

VALERIE SKAKUN
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EDUCATION

HUNTER COLLEGE, New York, NY
Masters of Fine Arts: May 2019

THE COOPER UNION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART, New York, NY
Bachelor of Fine Arts: May 2009
Honors: Four-year full tuition scholarship

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF ART, Oakland, CA
Mobility Student: Spring 2008

EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Salon XIII*, NY (G), Brooklyn, NY (with P. Spadine)
- 2019 *Mayday*, 205 Hudson, New York, NY
- 2019 *Fire Over Heaven*, Outpost Artists Resources, Ridgewood, NY (with P. Spadine)
- 2019 *Salon X*, NY (G), Brooklyn, NY (with P. Spadine)
- 2018 *The End*, ValeRina Gallerina, Ridgewood, NY (with P. Spadine)
- 2018 *Electrolytes are Lost when U Sweat*, Brooklyn, NY (with P. Spadine)
- 2018 *Dolly*, 205 Hudson, New York, NY
- 2017 *Darkness Show*, ValeRina Gallerina + Greg, Ridgewood, NY
- 2017 *Faculty Show*, USDAN, Wheatley Heights, NY
- 2016 *Finger Food*, The Hand, Brooklyn, NY
- 2016 *Wish You Were Here*, Interstate Projects, Brooklyn, NY
- 2016 *Now, Therefore*, ValeRina Gallerina + Greg, Ridgewood, NY
- 2016 *Rover 2016*, Starr Space Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2015 *Solstice Show*, ValeRina Gallerina + Greg, Ridgewood, NY
- 2015 *Time and a Half*, ValeRina Gallerina + Greg, Ridgewood, NY
- 2015 *Connections*, ALL GOLD, Long Island City, NY
- 2015 *Magic Scents*, ValeRina Gallerina + Greg, Ridgewood, NY
- 2015 *Solstice Show*, TH Studio, Navy Yard, NY
- 2015 *I Will Never Smile Again*, ValeRina Gallerina, Ridgewood, NY
- 2015 *Meownifesto*, ValeRina Gallerina, Ridgewood, NY
- 2014 *Show + Tell*, ValeRina Gallerina, Ridgewood, NY
- 2014 *The Last Brucennial*, 837 Washington St., New York, NY
- 2013 *Bushwick Open Studios*, The Freedom Garden, Brooklyn, NY
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- 2012 *New Goo*, The Freedom Garden, Brooklyn, NY
- 2012 *Necklace Sandwich/ The Freedom Garden*, The Freedom Garden, Brooklyn, NY
- 2011 *Deck the Walls*, Sardine, Brooklyn, NY
- 2011 *Brooklyn Beefsteak*, The Bellhouse, Brooklyn, NY
- 2010 *The Brucennial: Miseducation*, 350 West Broadway, New York, NY
- 2009 *Black Thursday Halloween City!!! Black Friday Fireworks Stand*, Troutman Studios, Ridgewood, NY
- 2009 *End of the Year Show*, The Cooper Union, New York, NY
- 2009 *Human Hazard*, Houghton Gallery, with Eliza Winston, New York, NY
- 2008 *Dream Job*, Frankenart Mart, with Kirby McKenzie, San Francisco, CA
- 2008 *End of the Year Show*, The Cooper Union, New York, NY
- 2008 *Fiber and Dye*, University of California Botanical Garden, Berkeley, CA
- 2007 *Stranger Drawing Show*, Glassell School of Art, Houston, TX
- 2007 *End of the Year Show*, The Cooper Union, New York, NY
- 2007 *90 Ludlow Show Organised By Patterson Beckwith*, 90 Ludlow, New York, NY
- 2006 *End of the Year Show*, The Cooper Union, New York, NY
- 2006 *Two Dimensional Design*, Lubalin Center, New York, NY
- 2006 *Color*, The Cooper Union, New York, NY
- 2005 *Placement and Spectacle*, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX
- 2005 *Lactose Intolerant*, High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Art Gallery, with Sean Nichols, Houston, TX
- 2005 *Imprint (#3)*, Gremillion and Co. Fine Art, Houston, TX
- 2004 *CCA Summer Photography*, North South Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 2004 *Imprint (#2)*, Gremillion and Co. Fine Art, Houston, TX
- 2004 *Sculpture Show*, (HSPVA) Art Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2003 *Imprint*, The Art Guy's Studio, Houston, TX

