

# Alicia Chester

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## **EDUCATION**

- 2023 PhD, Graduate Program in Visual and Cultural Studies – University of Rochester
- DISSERTATION: “Study Nature, Not Books: A Genealogy of Photography from Psychiatric Portraiture to Brain Imaging.” ADVISOR: Dr. Rachel Haidu.
  - RESEARCH INTERESTS: photography history and theory, visual and cultural studies, modern and contemporary art, media archaeology, science and technology studies, medical humanities
  - LANGUAGES: English (native) and French (intermediate reading)
- 2018 The School of Criticism and Theory – Cornell University (summer program)
- 2010 Master of Arts in Visual and Critical Studies – School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2005 Certificate in Museum Studies – Northwestern University
- 2003 Bachelor of Fine Arts – School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2002 Studio of Annette Messager – Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris (study abroad)

## **TEACHING**

### **Instructor of Record**

- 2021-2022 **Lecturer – Department of Art and Art History, University of Rochester**
- Robot Love: Decoding Gender and Race in Technology (Fall 2021)
  - Digital Media Studies 200W: Digital Portfolio (Fall 2021 & Spring 2022)
  - Introduction to Photography (Fall 2021 & Spring 2022)
  - Advanced Photography (Spring 2022)
- Spring 2021 **Adjunct Instructor – Digital Media Studies, University of Rochester**
- DMS 200W Digital Portfolio: requirement for the Digital Media Studies major centered on professional writing and digital portfolio development
  - Organized professional development speaker series for majors and minors
- Fall 2020 **Adjunct Instructor – Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, University of Rochester**
- Created and taught “Robot Love: Decoding Gender in Technology,” an introductory topics and writing course questioning assumptions underlying how technology is built and operates regarding gender, race, and sexual orientation. The course examines the relationship of technology to society and our everyday, embodied lives while also considering cultural imagination about technology and its oppressive or emancipatory possibilities.
- 2009-2013 **Lecturer in Photography – Dept. of Art and Design, Oakton Community College, Skokie, IL**
- Art 117 Introduction to Digital Photography: fundamentals of photography and their relation to digital imaging; basic electronic imaging principles; studio lighting fundamentals; digital workflow in Adobe Bridge and Photoshop; inkjet printing (5 sections per year, 2009-2013)
  - Independent studies (Spring and Summer 2013)
- 2011-2013 **Instructor – Digital Arts and Photography, Lillstreet Art Center, Chicago, IL**
- Classes and workshops in digital photography, studio lighting, Photoshop, and Lightroom

- 2008 & 2011 **Photography Instructor – Early College Program, School of the Art Institute of Chicago**
- Beginning Photography (35mm film and gelatin silver printing)
  - Photo II: Studio (digital acquisition and output)
  - Multilevel Photography

### **Teaching Assistant**

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

- Spring 2018 **Digital Media Studies Capstone** (Stephanie Ashenfelder)  
Advised students on group project progression and coordination of project fair
- Fall 2016 **Digital Media Studies Toolkit** (Stephanie Ashenfelder)  
Advised students projects
- Spring 2016 **Writing on Art** (Dr. Joan Saab)  
Lecture on writing art criticism and exhibition reviews for publication online
- Fall 2015 **Introduction to the Art of Film** (Dr. Jennifer Creech)  
Responsible for a section of 25 students, including weekly grading and office hours
- Spring 2015 **Introduction to Media Studies** (Dr. Rachel Haidu)  
Lecture on the historical and aesthetic relationship of Instagram to Polaroid
- Fall 2014 **Introduction to Modern Architecture** (Dr. Peter Christensen)  
Lecture on Soviet modernist architecture as an embodiment of utopian experiments
- Spring 2014 **Advanced Digital Art: The Art of the Remix** (Cary Adams/Peppermint)  
Curated installation of glitch art for class exhibition
- Fall 2013 **Advanced Video Art** (Cary Adams/Peppermint)  
Led class on appropriation and remixing in art and popular culture
- 2007–2008 SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO  
**Photography:** Digital Imaging for Photo; Black and White  
**Early College Program:** Introduction to Photography; Digital Throughput; Photo Studio: Historical and Contemporary Practice  
**First Year Program:** Research Studio I  
**Art History:** Survey of Modern to Contemporary Art and Architecture

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Book Chapters**

- 2023 "Photography on the Brain," *The Routledge Handbook of Health and Media* (Routledge)
- 2013 "Surface," *Theorizing Visual Studies: Writing Through the Discipline* (Routledge)

