that I came all the way from Germany to be part of this amazingly talented, courageous and inspiring group of people.

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The stories of Assembly will be particularly present and we are happy to announce the launching of our 10 year anniversary book still hot from the printer! We are excited you are here! Assembly is a time for seeing old friends, making new friends, being together, letting yourself be surprised, thinking about all the different ways in which art can be activated, living the moment, and experiencing something that may feel both familiar and new each year.

This year is a special year for us because there are even more reasons to celebrate: Assembly is going into its 5th year and our program celebrates its 10 year anniversary! As required by a celebration like this, there will be a lot of pop up, blow up, speaking up, eating, or just being present.

Nevertheless, we are also committed to asking some serious and current questions. We have had a lot of discussions this year on the topics of civics, civic engagement and what it means to be a citizen. Accordingly, Assembly will take place at Portland civic institutions: City Hall, the City Library, the Native American Student and Community Center, as well as other locations at PSU and the Park Blocks. You will find our long-term engagement with Columbia River Correctional Institution, Martin Luther King Jr. School, the Hollywood Senior Center and Portland Tropical Gardens at Directors Park represented in our programming this year.

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—Anke Schüttler

Special thanks to the Platt Family.
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<td>Citizen</td>
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<td>4:45PM–5:45PM</td>
<td>Forgiveness Pop Up meditation with Amy Subach</td>
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<td>KSMoCA Opening Reception</td>
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**Saturday, June 2**

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<td>1:30–4:00PM</td>
<td>Social Practice Assembly Pop-ups Featuring:</td>
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<td>Portland Tropical Gardens Closing Party, Director Park, 815 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR 97205</td>
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*This event will begin offsite. See event description for details.
A City Hall
B Multnomah County Central Library
C Native American Student and Community Center
9:00–10:00AM

Spectate or Speculate!
Hosted by the Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs

with Zeph Fishlyn and Eric John Olson

Are you worried about rent being too damn high? Do you want to secure your financial future? Do you want to get your slice of the pie, or do you want to watch from the sidelines? In today’s overheated real estate market, The Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs brings you a fun new way to get in on the speculation spectacle! Why deal with the headaches of being a landlord when you can invest in housing the high-tech modern way—far far away? Join us in a special edition of Spectate or Speculate! and let’s speculate our future away!

Friday, June 1
Location:
Portland City Hall
1221 SW 4th Ave
10:05–10:10AM

City of Portland Special Projects: 1-800-Dial-an-Old-Friend

with Eric John Olson, Samuel Wildman, and participants from the Hollywood Senior Center

As with many cities in the United States, Portland suffers from age-segregated urban planning, leaving younger generations socially isolated from the elderly and their wealth of experiences. In response to this issue we are presenting a special project for the City of Portland, 1-800-Dial-an-Old-Friend: a public hotline that connects wayward youth, aimless millennials, and mid-life crisis-ers to our city’s wisest citizens.

10:10–11:10AM

Remnants of Color Blue: Short term display

Artist talk and panel discussion with Richard Lundquist, Anupam Singh, Martha Gies, and Janan Stoll

A short durational display of artworks by artist Richard Lundquist. The exhibition will address the issues of civic rights of felons. The art works will be a visual documentation of the artist’s life post incarceration.

11:20AM–12:20PM

Difference is a Field

with Lauren Moran

Over the past few months, I have been exploring situations of personal and political difference through conversations, workshops, moments of aggressive vulnerability and a rigorous examination of my own values and assumptions. Have you ever had a meaningful experience with someone you deeply disagree with? Is it possible to have generative dialogue with communities of different values and ideologies? What are new formats for these conversations? How can we take care of ourselves and each other while challenging ourselves to make connections based on difference? We will continue exploring these questions together at City Hall in a participatory event around these topics and ideas.