PERFORMANCES

- 2019** *Benches*, in collaboration with P. Spadine, 205 Hudson, New York, NY
2019 *Balance Board Bells*, in collaboration with P. Spadine, NY (G), Brooklyn, NY
2019 *Bike*, in collaboration with P. Spadine, 205 Hudson, New York, NY
2019 *Benches*, in collaboration with P. Spadine, NY (G), Brooklyn, NY
2018 *Penelope's Suitors*, in collaboration with Mildred's Lane, Deep Water Literary Festival, Narrowsburg, NY

RESIDENCIES

- 2017** *Highly Authorized*, Ellenville, NY. Residency fees waived. Housing provided.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2019** *Oral History and Objects*, SU-CASA Artist in Residence, The New York City Council, the New York City Department for the Aging, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and Queens Council on the Arts. \$4,500 plus \$1,000 supply stipend.
2016 *Textures in Textiles*, SU-CASA Artist in Residence, The New York City Council, the New York City Department for the Aging, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and Queens Council on the Arts. \$4,500 plus \$1,000 supply stipend.

PUBLICATIONS

- Fang, B. (2016, May 24). Maspeth Seniors Unveil Collaborative Art Banner. *Queens Ledger*.
Fang, B. (2016, Feb 23). Local Artist Wins Grant to Teach Seniors about Textiles. *Queens Ledger*.
Valerie Skakun, *MUTATIONS*, Ridgewood, NY, August 2015.
Valerie Skakun, interview by Patrick James Lynch, *MyNY: Episode 12*, podcast audio, October 31, 2011.
Ohad Meromi, Pam Lins, Patterson Beckwith, eds. *This is Not an Exit: Sculpture for the Camera*, (New York, 2007), 8-9.
Patterson Beckwith, ed. *90 Ludlow Show Organized By Patterson Beckwith*, (New York, April 28, 2007) 6-7.

BOARDS

HUNTER COLLEGE, New York, NY

Board Member at Large, Graduate Student Association, January 2017—August 2017.

- Represent the MFA students on the Graduate Student Board at Hunter College.
- Communicate with the MFA students to advocate for their wants and needs to the administration of Hunter College.
- Vote on delegating budgets for outlined project proposals.

EXPERIENCE

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, Brooklyn, NY

Director, Curator, July 2016—Present

- Future Development is a space curated by Valerie Skakun. The space is her former studio in Greenpoint, which is in the basement of an industrial building that was recently sold to developers. Future Development will continue to subsist as an experimental space for emerging artists to exhibit their work until we are kicked out of the building.
- <http://futuredevelopmentspace.tumblr.com/>

VALERINA GALLERINA + GREG, Ridgewood, NY

Co-Founder, Co-Curator, July 2014—November 2018

- Co-run an art gallery in the basement of our apartment in Queens. Co-Founded with Rina Goldfield and the soon-after partnership with Greg Skiano, all artworks submitted are accepted and exhibited as part of an egalitarian philosophy.
- Send out open calls and create a space for artists to show works to an accepting audience. Each show has multiple participating artists. Over 200 artists from various cities and countries participated in shows.
- Establish and distribute Emerging Artist's Fund, a monetary award given to a randomly chosen artist participating in each show. Funds come from donations collected during openings.

<http://valerinagallerinaplusgreg.tumblr.com>

THE FREEDOM GARDEN, Brooklyn, NY

Artist-in-residence, October 2011—September 2013

- Use backyard as art studio to create dyed tapestries and various art works installed in the basement music and art venue.
- Screen-print t-shirts with pictures and logos sold at shows and openings.
- Participate in meetings concerning curating for music shows and art openings.

