

CAROL SAWYER

CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

MFA 1998 School for the Contemporary Arts, Simon Fraser University.
Diploma 1982 Photography (Honours) Emily Carr College of Art and Design.

CURRENT/ UPCOMING:

2015 **Some Documents from the Life of Natalie Bretttschneider.** Curated by Heather Anderson. Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa Ontario.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2011 **Some Documents from the Life of Natalie Bretttschneider.** Republic Gallery, Vancouver.
Wood Work. Video Installation, CoreVision Screens, Robson and Granville. Public Art Commission from the City of Vancouver. (reprised August/ September 2012)

2009 **Proscenium.** Republic Gallery, Vancouver.
Natalie Bretttschneider in BC. Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna BC. Curated by Liz Wylie. (Brochure)

2008 **Trace Ingredients.** Public art commission, exhibit and performance at the Vancouver Public library downtown. Part of the larger project **Memory Palace: Three artists in the Library**, curated by Karen Love. (Catalogue forthcoming)
Water Park. CSA Space, Vancouver. Curated by Christopher Brayshaw.
Vacant Lot. Republic Gallery, Vancouver.

2004 **Tribute to the Cambie Works Yard.** Permanent public art project, City of Vancouver National Works Yard.

2002 **Aide-Mémoire: Memory Games.** Gallery 44 Project Room, Toronto, Ontario.

2001 **Aide-Mémoire.** Floating Gallery, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

1998 **Amazon.** Artspeak Gallery, Vancouver, B.C. (Catalogue)

1996 **Ophelia.** The Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, B.C. (Catalogue)

1995 **Ophelia.** The New Gallery, Calgary, AB. (Brochure)
Mad Opera. G. Gibson Gallery, Seattle, WA.
Anthropomorphs. Access Gallery, Vancouver, B.C.

1994 **Lucia.** Gallery Sansair, Vancouver, B.C.
Vessels and Anthropomorphs. Index Gallery, Clark College, Vancouver, WA.

1993 **Vessels.** Or Gallery, Vancouver, B.C. (Brochure)

1992 **New Work.** Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

1990 **Refuge.** The Photographer's Gallery, Vancouver, B.C.

SELECTED TWO PERSON AND GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2012 **Scenes of Selves, Occasions for Ruses,** (group show, artist talk) Surrey Art Gallery. Curated by Jordan Strom.
Again and Again and Again: Serial Formats and Repetitive Actions. Curated by Daina Augaitis.

2011 **Vancouver 125: Time-Based.** Brockton Oval, Stanley Park. Curated by Marlene Madison.

2010 **Truth or Fiction?** Kamloops Art Gallery. Curated by Annette Hurtig
Cue: Artist's Video. Vancouver Art Gallery. Curated by Daina Augaitis and Christopher Eamon
Culture Shock: video interventions at the QET, curated by Stephanie Rebeck.

2009 **How Soon is Now,** Vancouver Art Gallery. Curated by Kathleen Ritter.

2008 **The Most Violent Thing,** Republic Gallery, Vancouver. Curated by Vanessa Sorenson.

2006 **Prologue I,** Republic Gallery, Vancouver.
Home Theatre. SFU gallery. Curated by Bill Jeffries.

2005 **ReCollect.** Two person show with Mary Kavanagh, curated by Corinna Ghaznavi. A Space, Toronto.

2004 **Hitting the Wall.** Installation and performance collaboration with Ya-wen Vivienne Wang. Access Gallery, Vancouver.
ReCollect. Two person show with Mary Kavanagh, curated by Corinna Ghaznavi. La Centrale, Montréal

2003 **Going a Journey.** Curated by Cate Rimmer. Charles Scott Gallery, Vancouver.
Carol Sawyer and Adalgisa Campos. Or Gallery, Vancouver B.C.
The Female Aim. G. Gibson Gallery, Seattle, WA.
Here, curated by Donna Szöke, as part of **Artropolis 2003,** Vancouver.

2001-5 **Facing History.** Presentation House Gallery, North Vancouver, toured to Canadian Cultural Centre, Paris, and Centre d'Art Contemporain d'Herouville St. Clair, Basse Normandie, France. Curated by Karen Love. (Two separate catalogues for North Vancouver and Paris shows.)

1998 **On Longing: Laments and Raptures.** Two person show with Sarindar Dhaliwal. Curated by Carolyn Bell Farrell. The Koffler Gallery, North York, Ont. (Brochure)

1996 **Wild Life.** Curated by John Massier. The Koffler Gallery. North York, Ont. (Catalogue)

1995 **Du réel subjugué: aspects de la relève canadienne.** Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal. Curated by Marie-Josée Jean. Montréal, Québec. (Catalogue)
(dis)still(ed) lives. Curated by Clint Willour. Houston Centre for Photography, Houston, Texas.