12:20–12:55PM

Exchange Endowments

with Adam Carlin and Kimberly Sutherland

Endowments are donations in perpetuity designated to a specific part of an organization as decided upon by a donor. For Exchange Endowments, Kim Sutherland and Adam Carlin are endowing funding for a once-a-year lunch conversation between a government employee at Portland City Hall, and a local artist.
1:00PM–2:00PM
Citizen | 100


CITIZEN | 100 is a critical examination of citizenship in today’s world. Who is a citizen? What is the nature of citizenship today? Who and how does the public or the nation decide what it means to be a citizen? 7th grade students from the Martin Luther King Jr. school will facilitate a public dialogue on these and other questions as pertains to citizenship in today’s political and social arena. CITIZEN | 100 is the result of participatory, arts-based research conducted by the students as part of their year-end project in civics at the King School.

2:15PM–3:15PM
The City Seal of Portland, Oregon
Xi Jie Ng (Salty)

In 1878, a committee picked a Mr. C.A. Bjourkman’s design to be that of the Portland city seal. In today’s City Hall atrium lies a podium emblazoned with our seal. In this session we will each design a new city seal based on what we think represents Portland today. From all the designs, including those by incarcerated individuals at the Columbia River Correctional Institution and kids at Martin Luther King, Jr. School, a vote and ceremony (featuring the figure of Portlandia performed by Emma Colburn) will take place to pick today’s updated Portland City Seal, and the result will be officially proposed to City Hall.

3:30PM–4:30PM
Pluralist Practices in Portland | Prácticas Pluralistas en Portland | Thúc tiến đa nguyên ở Portland

Roshani Thakore, Yaelle Amir, Patricia Vasquez-Gomez, Roya Amirsoleymani, Ariana Jacob, Lisa Bates, and Humberto Marquez Mendez

Art + Activist movements are shaping Portland’s cultural landscape and the city itself. Considering the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture’s Statement of Values, panelists will discuss how their work in art, funding, programming, urban planning, and education is adding to the cultural pluralism in Portland and what tactics are needed next.
Forgiveness Meditation

with Amy Subach, assisted by Kaitlyn McKenzie Nelson, and Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr.

Forgiveness is release. We need forgiveness to move on, to build, to create. Let’s practice forgiveness together. Let’s let go. Let’s forgive so we can start. What in your world needs forgiveness? What can you release? Let’s start small and grant grace to each other. Let’s forgive ourselves.

One on one forgiveness sessions will be offered on Sunday, email forgivenesspopup@gmail.com to see the schedule and make an appointment.

Ceding & Creating Space

with Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. and Kaitlyn McKenzie Nelson, assisted by Amy Subach

One of the dictionary definitions for the word civic is “relating to the duties or activities of people in relation to their town, city, or local area.” This means that the interactions between individuals within a community are civically engaged by nature. In the spirit of a civically engaged creative practice Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. is ceding space to other artists and assisting to create new work led by the invited artists to be exhibited in place of their own. While there are no claims of inequitable access to the Portland State University Art and Social Practice program, the social systems we all navigate are stratified with barriers that create inequitable access to opportunity. In this work, Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. shows that anyone with privilege can cede and create space to generate opportunities for others.

KSMoCA Opening Reception

Byron Kim: Sunday Paintings

Location: King School Museum of Contemporary Art (KSMoCA), 4906 NE 6th Ave, Portland, OR 97211

Byron Kim makes a small painting of the sky every Sunday. On the surface of these paintings, he writes a journal entry, just a few thoughts, a description of the weather or just something about his life or his family and friends. He has been doing this since January 9, 2001, so there are over 800 of these paintings, but this exhibition at KSMoCA includes just the recent ones. His exhibition includes a selection of these paintings as well as paintings he will produce in collaboration with two students from each grade at MLK Jr. School.
Saturday, June 2

Location:
Multnomah County Central Library
801 SW 10th Ave.

