

Zach Layton

Composer, Curator, Artist, Educator
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Education

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute - Electronic Arts Department, PhD, 2017
Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts at Bard College – Music/Sound Department - MFA - 2014
New York University, Interactive Telecommunications Program – MPS, 2007
Oberlin Conservatory of Music, BM, Composition, 1999

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor of Music (Production), Ramapo College of New Jersey, 2016-present

Music Production Technology, 2017
Recording Arts I, 2017
Electronic and Computer Music, 2018

Visiting Assistant Professor, Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, New School for Social Research, 2015 - 2017

EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC IN NYC, theory and composition seminar studying the history and practice of experimental music, Fall 2016
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY, seminar covering media theory, music technology and computer music composition, Fall 2016
SPECULATIVE MUSIC, intersections between music and the history of scientific innovation, Fall 2016
VISUAL MUSIC, a seminar studying synesthesia, experimental animation and the color of sound, Fall 2015
SPECULATIVE MUSIC, intersections between music and the history of scientific innovation, Fall 2015
AMBIENT MUSIC, a seminar exploring relations between sound, landscape and environment, Spring 2016
THE EXPERIMENTAL AND THE AVANT-GARDE, a composition and theory seminar exploring modern music since 1945, Spring 2016
SENIOR CAPSTONE ARTS SEMINAR, senior undergraduate seminar producing final research and creative projects, Spring 2016
INDEPENDENT STUDY, music technology, songwriting, music production, Spring 2016

Adjunct Professor, Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, New School for Social Research, 2015

AMBIENT MUSIC, a seminar exploring relations between sound, landscape and environment, Spring 2015

Teaching Assistant, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 2013 – Spring 2015

INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC & SOUND, prof. Curtis Bahn – Fall 2013, Spring 2014
NEW MEDIA CENTURY, prof. Michael Century – Fall 2014
HISTORY OF WESTERN MUSIC, prof. Michael Century – Spring, 2015

Adjunct Professor, Bloomfield College, Fall 2010 - Spring 2012

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL DESIGN; Department of Creative Art and Technology
MUSIC THEORY I, MUSIC THEORY II; Department of Music

Adjunct Professor, NYU Tisch School of the Arts (Interactive Telecommunications Program), 2008, 2010

VISUAL MUSIC, a seminar studying synesthesia, experimental animation and the color of sound, Fall 2008
Independent study faculty advisor, Spring 2010

Adjunct Professor, Bard High School Early College, 2010

INTRODUCTION TO ELECTRONIC MUSIC, seminar class exploring synthesis, sequencing, digital audio and hardware

Guest Lecturer (2007 – present)

Columbia Sound Art MFA program, guest critic for Douglas Repetto, 2014
Brooklyn College Sound Art class, guest lecturer for David Grubbs, 2011
Brooklyn Polytechnic Interactive Media class (guest lecture for R Luke Dubois, 2010
University of Copenhagen Department of Visual Art, 2010
Parsons School of Design Interactive Art department, guest lecturer for Joshua Goldberg, 2007

Panels/Conferences/

Guggenheim Museum, Optical Sound, Moholy-Nagy: Future Present, panelist, 2016
IX Immersion/Experience Symposium, Société des Arts Technologiques, Satsosphere, Montreal, 2016
Performa: Paradiso "Performing the Renaissance" Conference *Ars Subtilior: Experiments in 14th and 20th Century Notation*., NYU, 2015
MATA new music, selection committee member for 2016 Festival, (2015)
Guggenheim Museum, Zero: Countdown to Tomorrow exhibition conference, "Das Creamcheese & German experimental music", 2014
MoMa/PS1 Graphic Notation and Artist Books, NY Art Book Fair Conference, 2012
Columbia University Department of the Arts conference: The Instrumentalization of Music, 2012,
The Public School: Course: Disorganizing Sound: Twentieth Century Improvised Music and Beyond, 2011
University of Copenhagen, Department of Art and Cultural Studies, IKK Artist Talk, 2010
Experimental Television Center, Artist in Residence Panel, 2009
Harvestworks Artist In Residence Panel, 2009
Dorkbot, Location One, NYC, 2007
International Computer Music Conference, Sonic Topology, Copenhagen, DK, 2007

Curatorial Experience

Curatorial Consultant, Guggenheim Museum, New York City, 2014-2016

Curator of musical and expanded media response to Zero: Countdown to Tomorrow Exhibition, 2014
Curator of musical and expanded media response to Laszlo Moholy-Nagy Exhibition, 2016