TEACHING

STUDIO IN A SCHOOL, New York, NY

Teaching Artist, September 2016—Present

- Attend artist training sessions at Manhattan headquarters covering a variety of materials, methods, and age groups.
- Communicate extensively with the program coordinators for various programs.
- Attend planning meetings with school principal and teachers to tailor units and materials loosely based upon classroom curriculum.

- Design detailed lesson plans to foster the creative and intellectual development of New York City youth.
- Order supplies within outlined project budget.
- Teach art to inner city public school students.

USDAN SUMMER CAMP FOR THE ARTS, Wheatley Heights, NY

Lead Teacher in Sculpture, May 2017—September 2017

- Design detailed lesson plans for a variety of sculpture materials including a compilation of professional artist references for each material. Materials include cardboard, cardboard tape, metal armature wire, plaster gauze, chicken wire, papier-mâché, paper clay, casting plaster, clay, metal tooling, and tyvek.
- Communicate with the Art Chair regarding logistics of classroom management, choice-based lessons, alternative materials for students with different tactile facilities, and logistics in installing large-scale collaborative sculptures for the gala.
- Attend workshops on the use of various art materials as well as leading choice-based classrooms.
- Order supplies within program budget.
- Teach sculpture to students 8-16 years of age.

BEAM CENTER, Brooklyn, NY

Instructor, January 2017—July 2017

- Attend meetings with school magnet coordinators and/or teachers to collaborate on experimental problem solving units based upon classroom curriculum.
- Design detailed lesson plans that help young people build their character and self-esteem, develop skills that are useful in today's workplace, and prepare for a life of continual learning and meaningful action.
- Build prototypes and prepare materials for each lesson within the unit.
- Order supplies within project budget.
- Teach unit to inner city public school students.

SUNNYSIDE STRING SCHOOL, Sunnyside, NY

Head Art Teacher, January 2015—August 2016

- Teach after-school art class to children ages 3—9.
- Design detailed lesson plans for exploring the various possibilities and experimenting with different materials and methods in the practice of art making. Projects include collage, dioramas, drawing, dyeing, illustrated books, painting, papier-mâché, printmaking, resists, and sculpture. Foster the students speaking aloud about their works to the class when the projects are completed.
- Communicate to the director the lesson plans and what supplies to order.
- Delegate tasks to the assistant teacher.
- Relay to the director and other teachers when there is a concern with a student.
- Discuss and resolve complications pertaining to structure, schedule, and rates.

FRIENDS OF VAN CORDLANDT PARK: ART IN THE PARK, Bronx, NY

Head Art Teacher, May 2015—October 2015

- Organize an art program funded by The Bronx Council on the Arts.
- Teach a diversity of art forms integrating materials found in Van Cortlandt Park to children 6—12.
- Plan detailed lesson plans for introducing a range of techniques while utilizing immediate surroundings in the practice of art making. Projects include watercolors, printmaking, tie-dyeing, sculpture, collage, cyanotypes, and rubbings.
- Delegate tasks to the assistant teacher.

3RD WARD, Brooklyn, NY

Textiles Instructor, August 2012—2013

- Teach sewing and dyeing classes to adults.

GUEST TEACHING

BEAM CENTER, Brooklyn, NY. *Visiting Artist and Instructor, Summer Day Program, August 2016, July 2018.*

THE NEW SCHOOL, New York, NY. *Guest Instructor, Senior Seminar, May 2016.*

TEACHING ASSISTANT

2019 Alexandro Segade, *Professional Experience, Hunter College BFA*

2018 Nari Ward, *Sculpture Methods, Hunter College MFA*

VOLUNTEER

THE COOPER UNION, New York, NY

Sculpture Teacher for the Saturday Program, Fall 2009—Spring 2010

- Prepare detailed lesson plans, including method/material time-span, artists to cover, and exhibitions to attend.
- Demonstrate techniques for building from cardboard, papier-mâché, plaster, clay, wire, and plastic.
- Facilitate critique of finished works.
- Supervise field trips to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- Create art history packets and accompanying slide shows. Screen movies relating to subject discussed in class.