

CAROL SAWYER

EDUCATION

MFA 1998 School for the Contemporary Arts, Simon Fraser University.

Diploma 1982 Photography (Honours) Emily Carr College of Art and Design.

CURRENT/UPCOMING

2019: **The Scholar's Study**, Republic Gallery, Vancouver, BC.

2020: **The Natalie Bretttschneider Archive**, Koffler Art Gallery, Toronto, ON.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020: **Carol Sawyer: The Natalie Bretttschneider Archive**. Koffler Gallery, Toronto, ON. Curated by Mona Filip.

Proscenium. Surrey Art Gallery, Surrey, BC.

2017/2018: **Carol Sawyer: The Natalie Bretttschneider Archive**. Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC. Curated by Bruce Grenville.

2017: **I attempt from love's sickness to fly, in vain**. Republic Gallery, Vancouver, BC.

2016: **The Natalie Bretttschneider Archive**. Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Victoria, BC. Curated by Michelle Jacques.

The Natalie Bretttschneider Archive. Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON. Curated by Heather Anderson.

2015: **Your Still Life Builds A Home Inside My Head**. Collaboration with poet Susan Rich. Highline College Library, Des Moines, WA.

Shadow Puppet. Republic Gallery, Vancouver BC.

2011: **Some Documents from the Life of Natalie Bretttschneider**. Republic Gallery, Vancouver, BC.

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 BC.

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)

Water Park. CSA Space, Vancouver BC. Curated by Christopher Brayshaw.

Vacant Lot. Republic Gallery, Vancouver BC.

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, ON.

2001: **Aide-Mémoire.** Floating Gallery, Winnipeg MB.

1998: **Amazon.** Artspeak Gallery, Vancouver BC. (Catalogue)

1996: **Ophelia.** The Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver BC. (Catalogue)

1995: **Ophelia.** The New Gallery, Calgary AB. (Brochure)

Mad Opera. G. Gibson Gallery, Seattle WA.

Anthropomorphs. Access Gallery, Vancouver BC.

1994: **Lucia.** Gallery Sansair, Vancouver BC.

Vessels and Anthropomorphs. Index Gallery, Clark College, Vancouver, WA.

1993: **Vessels.** Or Gallery, Vancouver BC. (Brochure)

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

1990: **Refuge.** The Photographer's Gallery, Vancouver BC.

SELECTED TWO PERSON AND GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018: **Visitations (Or, Thirteen Ways to Live with Ghosts),** Gordon Smith Gallery, North Vancouver, BC. Curated by Kimberly Phillips. (Catalogue).

2018: **Supernatural: Art, Technology and the Forest,** Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Victoria, BC. Curated by Haema Sivanesan.

2017: **UTOPIAS CONSTRUCTED III.** Republic Gallery, Vancouver BC.

2017: **This now, more than ever.** SFU Gallery, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC. Curated by Melanie O'Brian and Stephen Collis.

2016: **Theatre Theatre**. Four person show with Deborah Edmeades, Adad Hannah, and Oliver Hussain. Evergreen Art Gallery, Coquitlam BC. Curated by Gregory Elstrand.

2015: **Silva: Booming Grounds**. Nanaimo Art Gallery, Nanaimo BC. Curated by Jesse Birch.

Through a Window: Visual Art and SFU. Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC. Curated by Melanie O'Brian.

Views from the Southbank I: Histories, Memories, Myths. Surrey Art Gallery, Surrey BC. Curated by Jordan Strom.

2012: **Again and again and again**. Vancouver Art Gallery. Vancouver BC Curated by Daina Augaitis.

Scenes of Selves, Occasions for Ruses. (group show, artist talk) Surrey Art Gallery, Surrey BC. Curated by Jordan Strom.

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

2010: **Truth or Fiction?** Kamloops Art Gallery, Kamloops BC. Curated by Annette Hurtig.

Cue: Artist's Video. Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver BC. Curated by Daina Augaitis and Christopher Eamon.

Culture Shock: video interventions at the QET. Vancouver BC. Curated by Stephanie Rebick.

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

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

2006: **Prologue I**. Republic Gallery, Vancouver BC.

Home Theatre. SFU gallery, Burnaby BC. Curated by Bill Jeffries

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

2004: **Hitting the Wall**. Installation and performance collaboration with Ya-wen Vivienne Wang. Access Gallery, Vancouver BC.

ReCollect. Two person show with Mary Kavanagh, curated by Corinna Ghaznavi. La Centrale, Montréal QC.

2003: **Going a Journey**. Curated by Cate Rimmer. Charles Scott Gallery, Vancouver BC.

Carol Sawyer and Adalgisa Campos. Or Gallery, Vancouver BC. Curated by Sydney Hermant (Publication)

The Female Aim. G. Gibson Gallery, Seattle, WA.

Here. Artropolis 2003, Vancouver, BC. Curated by Donna Szöke

2001-5: **Facing History.** Presentation House Gallery, North Vancouver BC, 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. The Koffler Gallery, North York, ON. Curated by Carolyn Bell Farrell. (Brochure).

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

1995: **Du réel subjugué: aspects de la relève canadienne.** Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal. Montréal, QC. Curated by Marie-Josée Jean (Catalogue)

(dis)still(ed) lives. Houston Centre for Photography, Houston, TX. Curated by Clint Willour.

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

2020: **Natalie Brett Quartet:** Carol Sawyer, Lisa Cay Miller, Kenton Loewen, Clyde Reed. China Cloud, Vancouver BC.