#### **Journals \* = peer-reviewed**

- 2018 "Outmoded Instant: From Instagram to Polaroid," *Afterimage: The Journal of Media Arts and Cultural Criticism* 45:5 (Visual Studies Workshop/University of California Press)
- 2017 "Arcadia and Anxiety: Travel Trailers and Fallout Shelters in Midcentury America," *Dialectic V: The Figure of Vernacular in Architectural Imagination* (School of Architecture, University of Utah) \*
- 2016 "Desert Pictures and Polaroid Memories," *Dilettante Vol. 2: Networks of Belonging* (Summer Forum for Inquiry + Exchange)

## **Editorial**

- 2014–2016 Journal editorial board, *InVisible Culture* (University of Rochester)
- 2012 Anthology coeditor, *Theorizing Visual Studies: Writing Through the Discipline* (Routledge) with lead editor Dr. James Elkins and coeditors Kristi McGuire, Maureen Burns, and Joel Kuennen
- 2008 Journal cofounder and coeditor, *CANON* (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)  
Multiform visual studies graduate student journal that foregrounds hybrid artistic and critical practices outside conventional means of producing, disseminating, and engaging with images

## **Art Criticism**

- 2014 "What is revolutionary art now?" Contributing author to exhibition catalog for *The Left Front: Radical Art in the "Red Decade": 1929-1940* (Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University)
- 2012–2014 *ARTSLANT* staff writer (exhibition reviews and artist interviews)
- "The Poetics of Collaboration and Collision: An Interview with EcoArtTech," Mar 16, 2014
  - "An Overdue Retrospective," *Faith Wilding: Fearful Symmetries* at Threewalls, Jan 17, 2014
  - "More Aesthetic Than Pain: An Interview with Wafaa Bilal," June 16, 2013
  - "Domestica Dentata: A Tyranny of Details," Daniel Bauer at Alderman Exhibitions, May 3, 2013
  - "The Sahmat Collective: Politics and Performance in India," *The Sahmat Collective: Art and Activism in India Since 1989* at the Smart Museum of Art, Mar 22, 2013
  - "Climate of Uncertainty" at the DePaul Art Museum, Feb 7, 2013
  - "Observer Effect" at Gallery 400, University of Illinois at Chicago, Jan 24, 2013
  - "2012 In Review: The Second City Comes in First," Dec 25, 2012
  - "137 &s with IAIN BAXTER& / the &MAN," interview with Iain Baxter&, Oct 21, 2012
  - "Concrete Metaphors: Soviet Modernist Architecture," Richard Pare at the Graham Foundation, Oct 16, 2012
  - "In Conversation with Dawoud Bey," Sept 20, 2012
  - "EXPO CHICAGO Photography Preview," Sept 19, 2012
  - "Afterimage" at the DePaul Art Museum, Sept 18, 2012
- 2007–2008 F NEWSMAGAZINE art criticism staff writer (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)
- "Smart Adaptation." Mar. 2008: 7
  - "Mapping the visible and the unseen." Dec. 2007: 18
  - "Common Ground." Nov. 2007: 23
  - "Pedagogical Disorientation." Oct. 2007: 26
  - "Política de la identidad." Sept. 2007: 7

## **CONFERENCES // SYMPOSIA**

### **Presentations**

- 2020 "The Future is Past: Identity and Photography Through Time" panel, Society for Photographic Education Annual Conference: *20/20 Vision*, Houston, TX (Mar 5–8)
- 2020 "Something in the Water: The Color of Decay in Matthew Brandt's Photographs," presentation in panel "Fixing and Fading: The Material Photograph over Time," College Art Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL (Feb 12)
- 2019 "Photography on the Brain: The Harvey Cushing Brain Tumor Registry, 1902–1938," 9th Annual Western Michigan University Medical Humanities Conference, Kalamazoo, MI (Sept 19)