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- 2013 Commissioned to create and perform six songs based on six plays in development, for PTC's 40th anniversary celebration. With Ron Samworth and Bill Clarke.
- 2012 Appearance with Vancouver Improvisers Orchestra at Presentation House Studio, North Vancouver
- 2012 Collaborated with pianist Lisa Miller to research and perform early Berlin cabaret songs and improvisations, for Music on Main, at the event Arnold Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire @100.
- Ongoing: **ion Zoo** – musical ensemble co-founded with Steve Bagnell in 2000. Numerous performances of original improvised music at various venues including the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Jazz Cellar, 1067 Granville, the Charles H. Scott Gallery, Gallery 1412 in Seattle, Presentation House Studio, and Dancing on the Edge.
VOXY improvising choir. Since 2007, together with Kate Hammett Vaughan, I have run a yearly series of workshops on improvisation for singers that culminates in a public performance.
- 2010 **Shadow Machine.** Company Erasga Dance. Interdisciplinary performance collaboration with Alvin Erasga Tolentino, Peter Courtemanche, and Ken Gregory. W2 Media Arts Centre, Vancouver, BC.
Selected Works of Natalie Brettschneider, with pianist Dale Rasmussen, Evening Soiree, Kamloops Art Gallery.
- 2009 **The repertoire of Natalie Brettschneider.** Performance with pianist Neville Bowman, GO Party, Kelowna Art Gallery,
- 2008 **Star Songs** (with Joel di Stefano), performed for the Playwrights Cabaret, Playwrights Theatre Centre.
Parlour songs (with Joel di Stefano), for Proximity Arts, in conjunction with their installation at Blim.
- 2005 **Cry Pitch Carrolls,** opera by Ruth Margraff. Performed the role of Alice in the Canadian premiere. Produced by Proximity Arts at Performance Works, Vancouver.
- 2004 **Newly rediscovered repertoire of Natalie Brettschneider.** Performance with violinist Régis Huby. Canadian Cultural Centre, Paris.
- 2002 Acted the role of the "guide" for Michael Fernandes' work **By Appointment Only**, Helen Pitt Gallery, Vancouver.
Natalie Brettschneider: a Portrait. With pianist Patrick Dubois. Presentation House Gallery, North Vancouver.
Bel Canto Chamber Ensemble. Performed Michael Conway Baker's "Vocalise" and other works in recital in Vancouver and Victoria.
White. Duet with Alvin Erasga Tolentino performed for "The White Exhibition", Portfolio Gallery, Vancouver. Curated by Jay MacDonell.
- 2000 **Shadow Machine,** interdisciplinary performance collaboration with Peter Courtemanche, Ken Gregory, and Alvin Erasga Tolentino. Presented at Ironworks by the Western Front as part of "Industrial Ear".
More Than the Love of Women, opera composed by Michael Kurek, libretto by Deborah Schnitzer. Created the role of the Historian for the world premiere. Contemporary Dancers Studio, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- 1999 **Long Distance:** recital with pianist Vivienne Ya-Wen Wang, presented at the Community Arts Council, Vancouver, and at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, Burnaby.
- 1998 **Diva TV,** video produced in collaboration by the Diva Research Team and the Western Front. Screened 1998 at the Western Front, Vancouver, and at Images Festival, Toronto, 1999.
Newly Discovered Works by Brettschneider and Piscator, collaboration with Andreas Kahre, "Re-inventing the Diva Festival", Western Front, Vancouver.
Amazonia. Solo performance work. Artspeak Gallery, Vancouver.
- 1997 **An Incomplete History of the Voice, in five acts.** Hour-long performance, with pianist Ya-wen Vivienne Wang. Western Front, Vancouver.
Rooting, choreography by Judith Garay, music by Sue McGowan, in "Dancing on The Edge", Firehall Theatre, Vancouver.
Daisy Del Monte, solo performance included in "A Handful and a Mouth Full" at the Western Front, and "Good Sports", Burnaby Art Gallery, curated by Karen Henry.
Mermaid and Hypnotist (with cellist Finn Manniche) performed in "Cheap Illusions", presented by Vancouver Pro Musica at the Havana, Vancouver.
- 1996 **Empty Orchestra,** video by Kira Wu. Acted and sang the role of "Diane". Premiered at the Pacific Cinematheque, Vancouver, in May 1997 as part of the Asian Heritage Month Festival.

