

marianne bernstein

Education

1978 BA in English, Minor in Film
Vassar College, University of Michigan
Graduated Summa Cum Laude

Select Recent Projects

2014 *Due North* – (duenorth2014.com) is an international collaboration and new mode of curatorial practice. Work was created in response to collective experience and travels in Iceland alongside the curator. In January 2014, the Icebox Project Space in Philadelphia was transformed into a winterscape featuring video and installation by select artists from Philadelphia and Reykjavik. A group of signature prints by participating Icelandic artists along with a limited edition portfolio of prints by the American artists is available through Philagrafika. “*Juxtaposing well-known Icelandic artists’ work with that of Americans who recently visited their country, the show affirms, but more often demolishes stereotyped views of the country.*” (Edward M Epstein, *artcritical.com*, January 2014)

2012 *The Play House: Beyond What Was* – (nomadicube.tumblr.com) The second installation of the Play House cube traveled outside of Philadelphia with support from an NEA grant. As a nomadic architectural structure, it was transported to New Haven to activate Artspace’s “The Lot” while exploring the social and human implications of homelessness and addiction. Artists Darwin Nix and Keliy Anderson-Staley were invited to make work on site within the cube to call attention to this problematic space and the complex social issues within New Haven. “*Bernstein hopes to spark artists, particularly visual artists, to connect with each other and reach out to the community.*” (David Brensilver, *The Arts Paper* October 2012)

2011 *The Play House: Not a Vacant Lot* – (nomadicube.tumblr.com) The Play House is a multi-purpose aluminum 8x8’ cube, a nomadic version of the Welcome House. Ten artist teams were invited to activate vacant lots throughout Philadelphia and create a short film about it. At night, these films were projected onto the exterior of the cube, which was installed as a temporary video installation and performance venue in a vacant lot on Broad Street. There are 40,000 vacant lots in Philadelphia. The intent was to demonstrate the potential for re-imagining empty space in new ways through artist interventions and neighborhood collaborations. “*Bernstein is well-known in the art world as a pusher of boundaries.*” (Nathaniel Popkin, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*)

2010 *The Philadelphia Underground* – A site specific video installation in which eight artists were challenged to create work exploring our neglected subway system and underused public spaces in Philadelphia. The videos were projected onto aging walls for three days

beneath Dilworth Plaza: a derelict underground public transit space, in the heart of downtown, adjacent to City Hall. The project also restored a statue that was the centerpiece for the space, engaged the homeless residents of the space to help clean the plaza, as well as provided live music, popcorn, and a red carpet as a makeover for the space as it was reinvented through the videos. *"We need more temporary public art like this to freshen the city and introduce the public to unusual contemporary art usually not seen by most people because it lurks in galleries where most folks don't go."* (Theartblog.org)

2009 *The Welcome House* – (thewelcomehouse.net) Artist residency by day, video installation by night, the Welcome House, a 10x10' transparent cube debuted in Love Park, in 2009. Working with Interface Studio Architects and Klip Collective, the cube and video projections were designed to transform the structure into a dynamic four-sided experience. Twenty Philadelphia artists created new work inside the cube based on their interactions with the public. Each night Love Park became an open air lounge where visitors returned to the space to see themselves projected onto the cube. *"This is exactly the sort of project I would like to see much more of throughout the City. It is art that is temporary, of the highest quality, wakes people up and confronts/engages/delights them in the course of their daily routine,"* (Gary Steuer, Director of Arts & Culture Philadelphia)

2009 *Shelter* – Conceived and curated a bi-level installation at the Painted Bride Art Center in Philadelphia. For six months, *"fourteen artists were paired with ten Philadelphia families facing eviction to make art dealing with issues of family crisis and homelessness. The photography, painting, video and drawings that resulted are art as social activism by artists known for great empathy in their art."* (Theartblog.org)

2006-09 *Tatted* – A monograph of Bernstein's photographic work that examines Philadelphia's legendary South Street tattoo culture. The project incorporated social portraiture with hand written notes in order to explore peoples' tattoos as windows into their souls and codes that reveal deep personal significance.... *"Marianne Bernstein, is the woman behind the lens. Armed with just a camera and a notepad, the 53-year-old Philly photographer asked strangers to jot down the meaning behind the art adorning their arms, legs and various and sundry other body parts."* (Julia West, Philadelphia City Paper)