- 2016 "Hysterical Dancing: From Charcot's Photographic Iconography to Kinugasa Teinosuke's *A Page of Madness*," 23rd Annual Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Graduate Conference: Geographies of Interruption: Body, Location, and Experience, University of Rochester (Apr 8)
- 2015 "Flashback as Form: Representing Traumatic Memory," Open Embodiments: Locating Somatechnics in Tucson, University of Arizona (Apr 17)
- 2013 "Plot M: Nuclear Temporality," 9th Visual & Cultural Studies Graduate Conference: A Matter of Time: Temporalities of Material Culture, University of Rochester (Apr 6)
- 2012 Lecture on the relationship of art and politics, Creating Justice: A symposium celebrating art and activism, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL (Apr 21)
- 2009 "Beholding Bodies and Embodied Beholders in Annette Messager's *Mex vœux*," To Turn, To Tend Toward: Working Theses (MA VCS), School of the Art Institute of Chicago (May 2)
- 2009 "Performing the Absent Body: Looking to Be Touched," performative lecture with Katherine Lennard, Radical Intersections: Performance Across Disciplines, Northwestern University (Apr 26)

### **Leadership**

- 2018 Lead organizer, THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp) Rochester  
Collaboration among the Andrew W. Mellon Graduate Program in the Digital Humanities at the University of Rochester, the Digital Humanities and Social Sciences Program at the Rochester Institute of Technology, and the Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY (Mar 23)
- 2016–2017 Organizing committee, "Environments and the Ecological Self," 11th Visual and Cultural Studies Graduate Conference, University of Rochester (Apr 6–7, 2017)

### **Invited Lectures**

- 2012 "Peripheral Views Into the Collection, session two: 1960–present," Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago. Curated and presented the second of a two-part print viewing of original works from the permanent collection and Midwest Photographers Project (Aug 23)

### **Workshops**

- 2018 "The Nitrate Touch: A Graduate Workshop" participant, 15th International Domitor Conference: Provenance and Early Cinema, Rochester, NY (Jun 11–12)
- 2017 "Introduction to Code/Art and Data Visualization" participant, DH@Guelph Summer Workshops, University of Guelph, ON (May 8–11)
- 2008 "Disruptions: The Political in Art Now" participant in symposium workshop on "event" led by Gregg Bordowitz, hosted by the Open Practice Committee/Department of Visual Arts, University of Chicago, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (Oct 24)

### **FELLOWSHIPS**

- Fall 2020 **Susan B. Anthony Institute Teaching Fellowship** – University of Rochester  
Created and taught an introductory topics course in gender, sexuality, and women's studies
- 2018–2020 **George Eastman Museum Graduate Fellowship** – University of Rochester
- Researched, wrote and edited texts for the Dryden Theatre & Nitrate Picture Show film festival
  - Inspected archived nitrate motion picture film at the Louis B. Mayer Conservation Center
  - Conducted long-term project research with senior curator-at-large Dr. Paolo Cherchi Usai

- 2016-2018 **Andrew W. Mellon Digital Humanities Fellowship** – University of Rochester  
Trains humanities doctoral students to integrate digital technologies into innovative research
- 2011-2012 **Collections Research Fellowship** – Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago  
Researched the collections to write public-facing narratives accessible on the website

### **RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS**

- 2017-2018 **Architectural Biometrics, principal investigator: Dr. Peter Christensen**
- Digital platform addresses the lack of tools for comparative analysis of spatial data by algorithmically analyzing 3D scans, combining the computational capacity of empirical inquiry with the humanistic concerns of authorship and process in design
  - Developed and implemented 3D scanning procedures for Paleoindian points at the Rochester Museum and Science Center
  - Co-wrote internal project grant and edited National Endowment for the Humanities grant
- 2017 **The Lazarus Project, principal investigator: Dr. Gregory Heyworth**
- Multispectral imaging project and transportable lab that employs new technology for image processing to generate imagery from texts that have been damaged or erased
  - Aided in the digital reconstruction of a concerto by Georg Philipp Telemann that had been damaged during World War II; the recovered concerto was subsequently performed by alumni of the Eastman School of Music at the Pierre Hotel in New York City

### **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2020 **Collection Management Assistant – Louis B. Mayer Conservation Center, Moving Image Department, George Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY**
- Self-checked over 6,000 canisters of nitrate film in 8 weeks to assist grant-funded audit
  - Identified film preservation priorities through inspecting nitrate decomposition stages
  - Cross-referenced and corrected accession and location number discrepancies
- 2015-2019 **Studio Assistant to artist Joyce Neimanas, Rochester, NY**  
Managed archives and records, studio maintenance, Photoshop, scanning, prepared files for lab printing, computer troubleshooting and maintenance, proposal and correspondence writing