ARTIST PROJECTS AND ARTICLES CREATED FOR PUBLICATION

- Feminist Artifact? Carol Sawyer negotiates the questions raised by Haarscherp. Gemak, April 2012. View online version: <http://denooycollection.com/info/recensies/en>
- ION ZOO: Venus looks good. Self-produced music CD, distributed by openform audio. 2009
- Ion Zoo Set Free at the Cellar. Music CD recorded for the NOW label, distributed by Cellar Live. 2007
- Street Caboozes. The Vancouver Review, Number 12, Winter 2007.
- Blue Bedroom. The Vancouver Review, Number 6, Summer 2005.
- Cambie Works Yard Picture Cycle. Interactive web project, in collaboration with Dan Campbell: www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/publicart
- A Meditation on Desire, Disappointment, and Detritus, Front Magazine, March/April, 2001.
- Elevator Music, Front Magazine, January/February, 2001.
- Penetrating Voices: Such Sweet Compulsion, the Re-Inventing the Diva Cabaret. Re-Inventing the Diva. Lori Weidenhammer, Ed. Western Front, 1999.
- Amazonia: The Amazing Story of One Woman's Transformation, plus: The Three Bad Sisters and the Cloud of Doom. Essay by Lorna Brown, Susan Edelstein, and Carol Sawyer. Artspeak Gallery. 1998.
- Yma Sumac, Front Magazine, September /October, 1998.
- Brochure essay for the Fiona Bowie Exhibition "Swell". Grunt Gallery, Vancouver. 1996

AWARDS/ GRANTS

2012	BC Arts Council Grant Canada Council Research/ Creation Project Grant
2009	BC Arts Council Grant
2007	BC Arts Council Media Arts Grant Canada Council Research/ Creation Project Grant
2005	BC Arts Council Grant
2004	BC Arts Council Grant
2003	BC Arts Council Grant
2002	Canada Council Travel Grant
2001	Canada Council Grant (Mid-career Photography) BC Arts Council Grant
1999	Canada Council Grant (Mid-career Photography) BC Arts Council Grant
1997	Canada Council Short-term Grant.
1994	Explorations Grant, Canada Council.
1993	BC Arts Council Grant
1992	Canada Council Short-term Grant. BC Arts Council Grant

COLLECTIONS

Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, Ontario
City of Vancouver
Microsoft Corporation, Seattle, Washington
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC
Vancouver Public Library

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

eVent, July 8, 2009, p.2. *Creating an artist from scratch*, by Portia Prieger.

Capital News, July 8, 2009, p. A4. *Slide show blurs reality and fiction of one woman's life*, by Jennifer Smith.

The Georgia Straight, December 2, 2009. *Carol Sawyer's Proscenium a ghostly ode to a gilded past* by Robin Laurence.
<http://www.straight.com/arts/carol-sawyers-proscenium-ghostly-ode-gilded-past>

The Georgia Straight, June 12-19, 2008, p.54. *Sawyer's images sing in library's lyrical voice*, by Robin Laurence.

Selections from Songroom, (Audio CD enclosure) The Capilano Review, 3.4, Winter 2008. The Collaborations Issue.

Galleries West, Review of Vacant Lot at Republic Gallery, by Ann Rosenberg.
<http://www.gallerieswest.ca/Departments/ExhibitionReviews//6-107702.html>

The Georgia Straight, November 23-30, 2006, p. 72. *Artists eye rooms with a view*, by Robin Laurence.

The Vancouver Sun, November 2 – 8, 2006, p. D23. *The banal lives side-by-side with the sublime*, by Clint Burnham.

North Shore News, October 20, 2006, p.23. *Home Theatre explores domestic spaces*, by Lisa Foeste.

Canadian Art, Summer 2004: volume 21, Number 2. p.88-89. *Recollect* (review) Jake Moore.

Visages de l'histoire: portraits de Vancouver. Facing History: Portraits from Vancouver. Catherine Bedard, editor. Centre culturel canadien, Paris. 2004.

The Georgia Straight, July 24-31, 2003. *Of Spaces and Places*, by Robin Laurence.

The Georgia Straight, June 5-12, 2003. *The Art of Place*, by Robin Laurence.

The Vancouver Sun, January 18, 2003. *Our Kind of People*, by Sara O'Leary.

Facing History: Portraits from Vancouver. Karen Love, editor. Presentation House Gallery / Arsenal Pulp Press. 2002

In Vision. Maija Martin, editor. Satellite Video Exchange Society, Vancouver. 2001

On Longing: Laments and Raptures. Essay by Carolyn Bell Farrell. The Koffler Gallery. 1998.

Now. April 16-22, 1998. *Carol Sawyer draws on divas' distress*, by Dierdre Hanna.

The Georgia Straight, January 16-23, 1997, *Art Illuminates Pioneering Divas*, by Paula Gustafson.