Curator, ISSUE Project Room, Brooklyn, 2009-2013

Curator for internationally recognized and critically acclaimed Brooklyn based performance venue, planning organizational artistic direction, event logistics, organizational outreach and collaboration, hospitality and budgeting, overseeing artist residencies, commissioning new works coordinating artist schedules, organizing live events and planning exhibitions, research, composing curatorial statements and organizational outreach. Produced live events with Cecil Taylor, Robert Ashley, Alvin Lucier, Tony Conrad, Steve Buscemi, Merzbow, Vito Acconci, ICE Ensemble, Wet Ink Ensemble, Stepehn O'Malley, Elliott Sharp, JACK Quartet, Joshua Light Show, Kenneth Goldsmith, Francis Marie Uitti, Christian Wolff, Amiri Baraka, Joan La Barbara and many more.

Curator/Producer, PS1/MoMa, "Warmup" summer, 2007-2009

co-curator of internationally acclaimed summer music series at PS1 museum for contemporary art. Responsible for coordinating schedule, arranging talent, organizing live events and coordinating tech.

Founder/Artistic Director, Darmstadt, "Classics of the Avant Garde", 2004 - present

Organizer, Curator, Founder of acclaimed new music/new media series presented at the Kitchen, Le Poisson Rouge, Eyebeam, Galapagos Art Space, Goethe Institute, Spiegeltent, Monkeytown and ISSUE Project Room. Highlights: "Essential Repertoire" festival and Darmstadt "Institute" featuring NYC Premiere of Karlheinz Stockhausen's "Cosmic Pulses", John Cage's HPSCHD, Morton Feldman's Second String Quartet, Terry Riley's "IN C" annually, Fluxus Festival, Pauline Oliveros' 80th Birthday Concert, Anthony McCall's "Line Describing a Cone," and the 70th anniversary concert festival of the Darmstadt Summer Courses.

Grants/Awards

Andrew Mellon Foundation, Civic Arts and Humanities Teaching Fellowship, Eugene Lang College/New School, Spring, 2016

Foundation for Contemporary Arts Fellowship Award, Music/Sound Category, 2015

Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Fellowship, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 2015-2016

National Endowment for the Arts grant for Cecil Taylor Festival (ISSUE Project Room & Harlem Stage), 2012

Daedalus Foundation award for Darmstadt New Music Festival (ISSUE Project Room), 2011&2012

Free 103.9 Airtime Fellowship, 2010

Danish Council for Visual Art, 2010

City of Copenhagen Artist-In-Residency Program, 2010

Jerome Foundation, Roulette Emerging Artist Award, 2007

Turbulence New Radio and Performing Arts, 2007

Netherlands America Foundation, study and travel grant, 2000

Selected Exhibitions & Performances

WNYC New Sounds Festival, Music of Pauline Oliveros, Darmstadt Ensemble co-directed with Ben Neill, New York, 2017

Roulette, Optics Festival, Brooklyn, NY, 2017

Parrish Museum, Optipus: The Watery Owl of Minerva, Watermill, NY, 2017

Chocolate Factory, 'the final hands count beginning sounds', Long Island City, NY, 2017

Whitney Museum / Knockdown Center / Microscope Gallery, Optipus: The Owl Flies at Twilight, New York, NY, 2017

Le Poisson Rouge, Terry Riley's In C, New York, NY, 2017

Fischer Center, Bard College, Pauline Oliveros and International Contemporary Ensemble, electronics, Annandale, NY, 2016

Rubin Museum, "Brainwave Sonification", Force of Stillness exhibition: Buddhist Inspired Video and Performance, NY, 2016

EMPAC, "512 Voices", world premiere of new work for 496 channel wavefield synthesis system, Troy, NY, 2016

Oberlin Conservatory of Music, "Cauldrone" in collaboration with MV Carbon, Oberlin, OH, 2016

EMPAC, "Orchestra in the Expanded Field", premiere of new work for 12.2 channel sound and orchestra, Troy, NY, 2015

Lawrence Arts Center, "Immersive Environment," Free State Festival, Lawrence, KS, 2015

HERE Arts Center, "Bloost Windku", premiere of new work in collaboration with choreographer Rebecca Davis, NYC, 2015

Secret Project Robot, 10-Year Anniversary, AV Salon, Brooklyn, NY, 2015

Guggenheim Museum, "Creamcheese", part of "ZERO: Countdown to Tomorrow 1950-1960s", NYC, 2014