### **CURATED EXHIBITIONS**

- 2012 **Co-curator, *Peripheral Views: States of America*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago.** Co-curators: Alicia Chester, Barbara Diener, Jess T. Dugan, Natasha Egan, Allison Grant, Karen Irvine, Josh Poehlein (Jul 13-Sep 30)
- 2012 **Co-curator, *Quarterly Site #11: Line-of-Site*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago**  
Guest curator for the Quarterly Site Series in the Twelve Galleries Project by Jamilee Polson Lacy  
Co-curators: Alicia Chester, Karolina Gnatowski, and Kate Ruggeri (Jul 7-Aug 11)
- 2008 **Curator, *A Hirsute Affair*, Gallery X, School of the Art Institute of Chicago**  
Group exhibition engaging cultural, political, racial, and gendered meanings and representations of hair (Oct 14-31)

## **RESIDENCIES**

- 2014 **Summer Forum for Inquiry + Exchange** scholar and artist residency, Joshua Tree, CA  
Residency brings together artists, musicians, writers, and scholars to discuss scholarship connected to the unique location. Theme: "Networks of Belonging" (Jul 6-13).
- 2012 **Artists' Cooperative Residency & Exhibitions (ACRE)** artist residency, Steuben, WI  
Residents expand upon their individual practices within a collaborative community. Visiting artists conduct studio visits and present lectures, discussions, workshops (Aug 1-12).

## **SELECTED GRANTS // AWARDS**

- 2015 Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women's Studies Research Grant, Univ. of Rochester
- 2014 Dean of Graduate Studies Travel Fund Award, University of Rochester
- 2012 Community Arts Assistance Program Grant, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
- 2007-2009 SAIC Grant and Enrichment Scholarship, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2007 Community Arts Assistance Program Grant, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
- 2006 Community Arts Assistance Program Grant, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
- 2003 Bachelor of Fine Arts Fellowship, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

## **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

- 2021 *Engaging Sage: Faculty Exhibition*, Hartnett Gallery, University of Rochester (Aug 23-Sept 11)
- 2020 *At, For, By, Of, About-ACRE in Artists Run Chicago 2.0*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL (Sep 1-Nov 1)
- 2018 *27th Annual Members' Exhibition*, Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, NY (Dec 7-Jan 13)
- 6x6*, Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, NY (Jun 2-Jul 16)
- 2017 *26th Annual Members' Exhibition*, Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, NY (Dec 1-Jan 14)
- 2016 *6x6*, Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, NY (Jun 4-Jul 17)
- 2015 *Desert/ed Bodies*, Steinfeld Warehouse Community Arts Center, Tucson, AZ (Apr 18)
- 2014 *Fish Umbrella*, contributor to Edmund Chia's collaborative "Peregrine Papers (for Fish Umbrella)," Praxis and Project spaces, The Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore (Oct 3-26)
- The Swap* online exhibition, collaboration with Regina Mamou (published Sep 24)
- 2013 *A Long Line*, PeregrineProgram, Chicago, IL (Oct 26-Nov 5)
- 30x30 - Artcrite 30th Anniversary Show pt 2*, Artcrite, Windsor, ON (Sep 13-Nov 16)
- A Happening at Site A*, performance with Amber Ginsburg, Site A, Red Gate Woods, Lemont, IL (Jul 14)
- Trying To Be Cute bc the Abyss*, ACRE exhibition at Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL (May 24)
- 2012 "The Portrait Project," *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi: Industry of the Ordinary*, Chicago Cultural Center (Aug 17, 2012-Feb 17, 2013)
- Locked Up*, High Concept Laboratories, Chicago, IL (Nov 17)
- ACRE booth, MDW Fair, Mana Contemporary Chicago, IL (Nov 9-11)
- 2011 *Call and Response*, Koehonline Museum of Art, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL
- Disruptive Stillness*, Jean Paul Slusser Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2010 *PAGES: Book as Medium, Catalyst, and Venue*, Paragraph Gallery, Kansas City, MO
- No Place Like Home*, Koehonline Museum of Art, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL
- 2009 *ID Show*, Koehonline Museum of Art, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL
- TOO BIG TO FAIL: Texts, Bodies, Objects, Images*, APRIL Gallery, Twelve Galleries Project, Chicago, IL
- 2008 *A Hirsute Affair*, Gallery X, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Discipline Problems*, curated by Joseph Grigely, Alogon Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2007 Chicago Art Open, Iron Studios, Chicago, IL
- 2006 Curator's Choice Exhibition, Around the Coyote Arts Festival, Chicago, IL
- 2003 Bachelor of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition, Gallery 2, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2002 *Movieside Film Festival*, Biograph Theater, Chicago, IL