Ophelia. Essay by Donna Zapf. The Contemporary Art Gallery. 1996.

Wild Life. Essay by John Massier. The Koffler Gallery. 1996.

Du Réel Subjugué: Aspects de la relève canadienne. Essays by Marie-Josée Jean and Françoise Le Gris. Exhibition catalogue, Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal. 1995.

TEACHING & RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2012 **Studio Time: Work of the Living Watch.** Artist Residency, The Banff Centre, Alberta. Geoffrey Farmer, facilitator.
- 2011 Sessional Instructor ECU: Selected Topics in Photography: Photography as Performance.
Jury Member, City of Vancouver Public Art Program
- 2010 Sessional Instructor ECU: Histories and Theories of Photography
Jury Member, City of Vancouver Public Art Program
- 2008-9 Instructor for Continuing Studies at ECU: Courses on Contemporary Art and Public Art in Vancouver.
- 2007 Sessional Instructor, ECI: Drawing, Writing, and Photography and various Continuing Studies courses.
- 2006 **The Vancouver Street Caboose Exhibition.** Tech Gallery, SFU. Co-curator, with Bill Jeffries, archival photograph exhibit.
- 2006 Coordinator, **CPPS 20th anniversary exhibition**, Belkin Satellite Gallery, Vancouver.
- 2005-6 Sessional Instructor, ECI: Photographic Image and Text
- 2003 Artist in Residence, **Big Rock Candy Mountain**, Banff Centre for the Arts
Sessional Instructor, ECI: Photography Society and Culture, and Project Research.
- 2002-3 Public Art Commission, City of Vancouver, **Cambie Works Yard Photographic Project**
- 2001-7 Board member, B.C. Photography and Media Arts Society (Presentation House Gallery).
- 2001 Sessional Instructor, School for the Contemporary Arts, SFU: Photography I
Panel Member: Careers in Visual Arts, Arts Work, SFU
- 1999 Sessional Instructor, ECI: Senior Studio in Intermedia, Exploratory Media, and History of Photographic Practices
- 2000 Guest lecturer, University College of the Fraser Valley
Guest lecturer, School for the Contemporary Arts, Simon Fraser University
- 1999 Panel member, "Divining for Lost Sound", Ceperley House Gallery, Burnaby
- 1997 Teaching Assistant, Photography II, School for the Contemporary Arts, SFU
Jury member: B.C. Cultural Fund grants for visual artists and craftspeople
- 1996 Teaching Assistant, first year art history, SFU
- 1995 Artist in Residence in Media. Western Front, Vancouver
- 1994 Artist in Residence, Arts Studio, Banff Centre for the Arts
- 1992 Artist in Residence, Photography, Banff Centre for the Arts
- 1991-5 Board member, Or Gallery
- 1991–2009 President of the board, Canadian Photographic Portfolio Society (CPPS)

ARTWORKS DONATED TO FUND-RAISING EXHIBITIONS and EVENTS (partial list)

- 2003 **Crash**, Radix Theatre Fundraiser (performance with Andreas Kahre)
- 2002 **Vantasy**, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver
- 2001 **DeBASHery**, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle
Knock off Knock off, Or Gallery, Vancouver
Art auction, Western Front, Vancouver (performance with Lee Plested and Andrew Laurenson)
- 2000 **Splendor in the Bash**, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle
Knock-off, Or Gallery, Vancouver
- 1999 **Y2BASH**, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle
Updo, Artspeak Gallery, Vancouver
- 1998 **Paper Anniversary Bash**, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle
Pinholes in Paradise, Presentation House Gallery, North Vancouver
- 1997 **P(or)traits**, Or Gallery, Vancouver
- 1995 **Wrecking Ball**, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle

BIOGRAPHY

Carol Sawyer is a singer and visual artist working primarily with photography, installation, video, and improvised music. Since the early 1990's her work has been concerned with the connections between photography and fiction, performance, memory, and history. She has exhibited widely in both solo and group shows across Canada and in the U.S., and been the recipient of numerous Canada Council and BC Arts Council grants. Her work is in the collections of the Canada Council Art Bank, Microsoft Corporation, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston Texas among others. She has completed three photo-based projects and one video installation for the City of Vancouver Public Art Program, the most recent of which is a series of seven short videos that played on large public screens at Robson and Granville as part of the city's 125th anniversary celebrations. She has designed and taught courses in interdisciplinary studio, photography, and the social history of photography at ECIAD and SFU. Sawyer lives and works in Vancouver, B.C. She performs regularly with her improvising ensemble ion Zoo (with whom she has released two CDs) and in other ad hoc improvising ensembles. Her work is represented by Republic Gallery, Vancouver.