The Kitchen, Karlheinz Stockhausen's Originale, NYC, 2014

Roulette, Stridulitrum for String Orchestra of Brooklyn, NYC, 2014

Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts at Bard College, MFA Exhibition, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, 2014

EMPAC, "Chroma," 64 channel wavefield synthesis sound installation, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, 2014

Fiske Planetarium, "Soon it would be too hot", soundtrack, dir. Jeanne Liotta, commissioned by NOAA, CO, 2014

The Kitchen, Synth Nights, NYC, 2013

Danspace Project, music for choreographer Rebecca Davis, 2013

Spectrum, Duo with Loren Conners, 2013

ISSUE Project Room, Terry Riley's "In C", Brooklyn, 2013

Eyebeam, John Cage's HPSCHD, New York, 2013

Eli Broad Museum, Michigan State University, MI, 2013

Black Box Gallery, "Art Can't Be Defined...", Copenhagen, Denmark, 2013

Microscope Gallery, Inner/Outer Space + New Reality Band, Brooklyn, 2013

Parrish Art Museum, performance with Nick Hallett and Joshua Light Show, 2012

The Kitchen, American Mavericks Festival, Arthur Russell Instrumentals, New York, 2012

Newcastle AV Festival, "Radio Boredcast" curated by Vicki Bennett, Newcastle, UK, 2012

Bard College, "Thrice Festival", Annandale on Hudson, 2012

Performa, Fluxus Music Festival, curated in collaboration with Mark Beasley, New York, 2011

Brooklyn Academy of Music, 69°S, (sound designer), Brooklyn, NY, 2011

Radio Arts Space, "international radio and sound art exhibition, SKUJ Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2011

Nuit Blanche Festival, "Minerals" with Bradford Reed, Brooklyn, NY, 2011

Outpost, "Ende Tymes Festival", Brooklyn NY, 2011

92nd Street Y, "Bio-Wrong: Creative Misuse of Living Organisms", NYC, 2011

St. Mark's Ontological Theater, Free103.9FM:NOISE! Poetics of Media Communication Festival, NYC, 2010

Monitorgalleri, "New Video New York", Copenhagen, Denmark, 2010

Mikrogalleriet, "The Post Tropical", Copenhagen, Denmark, 2010

Anthology Film Archives, "Considerable Distance/Something Better" w. Andrew Lampert, 2010

The Stone, Elliott Sharpe's All Guitar Syndakit, NYC, 2009

Redhouse Arts Center, ((Audience)) Festival, curated by Lauren Rosati, Syracuse, NY, 2009

Art Currents Gallery, Tone and Temperment, curated by Sophie Landres, NYC, 2009

Phillips de Pury, ISSUE Project Room Benefit Auction, NYC, 2009

Creative Time, Bodies without Organs, improvisation at the David Byrne *Playing the Building* exhibition, NYC, 2008

The Stone, Alex Waterman, Michael Evans & Zach Layton Trio, NYC, 2008

ISSUE Project Room, Collaboration with the Joshua Light Show, Brooklyn, 2008

Secret Project Robot, Astral Projection Exhibition, Brooklyn, NY, 2008

Exit Art, Brainwave, New York, NY, 2008

Austin Museum of Digital Art, Austin, TX, 2008

MATA, Curator of inaugural *Interval* series, ISSUE Project Room, NY, 2007

Philoctetes Center, Pattern Recognition, group exhibition, NYC, 2007

Sideshow Gallery, American Abstract Artists, "Material Matter", curated by Kat Griefen, Brooklyn, NY, 2007

Video Dumbo, curated by Caspar Stracke, Brooklyn, NY, 2007

3rd Ward, Come One Come All, Brooklyn, NY, 2007

Yerba Buena Center for for the Arts, TV of TOMORROW exhibition, San Francisco, CA, 2007

ArtForum Berlin – "Bretheren of the Stone" by Jen Liu – original score, Berlin, DE, 2006

LMAK Projects: "A fold in the fabric", New York, 2006

EYEBEAM: 'La Superette' - curated by LOVID, 2006

Kilkenny Arts Festival 2006: "Failure": with Vito Acconci (sound design)

New York Digital Salon: Harmonic Light, SVA MFA Gallery, New York, 2006

Secret Project Robot, "Visual Acid" installation, Brooklyn, 2006

JMU Institute for Visual Studies, "Contemporary Mathematical Photography and New Media", 2006