Films

The Earthquake, 2011- Producer (directed by Danielle Lessovitz)

Official Selection of the Torino International Film Festival, Fusion Film Festival, Kansas City Film Festival, and Milan Film Festival

From Philadelphia to the Front, 2005

Distributed by the National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis University

Co-directed and produced the award-winning documentary that has traveled to over 15 film festivals worldwide (fromphiladelphiatothefront.com) *"I don't find it at all ironic that the single best film in this year's New York Jewish Film Festival is one of the shorter ones. Judy Gelles and Marianne Bernstein, the directors of From Philadelphia to*

the Front, knew exactly what they wanted to say, said it and got out."
(George Robinson, The Jewish Week)

Curatorial Work / Projects

2017 *Due South*, The Delaware Contemporary and Sicily, TBA

2014 *Due North*, Icebox Project Space, Philadelphia

2012 *The Play House: Beyond What Was*, Artspace, New Haven, CT

2011 *The Play House: Not a Vacant Lot*, Broad Street Arts Lot, Philadelphia

2010 *The Philadelphia Underground*, Dilworth Plaza, Philadelphia

2010 *Big Bang*, Gallery Joe, Philadelphia

2009 *Shelter*, The Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia

17 artists (including Daniel Heyman, Zoe Strauss, Joan Wadleigh Curran, and Eva Wylie) created new work in collaboration with local families on the brink of homelessness.

2009 *The Welcome House*, Love Park, Philadelphia

2000 *Foreign Bodies: art, medicine, technology*, untitled(space), New Haven

Featured 36 works by 17 emerging and established artists including: Tim Davis, Joan Fontcuberta, Eve Andrée Laramée, Olivia Parker, Kunié Sugiura, Gary Schneider, and Terry Winters.

1998 *Postmark International*, Artspace, New Haven.

During the International Festival of Art and Ideas, invited twenty international artists to create a 6'x9' work on canvas about a place that had particular resonance. Work was hung from the ceiling like flags.

1997-1999 *Head of the Visual Arts Committee, and Curator*, Artspace, New Haven, CT.

Founded, developed and implemented new programming including:

- *City Wide Open Studios*, one of the first open studio programs offering alternative studio spaces, (such as abandoned buildings and empty lots) for artists. Co-founded with Helen Kauder and Linn Meyers.
- *untitled(space) gallery*, presenting new work by emerging and mid career artists with an emphasis on works in progress, interactive work, and site specific work.
- *The Lot*, a formerly abandoned lot that we redeveloped as a space for temporary art installations.

Solo Exhibitions

2013 *The Cube*, public art installation in Skagastrond, Iceland

2009 *Tatted* exhibition and book launch, Pure Gold Gallery, Philadelphia

1999 *Dream Series* RJ Julia Madison, CT.

1993 *5 Portraits/ The Crown Heights History Project*, The Brooklyn Children's

Museum, Brooklyn, NY. Taught photography to teenagers of various ethnicities so

they could interview and photograph their mentors. Their interviews and portraits were displayed next to my portraits of them.

1992 Small Space Gallery, New Haven, CT. *A Silver Thread*
1992 Rotunda Gallery, New Haven, CT. *Summer '92*
1985 New Haven Foundation, New Haven, CT. *Veterans*

Selected Group Exhibitions

2015 *Polaris*, James A Michener Art Museum, Doylestown
2015 *Due North/Snow* CR Ettinger Studio, Philadelphia
2014 *Due North*, Ice Box Project Space, Philadelphia
2011 Dionysia Residency Exhibition, Thingeyri, Iceland
2010 *Philagrafika Invitational*, Locks Gallery, Philadelphia
2009 *Into Your Head*, Hopkins House Gallery of Contemporary Art, New Jersey
2003 *101 Dresses*, Artspace, New Haven
2000 *The Cave*, untitled(space), New Haven- an installation featuring collaborative recorded audio, wall drawings, and projected portraits of three local homeless individuals.