In Step
with Tia Kramer and Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem

In Step is a meditation in walking as civic engagement. Informed by the practices of Rebecca Solnit and Ernesto Pujol, this walk, choreographed with one gesture, will transport us from the North Steel Bridge to The Multnomah County Central Library. Together we will depart at 11:30am from the green space on the corner of NE Oregon Street and NE Interstate Avenue. Public transit and parking information can be found on the website (psusocialpractice.org/assembly). Wear comfortable walking shoes and layers. We will walk 1.5 miles; all ages and abilities welcome.
1:30–2:30PM

Art & Social Practice Special Collections
Lauren Moran, Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem, and Roshani Thakore

We are forming the first public archive of ephemera related to art and social practice, organized in honor of the program’s 10 year anniversary, and housed in the Portland State University Library Special Collections. We have begun to build the collection with project materials from works connected to program collaborations, current students and alumni to celebrate all the work that has been created from the program itself, and are excited to grow the archive, with materials from socially engaged art projects all over the world. It is the hope that this archive will be useful for public research, dialogue and education around socially engaged art. In a special pop-up installation for Assembly, we plan to display and activate selected pieces of project ephemera that have been submitted to the collection so far, with a special emphasis on projects relating to civic engagement.

2:40–3:40PM

Porous Wonder
with Xi Jie Ng (Salty)

Delving into the profound wonder and magic in children’s literature, you are invited to explore language around these elements in our lives. Tapping into the subconscious and childhood memories, we will meditate on how these can support creative practices. All ages and backgrounds welcome, materials will be provided.

3:50–4:50PM

Correspondence Course
Anke Schüttler, Roshani Thakore, Spencer Byrne-Seres, and members of the CRLC Artist-in-Residence Program

Over the past year and a half, students from the PSU Art and Social Practice Program have been working to create an Artist-in-Residence program for prisoners at Columbia River Correctional Institution, a minimum security prison within the Portland city limits. “Correspondence Course” is a syllabus for a course developed by artists in the Residency to be shared with a larger audience, and to invite the public to participate in a series of assignments authored by prisoners.

More information about the residency can be found at www.crci.art
6:00–9:00PM

It Can Change As We Go Along
Organized by Roz Crews, Mark Menjivar, and Molly Sherman

Location: Shattuck Hall Annex at Portland State University

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Art and Social Practice MFA Program at Portland State University, we will re-create the format of the original PSU Monday Night Lecture Series by offering a free dinner inspired by the meals Lexa Walsh used to organize and create as a student in the program and as part of the series. Afterwards, join us for a free, public lecture featuring eleven students (current and former) representing each cohort of the program as they discuss their experiences with this unique MFA program. During this public, one-hour event, alumni and current students will have a question-based discussion about their experience with the program via a video chat which will be projected for the audience. Molly Sherman, Roz Crews, and Mark Menjivar will moderate the conversation as well as the Q&A to follow. At this event, we will also release It Can Change As We Go Along, the ten year anniversary book commemorating everything that's happened as part of the program so far.

9:00PM

Karaoke

Suki's, 2401 SW 4th Ave, Portland, OR 97201

Wind down the day and up the evening with us at Suki’s Karaoke. Singing encouraged but not mandatory!
Sunday, June 3

Location:
Native American Student and Community Center
710 SW Jackson St.

11:00AM–12:00PM

Speaking, Speaker.

with Jessica Cerullo, Tia Kramer, and Anke Schüttler and artists in the CRCI Artist in Residency Program as well as incarcerated participants from Walla Walla, Washington

If you knew you would be heard, what would you say in a moment of bravery? Who would you want to listen? What prevents you from speaking? What are the consequences of silence? Where could you find courage? And how would you begin?

For the last two months we have been asking people who are incarcerated to answer these questions. Join us as we explore their responses and our own relationship to our voice. Together, we will warm up our voices in preparation to answer these questions for ourselves and use them to give voice to others who do not feel they have the power to speak. We will serve as amplifiers and witnesses. Our experiences will be collected, recorded and shared.

12:10–1:10PM

Collaborative Mapmaking

with Emma Colburn

During this workshop we will create collaborative drawings of Portland, translating them into entities that can communicate with the Cartesian grid. Together we will generate navigational interfaces to reflect our collective experiences, counterposing top-down orientating systems common to the contemporary internet user.
Lunch: Real Food, Faux Truck, Food Truck

with Riley Zahara Jacobsen and Beck Anders Jacobsen, assisted by Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr.

Real Food, Faux Truck, Food Truck is a pop up street food experience brought to life through an intergenerational collaboration.