2018: **Recital: Carol Sawyer, Lisa Cay Miller, Elisa Thorn and Katie Rife** Musical Repertoire from the Natalie Brettschneider Archive presented in collaboration with NOW Society. Vancouver Art Gallery, B.C.

2016: **Reconstructions and Deconstructions: Carol Sawyer and Lisa Cay Miller** perform music inspired by the repertoire of Natalie Brettschneider and her contemporaries. Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Victoria BC.

2016: **Performance of Natalie Brettschneider Repertoire** at the opening of The Natalie Brettschneider Archive, Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa ON, January 18, 2016. Carol Sawyer and Jordan Zalis voice, Tariq Amery bass flute, Nicolas Fobes harpsichord, Agnes Malkinson cello, and Reiko Lokker violin. Video document can be viewed here: [CUAG performance](#)

2007-2016: **VOXY improvising choir.** Over the span of almost ten years, together with Kate Hammett Vaughan, I planned and coordinated a yearly series of workshops on improvisation for singers that culminated in a public performance.

2015: **Shadow Cast.** Live performance with improvised score, by Carol Sawyer, Meredith Bates, and Chris Gestrin. Merge collective, Vancouver BC

2000-2014: **ion Zoo** – musical ensemble co-founded with Steve Bagnell in 2000. Numerous performances of original improvised music at various venues in greater Vancouver BC including the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Jazz Cellar, 1067 Granville, the Charles H. Scott Gallery, Presentation House Studio, and Dancing on the

Edge, as well as Gallery 1412 in Seattle WA. 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. Appearance with Vancouver Improvisers Orchestra at Presentation House Studio, North Vancouver BC

2012: Collaborated with pianist Lisa Cay Miller to research and perform early Berlin cabaret songs and improvisations, for Music on Main, at the event **Arnold Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire @100**.

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, Kamloops BC

2009: **The repertoire of Natalie Brettschneider**. Performance with pianist Neville Bowman, GO Party, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna BC

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 BC.

2004: **Newly rediscovered repertoire of Natalie Brettschneider**. Performance with violinist Régis Huby. Canadian Cultural Centre, Paris France.

2002: Acted the role of the "guide" for Michael Fernandes' work *By Appointment Only*, Helen Pitt Gallery, Vancouver BC.

Natalie Brettschneider: a Portrait. With pianist Patrick Dubois. Presentation House Gallery, North Vancouver BC.

Bel Canto Chamber Ensemble. Performed Michael Conway Baker's "Vocalise" and other works in recital in Vancouver and Victoria BC.

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 Cinemateque, Vancouver, in May 1997 as part of the Asian Heritage Month Festival.

ARTIST PROJECTS AND ARTICLES CREATED FOR PUBLICATION

Bringing Forgotten Women Artists Back to Light. Canadian Art, January 2016.

Feminist Artifact? Carol Sawyer negotiates the questions raised by Haarscherp. Gemak, April 2012.

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 Caboose. 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.

A Meditation on Desire, Disappointment, and Detritus, Front Magazine, March/April, 2001.

Elevator Music, Front Magazine. Western Front. January/February, 2001.

Penetrating Voices: Such Sweet Compulsion, the Re-Inventing the Diva Cabaret. Re-Inventing the Diva. Lori Weidenhammer, Ed. Western Front, Vancouver BC. 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, Vancouver BC. 1998.

Yma Sumac, Front Magazine, September /October, 1998.

Brochure essay for the Fiona Bowie Exhibition "Swell". Grunt Gallery, Vancouver BC. 1996

AWARDS/ GRANTS

2017 Canada Council Concept to Realization Grant

2017 The Duke and Duchess of York Prize in Photography

2016 BC Arts Council Grant

Canada Council Research/ Creation Project Grant

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

Galleries West. September 23, 2019. *Q & A: Carol Sawyer*, by Portia Priegert.

Ciel Variable. June – September 2018. Portfolio: *Entre fiction et réalité: comment mettre en lumière le travail d'artistes laissés dans l'ombre / Between Fiction and Reality: How to Shed Light on Artists Who Have Been Left in the Shadows*, by Ariane Noel de Tilly.

Canadian Art. March 28, 2018. Feature: *Revising Dada* by Godfre Leung.

The Georgia Straight. December 19, 2017. *Carol Sawyer plays with fiction, feminism, and art history in The Natalie Brettschneider Archive* by Robin Laurence.

C Magazine Issue 30, Summer 2016, page 66-67. *Carol Sawyer: The Natalie Brettschneider Archive.* Carleton University Archive, Ottawa, ON, by Jaclyn Meloche.

Memory Palace (3 artists in the library): Angela Grauerholz, Carol Sawyer, Esther Shalev-Gerz. Karen Love, editor. Doryphore Independent Curators, City of Vancouver Public Art Program, 2013

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

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.

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.

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, p23. *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

2019 Sessional Instructor ECUAD: Performance and Photography.

2015 Sessional Instructor ECU: Location Photography.

Jury Member, grants for visual artists, BCAC

2012 Artist in Residence, **Work of the Living Watch** with Geoffrey Farmer, The Banff Centre for the Arts, Alberta.

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)

2018 Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver
2014 Access Artist Run Centre, Vancouver
2013 Children’s Hospital Wish Foundation, Vancouver
2012 Centre A, Vancouver
2011 Western Front Vancouver
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