Sculpture Center – "Make Music Now" curator in collaboration with the Sculpture Center's "Make it Now" 2005

Video Dumbo, 9th Dumbo Arts Festival curated by Caspar Stracke, Brooklyn, NY 2005

Publications

Guggenheim Museum, "Moholy-Nagy and Optical Sound", Guggenheim.org, web publication, 2016
Notes from Sub-Underground Compilation of music, sound and aural ephemera, 2016
Zach Layton, Orchestral and Chamber Works, Digital Release, 2014
Flaming Fire, "Surge And Burn", Cngls. Records, Double Deluxe Vinyl, 2014
Sound American Volume 3: The John Cage Issue, web release, 2013
I Never Meta Guitar Too (Solo Guitars for the XXI Century), Produced by Elliott Sharp, Clean Feed Records, 2013
Minerals, S/T, Buddhist Army Records, Digital and Vinyl Release, 2013
Bomb Magazine, Review: "Rêve Parisien by Rhys Chatham, Primary Information", 2012
Performance Art Journal, PAJ 100: Performance New York, "What Is Contemporary?" MIT Press, 2012
Transmission Arts: Artists and Airwaves, Galen Joseph-Hunter, (ed.) MIT Press, 2012
LYDSOD, Ancient Age, Cngls. Records, 180 Gram Vinyl, 2009
Loud5 Sound Art Magazine, Published by Tristan Perich & Lauren Rosati, 2008

Press

New York Times, Boost Windku, Here Arts Center, May 2, 2015
Time Out, String Orchestra of Brooklyn, String Theories Commission, 2013
Night After Night Blog (Steve Smith), String Theories Commission, 2013
Lansing City Pulse, "Good, Good, Good Stridulations, Jamming w bugs: Broad Museum", Lawrence Consentino, 2013
New York Times, "Cecil Taylor's Keyboard Legacy", 2012
Capital New York, "How Thinking Big and Small made the Darmstadt Music Festival Indispensable to New York, 2012
WQXR: Brooklyn's Darmstadt, Zach Layton and Nick Hallett, 2010
Wall Street Journal, "Brooklyn's Leading Avant-Garde Arts Venue confronts Obstacles and Opportunities", 2010
Wall Street Journal, "America's Poet Inspires his Hometown", 2010
New York Times, "Celebrating New Music, Just off the Beaten Path", Steve Smith, 2010
SNYK Denmark, New Sounds From New York, 2010
Time Out New York, "...One of the most significant musical events of the season", 2008
New York Times, "That Same Old Beat, With Brand New Choices", Alan Kozinn, 2007
New Yorker, "New York's Vital Music Scene", Alex Ross, 2007
New Music Box interview (American Music Center), 2005
New York Times, "For Downtown Clubs, the Uptown Classical", 2006

Other Professional Experience

Managing/Technical Director, ISSUE Project Room, Brooklyn, 2007-2010

Managing and Technical Director of internationally recognized and critically acclaimed performance space, responsible for operations, management, curatorial, logistics, sound engineering, web development, archiving and assisting with fundraising including major auctions, design development and implementation of a multi-million dollar capital campaign to restore and occupy a 20 year lease in downtown Brooklyn.

Executive Producer, Robert Ashley's "Vidas Perfectas", 2011

Working with cellist and composer Alex Waterman with support from the National Endowment for the Arts to produce Spanish language production of Robert Ashley's "Perfect Lives" premiering at Whitney Biennial, 2014.

Sound Archivist & Research Librarian, Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, 2001-2005

Responsible for digital audio transfer, cataloging, and restoration of analog materials in second largest sound archive in United States. Provided reference service to the public at Music and Recorded Sound reference desks in circulating and research divisions.

Associate Managing Director, Orchestra of the S.E.M. Ensemble, Brooklyn, NY, 1999

Worked with conductor Petr Kotik to produce concerts and manage one of New York's leading contemporary music ensembles.

Other Education

Walden School, Creative Musicians' Retreat, Dublin, NH, 2015
Columbia University, "Post-Medium Condition" seminar, Rosalind Krauss, - Auditor, 2007
Harvestworks - Max/MSP seminar with R. Luke Dubois & Matthew Ostrowski - 2005
Aspen Music Festival - Composition Studies with George Tsontakis - 1998
Private Composition Studies with La Monte Young, Elliott Sharp, Michael Jefry Stevens

References available upon request