“Come Hungry”
“Bring Cash”

Ceding & Creating Space

with Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr., assisted by Riley Zahara Jacobsen and, Beck Anders Jacobsen

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SoFA Journal Blow Up Launch Party

with Eric John Olson, Spencer Byrne-Seres, and Kimberly Sutherland

The PSU Social Practice Journal is a bi-annual publication dedicated to supporting, documenting, and contextualizing socially engaged art and its related fields and disciplines. Each issue of the Journal focuses on a different theme in order to take a deep look at the ways in which artists are engaging with communities, institutions, and the public. Our first issue, on the theme of Civics, will be presented as a blow-up launch at Assembly and offer a small mobile reading lounge for people to enjoy the inaugural issue.

Forgiveness Pop Up meditation (one on ones)

with Amy Subach, assisted by Kaitlyn McKenzie Nelson and, Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr.

Artist Amy Subach will create and hold an intimate one on one space to talk about and practice forgiveness.

Email forgivenesspopup@gmail.com to see the schedule and make an appointment.
The Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs is ready to serve you

with Zeph Fishlyn and Portland Tenants United

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler won office in spring 2016 promising the creation of an Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs to educate landlords and tenants, clarify rights and responsibilities, and mediate disputes. While details are being discussed in committee, we thought, why wait? This mobile, citizen-led Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs is ready to serve!

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**SOCIAL PRACTICE ASSEMBLY POP-UPS CONTINUED:**

**4:30–5:00PM**

**SAMPling Tropics**

SAMP Laptop Ensemble, directed by Burke Jam (in collaboration with Emma Colburn)

A site-specific musical performance to explore the acoustic ecology of Portland Tropical Gardens, improvised live by members of SAMP: Laptop Ensemble at Portland State University.

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**4:30–6:30PM**

**Portland Tropical Gardens Closing Party**

Location: Director Park, 815 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR 97205

Come celebrate with the PTG family as we reflect on our past few months at Director Park! Tropical snacks and refreshments aplenty. For programming details keep in touch with us on Instagram @portlandtropicalgardens.

Portland Tropical Gardens is an artist-run space that envisions Portland’s first public indoor tropical garden. At PTG, you will find different types of plants that thrive in the dynamic and vast region of the tropics. PTG serves as a hub to educate the public about tropical culture and life. PTG is also host to the Center for Art & Public Wellness, centered on the intersection between creative expression and holistic well-being.

PTG is co-founded by members of the Portland State University School of Art + Design community. This project is made possible thanks to the support of the PSU School of Art + Design and Portland Parks & Recreation.
From and giving back to the people she works with.

Inherent to her process which is all about learning places. Collaboration and collective thinking are connected otherwise. She likes to ask questions, interactions between people who might not have a transformed version of that experience to a larger group of people, her work strives to foster social justice of the past, or impacts of man's consumption of food, the making of toys, and further understand the nuances of life. At times this involves the preparation, serving, and consumption of food, the making of toys, and creating, telling or listening to stories.

CRLC
The Columbia River Correctional Institution Artist in Residence Program is located in North Portland on the Columbia River. The program is dedicated to creating a space for artists to reflect on and expand their artistic practices through workshops, lectures, critiques, and collaborative projects. The residency is focused on recontextualizing spaces that are not normally associated with art-making, into places for generative creative production.

Emma Colburn
Emma Colburn is an artist living and working in Space and Time.

Eric John Olson
Eric John Olson’s work focuses on participatory and cooperative art practices. He has been awarded project grants and residencies by the Seattle Art Museum, MadArt Studios, City of Seattle, Seattle Public Library and 4Culture. His work has been written about in The Seattle Times, The Stranger, The Creators’ Project, and more.

Gerald Scratchions
Gerald D. Scratchions is a middle school Social Studies teacher in Portland, OR. His goals are to instruct students to develop multiple perspectives when considering events of the past and present. Further, Gerald sits on the Portland Public Schools Environmental Climate Justice, which was the first of its kind in the United States. He is a strong advocate of teaching social and climate justice as well as reforming the use of textbooks in classrooms that fail to consider injustices of the past, or impacts of man made climate change of the present and future.

