

Zach Layton

Composer, Curator, Artist, Educator
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Formal Education

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute - Electronic Arts Department, PhD Program, (expected 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

Continuing Education

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

Selected Exhibitions & Performances

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, 64 channel sound installation, RPI Center for Cognition, Communication and Culture, 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 Borecast" 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, (assistant 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
International Computer Music Conference, Copenhagen, DK, 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 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

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 2013 – Present

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, Bard High School Early College, 2010

Professor of Electronic Music class exploring synthesis, sequencing, digital audio and hardware

Adjunct Professor, Bloomfield College, 2011-2012

Professor of Introduction to Digital Design; Department of Creative Art and Technology

Professor of Music Theory I, Music Theory II; Department of Music

Adjunct Professor, NYU Tisch School of the Arts (ITP), 2008

Professor at NYU's Interactive Telecommunications Program of original course "Visual Music (Spring 2008).

Independent study faculty advisor, (Spring 2010)

Guest Lecturer (2007 – present)

Columbia Sound Art MFA program, 2014

Columbia University roundtable: The Instrumentalization of Music, 2012,

The Public School: Course: Disorganizing Sound: Twentieth Century Improvised Music and Beyond, 2011

Brooklyn College Sound Art class (Guest Lecture for David Grubbs), 2011

Brooklyn Polytechnic Interactive Media class (guest lecture for R Luke Dubois),

University of Copenhagen Department of Visual Art (2010) Dorkbot, Location One, NYC, 2007;

Parsons School of Design Interactive Art department (Guest Lecturer), 2007

Curatorial Experience

Curator, ISSUE Project Room, Brooklyn, 2010-2013

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.

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.

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 critically acclaimed new music/new media series at the Kitchen, Le Poisson Rouge, Eyebeam, Galapagos Art Space, Goethe Institute, Spiegel tent, Monkeytown and ISSUE Project Room. Highlights include multiyear "Essential Repertoire" festival and Darmstadt "Institute" featuring the NYC Premiere of Karlheinz Stockhausen's "Cosmic Pulses", John Cage's HPSCHD, Morton Feldman's Second String Quartet, Annual performance of Terry Riley's "IN C", Fluxus Festival, Pauline Oliveros' 80th Birthday Concert, and Anthony McCall's "Line Describing a Cone".

Other Professional Experience

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.

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 an entirely new production of Robert Ashley's "Perfect Lives" in Spanish featuring Ned Sublette and Peter Gordon.

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 new music chamber orchestras.

Press

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 Indispensible 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 Opportunites", 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

Publications

Zach Layton, Orchestral and Chamber Works, Digital Release, 2014
Flaming Fire, "Surge And Burn", Cngls. Records, Double Deluxe Vinyl, 2014
I Never Meta Guitar Too (Solo Guitars for the XXI Century), Produced by Elliott Sharp, Clean Feed Records, 2013
Zach Layton, Electronic Works, Digital Release, 2013
Zach Layton, Solo Guitar, Digital Release, 2013
Minerals, S/T, Buddhist Army Records, Digital and Vinyl Release, 2013
Bomb Magazine, Review: "Rève 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
Kassette (w/Dei Lewison), S/T, Digital Release, 2004
De-Regulator, Audio Electro Infotainment, Digital Release, 2003

Grants/Awards

Foundation for Contemporary Arts Fellowship Award, Music/Sound Category, 2015
National Endowment for the Arts grant for Cecil Taylor Festival (ISSUE Project Room & Harlem Stage), 2012
Daedelus Foundation award for Darmstadt New Music Festival (ISSUE Project Room), 2011&2012
Free 103.9 Airtime Fellowship, 2010
Danish Council for Visual Art, 2010
Copenhagen Artist-In-Residency Program, 2010
Jerome Foundation, Roulette Festival of Mixology, 2007
Turbulence New Radio and Performing Arts, 2007
Netherlands America Foundation, 2000

Panels/Conferences

MoMa/PS1 Art Book Fair Conference, 2012
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

References available upon request