1999 *Artists in Residence*, Creative Arts Workshop, New Haven
1999 *Raw Pieces*, PABA Gallery, New Haven
1999 *The Harbor of the Red Mountains: Contemporary Photographers Look at East Rock and West Rock*, New Haven Historical Society
1997 *Trans-Form* Zoon Gallery, New Haven
“Marianne Bernstein’s 1998-1999 series of photographs taking off from her own dream journal photographically embody a ‘memory’ that is more current in the present than in the past, a waking transformation of a psychological truth accessible only through a dream state.” (Pamela Franks)

1998 *Kiasma*, untitled(space), New Haven
1996 *Barriers and Enclosures*, Artspace Gallery, New Haven
1996 *The Virtual Self*, The Mill Gallery, Guilford
1996 *Reframing Tradition*, Creative Arts Workshop, New Haven
1996 *Group Show*, The Photographic Resource Center at Boston University
1996 *Images '96*, The Mill Gallery, Guilford, CT.
1995 *The Connecticut Open*, Real Art Ways, Hartford
1995 *New Work*, Artspace Gallery, New Haven
1995 *People and Places*, M.F.A.A Gallery, New Haven
1995 *Photography, Drawing and Prints*, Artworks Gallery, Hartford
1995 *Figuratively Speaking*, John Slade Ely House, New Haven
1994 and 1995 *Artists in Residence*, Creative Arts Workshop, New Haven
1994 *About Face*, Real Art Ways, Hartford
1992 *Reprographics and the Visual Artist*, The Creative Arts Workshop, New Haven
1998 *Connecticut Women Photographers*, Artspace Gallery, New Haven

Awards and Residencies

- 2015 Modulo A Residenza, Sicily
- 2014 Iceland Naturally Exhibition Sponsorship
- 2014 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts PPA Project Stream Grant
- 2014 PECO Exhibition Sponsorship
- 2013-2014 Independence Foundation Fellowship in the Arts
- 2013 Nes Artist Residency, Skagastrond Iceland
- 2013 I.C.E. (International Curatorial Exchange) at the Icebox Project Space
- 2012 NEA Artworks support grant for The Playhouse: Beyond What Was
- 2011 PEW Center for Arts & Heritage Fellowship Finalist
- 2011 Dionysia Residency, Iceland
- 2010 Mother Teresa Award, theartblog.org
- 2004 Honickman Foundation Grant
- 2003 Leeway Window of Opportunity Grant
- 2001- Honored by John DeStefano, Jr. Mayor of New Haven
 - “Marianne Bernstein founded 98NH2000, Citywide Open Studios, untitled(space), and the Lot; organized and assisted with dozens of exhibitions, and counseled, mentored, and encouraged hundreds of artists... a leader, true artistic visionary, risk-taker and hard worker, who has given love, sweat, and tears to tell the truth about New Haven and showcase the best of what New Haven offers.”*
- 1998 Voted “Best Arts Visionary” by the New Haven Advocate
- 1998 Opening Doors, Opening Minds Award, New Haven Arts Council
- 1996 Award for Excellence, Women in the Visual Arts, Erector Square Gallery

Publications/Artist Talks

- 2016 Due South presentation, Scuolo FuoriNorma, Catania, Sicily
- 2015 Due South presentation, Tusa, Sicily
- 2013 Islensk Grafik, Artist talk, Reykjavik, Iceland
- 2010 “Chit, Chat, Change” at AIGA Philadelphia, panel discussion
- 2009 *TATTED*, monograph published by GritCity, Inc
- 1999 Yale University Art Gallery, artist talk
- 1990 Creative Arts Workshop, New Haven, artist talk
- 1992 *American Sculpture at Yale University*, Yale University Press, photographer
- 1983 *New York at Night*, published by Stewart, Tabori, and Chang

1980-2000 Professional Experience

Marianne Bernstein is a multi-media conceptual artist and curator working in Philadelphia. In the 1980's she worked in NYC for Myers & Griner /Cuesta Film Productions, the Maysles Brothers, the Muppets and Sesame Street. For over a decade she taught photography at Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven, CT. In the 1990's in New Haven, CT. she founded untitled(space), The Lot, and co-founded Citywide Open Studios which incorporated "alternative (empty) spaces" as a call to widen the idea of art practice outside of the traditional studio setting. These projects won her the "Best Arts Visionary" and "Opening Minds, Opening Doors" awards in 2000. Since then, she has been working as an artist and independent curator.

Contact

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