The Hollywood Senior Center
The Hollywood Senior Center strives to promote the health, independence and well-being for adults 55 and older. They provide services and activities for all older adults across a full spectrum of interests and needs.

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Emma Colburn is an artist living and working in Space and Time.

Eric John Olson
Eric John Olson’s work focuses on participatory and cooperative art practices. He has been awarded project grants and residencies by the Seattle Art Museum, MadArt Studios, City of Seattle, Seattle Public Library and 4Culture. His work has been written about in The Seattle Times, The Stranger, The Creators’ Project, and more.

Gerald Scratchions
Gerald D. Scratchions is a middle school Social Studies teacher in Portland, OR. His goals are to instruct students to develop multiple perspectives when considering events of the past and present. Further, Gerald sits on the Portland Public Schools Environmental Climate Justice, which was the first of its kind in the United States. He is a strong advocate of teaching social and climate justice as well as reforming the use of textbooks in classrooms that fail to consider injustices of the past, or impacts of man made climate change of the present and future.

The Hollywood Senior Center
The Hollywood Senior Center strives to promote the health, independence and well-being for adults 55 and older. They provide services and activities for all older adults across a full spectrum of interests and needs.

Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr.
Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. uses the framework of art to play with, engage in, and further understand the nuances of life. At times this involves the preparation, serving, and consumption of food, the making of toys, and creating, telling or listening to stories.

CRLC
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Kimberly Sutherland

Kimberly Sutherland is an artist and designer exploring the interconnections between us and the natural world. Her work examines relationships to place and creates opportunities to connect with the systems we move through and are part of. She has worked at The New York Times Magazine, and Project Projects and is co-director of Creek College, an experimental school that offers art classes in exchange for environmental education and watershed restoration. She has a Bachelor of Design from Emily Carr University and an MFA in Art & Social Practice from Portland State University. Raised amongst the Canadian Cascades, Kimberly currently lives and works between Brooklyn, Portland, OR and Vancouver, Canada.

Lauren Moran

Lauren Moran wants to put relationships at the forefront of their artistic concerns. Creating interdisciplinary projects that are often participatory, collaborative and co-authored, they aim to experiment with and question the systems we are all embedded in by organizing situations of connection, openness and non-hierarchical learning. They are interested in developing sites for accessibility and are an active member of Public Annex. laurengracemoran.com.

Lisa Bates

Lisa K. Bates, PhD is Associate Professor in the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning at Portland State University. Her scholarship focuses on housing, community development policy and planning, attending to the legacies of discrimination in urban policy-making. She engages in research and practice with the aim of dismantling institutional racism, and in 2016 she was awarded the Dale Prize for scholarship with the aim of dismantling institutional racism, and attending to the legacies of discrimination in urban community development policy and planning.

Patricia Vasquez-Gomez

Patricia Vasquez-Gomez works and lives between Portland, OR and Mexico City. Based on 7 years of experience as community based organizer and educator, she has created videos, installations, books and events with and about the immigrant communities of the places she has lived in. She is also a committed painter and printmaker.

Richard Lundquist

American artist Born in Portland Oregon in 1979. Richard became interested in art at an early age, although it wasn’t until his third prison sentence that he began to explore his identity as a artist, at which point he became involved with the Portland State University’s Master of Fine Arts and Social Practices Artist Residency program at Columbia River Correctional Institution, of which he is still an active outside member. Richard utilizes his art as a vehicle to express his perspective of the world around him, as well as document his journey as a former offender returning to his community as a positive contributing member of society.

This is what I have so far, please feel free to rearrange/add to it as you wish. I want it to really be good and I have never really done one of these before.

Riley Zahara Jacobsen & Beck Anders Jacobsen

Riley and Beck are siblings who get along in the kitchen and are young citizens of the future. Riley wants to be a doctor, or a cook, and Beck wants to go to law school and then become president. Riley likes making art, and Beck likes making art kinda-of-ish but likes reading and writing because it’s the best in the world.) ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ.THANOS!

BECK ANDERS JACOBSEN and RILEY ZAHARA JACOBSEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! MDLV@555@THE END.

Roshani Thakore

Roshani Thakore is interested in using collaboration with artists and non-artists to examine, redefine, and envision new identities and environments through mediums such as drawing, painting, photography, video, movement, processions, storytelling, protests, dance, design, and more. Landing in Portland, she is learning more about the resistance movement in Portland’s art landscape through PoC leaders, visionaries, and cultural producers.

Roya Amirsoleymani

Roya Amirsoleymani (M.A.) is the Co-Artistic Director and Curator of Public Engagement for the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) and teaches in PSU’s Art & Social Practice Program. She is most inspired by the inquiries and possibilities that arise when artists, audiences, activists, and academics come together to critically and collaboratively explore our current cultural moment.

SAMP Laptop Ensemble

SAMP: An ensemble of humans, laptops, controllers, and speakers. Ensemble members both compose and perform in the ensemble, exploring computer-mediated instrument design, sound synthesis, programming, live interactive performance, and incorporation of visual media.

Samuel Wildman

Samuel Wildman (b.1986) is an artist and writer. Some people call him a space cowboy; some call him the gangster of love; some call him Maurice.

Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem

Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem is an interdisciplinary artist, traditional Torah scribe and educator. Immersed in Jewish tradition and ritual, embracing institutional critique, inspired by craft and beauty, her studio and collaborative works invite participants into intimate critique, inspired by craft and beauty, her studio and collaborative works invite participants into intimate and unexpected borderlands. Shoshana is the founding artist of Women of the Book which premiered at the Jerusalem Biennale 2015.

Spencer Byrne-Seres

Spencer Byrne-Seres is an artist, preparator and culture-worker based in Portland, Oregon. Spencer makes research-based and socially-engaged projects that look at the intersection of broad systems with the daily and the personal. Spencer is currently interested in algorithms, infrastructure, and noncorporate forms of sharing.

Xi Jie Ng (Salty)

Xi Jie Ng (Salty) is from the tropical metropolis of Singapore. Her work explores the inherent possibilities in the poetic, eccentric, and infinite everyday. She makes collaborative encounters that are intimate, semi-fictional paradigms for the real and imagined lives of humans. In 2016 she was awarded the National Arts Council (Singapore) postgraduate scholarship and in 2017 she was awarded second place in the Arlene Schnitzer Visual Arts Prize. saltythunder.net

Yaelle Amir

Yaelle S. Amir is a curator and researcher based in Portland, OR. Her writing and curatorial projects focus primarily on artists whose practices supplement the initiatives of existing social movements—rendering themes within those struggles in ways that both interrogate and promote these issues to a wider audience. Her curatorial projects and research has appeared in institutions and publications nationwide. She has worked at several New York art institutions, including the International Center of Photography, Museum of Modern Art and the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. From March 2015 to July 2017 Yaelle held the position of Curator of Exhibitions & Public Programs at Newspace Center for Photography in Portland, OR. She currently teaches Contemporary Art Practices in the Social Practice MFA program at PSU.

Zeph Fishlyn

Zeph Fishlyn (pronouns they/them) is a visual artist and cultural organizer who nurtures alternative stories by dreaming, distorting, cross-pollinating and proposing. Zeph has built theatrical public interventions in collaboration with SF Bay Area grassroots groups like Heart of the City Collective (Leslie Dreyer), Housing Rights Committee, and the Bay Area Solidarity Action Team.
Portland State University
MFA in Art + Social Practice

PSU’s Art and Social Practice MFA is a 3-year, flexible residency program that combines individual research, group work, and experiential learning. The program’s blend of critical and professional practice, progressive pedagogy, collaborative social engagement, and transdisciplinary exploration produces an immersive educational environment.

The 90 credit, 3-year course encourages students to shape the direction of their own education and continually develop the program as a whole. Students connect their art practice to research in the field of Social Practice through electives and community partnerships, promoting cross disciplinarily engagement. Graduating students each produce a public graduate project, an in-depth written text exploring a relevant connection to their practice, and a public artist lecture that surveys their work in the program.

The program accepts approximately five students annually. The deadline for applying is January. Interested persons are encouraged to make arrangements to visit the program.

Illustrations by Erika Dedini