

Job Piston

1326 ½ Miller Drive Los Angeles, CA 90069
+1 (347) 200-6946 – job.piston@gmail.com

Los Angeles Nomadic Division, Los Angeles
April, 2023

Dear Search Committee,

For the past 15 years, I have been working as a curator and producer of artist centered programming in the field of visual arts and live performance. My artistic research spans various disciplines, including art history, photography, video, architecture, performance, pop culture, and advertising with a particular focus on early avant-garde movements, queer studies, and interplay between art making and psychoanalysis.

As a curator of four Performa Biennials, I organized and produced dozens of performances and original programs that challenged artists to imagine live performances out of their visual art practices. I commissioned both institutional and emerging artists to develop their very first live performances while also supporting the development of more experienced time-based artists. For example, I organized Barbara Kruger's first live work that unfolded through a skate park and 'drop' performance that merged branding and live art, Korakrit Arunanondchai and boychild's breakthrough into choreography, as well as Kia LaBeija's Bauhaus ballet for the voguing community. I also organized video programs that bridged archival performances with contemporary social communities. For example, [Time Share](#) reimagined performances by Judy Chicago, Robert Rauschenberg, and Shigeko Kubota through social media and [queer resistance](#). Additionally, [Excelsior](#), which was named after Captain Sulu's Star Trek spaceship, explored themes of dystopia and self-mythology by video directors from the Asian diaspora.

My communication skills have been successful in drawing in new audiences, cultivating board members, identifying funding resources, and amplifying media attention. One recent accomplishment was initiating the redesign of Performa's organizational [website](#), which is often cited as the new museum industry standard. The site makes art and performance more accessible through streaming video and live broadcasts on a fluid interface.

My nontraditional career path into curating is due to my background as a studio artist. I've developed an acute intuitive instinct that comes from my formative years sharing studio spaces with fellow artists and designers. I've had several solo exhibitions as an artist and participated in group shows at arts organizations on both coasts. My ongoing attendance and dialogue with key international art biennials and festivals continue to challenge new forms of exhibition making in relation to radical urbanism.

I remain curious through regularly attending international exhibitions, conferences, and artist studios to ensure that curatorial projects address the most pressing and relevant issues of our time. Through effective storytelling and creative problem solving, art continues to be a genre defying field that forges dynamic connections between the imagination and the future.

I am thrilled at the prospect of bringing my experience and knowledge to Los Angeles Nomadic Division, and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss my qualifications further.

Best regards,

Job Piston

EXPERIENCE

Performa, New York, NY

Curator at Large, 2021 - present

Associate Curator, 2015-2021

Special Projects Manager, 2011–2015

- Developed and produced five editions of Performa Biennial, the United States' leading visual art performance festival; responsible for artist commissions, production with technical producer, meeting fundraising goals, board recruitment, press and branding strategy, and completion of ad hoc projects
- Served as curator planning the execution of large scale artist performances ensuring the completion of all performances and conceiving of new dynamic opportunities for development, communications, marketing, and production teams
- Commissioned performances and events by Korakrit Arunanondchai with Alex Gvojic and boychild, Body by Body, Sara Cwynar, Yulan Grant, [FlucT](#), Dev Hynes, Richard Kennedy, Kia LaBeija, M Lamar, Zanele Muholi, Tabita Rezaire, Athi-Patra Ruga, Shikeith; digital commissions by [Tania Bruguera](#), David Gilbert, Jessica Craig-Martin, [James Welling](#).
- Commissioned a city-wide installation and performance with Barbara Kruger including a skate park installation, school bus installation, 'Drop' performance, editioned skateboard, clothing collaboration with Volcom, 50,000 New York MTA MetroCards, biennial branding, and Dazed Media partnership
- Researched and composed curatorial texts for solo and group projects; submitted budget lines with a technical producer for each project
- Conceived the redesign of the biennial website as a multi-media, archival and broadcast platform; recruited the design team for the streaming platform, digital experience, e-commerce shop and logos
- Broke records for digital impressions with the streaming video exhibition [TIME SHARE](#), 2020; artists included Vanessa Beecroft, Judy Chicago, Jane Jin Kaisen, Shigeo Kubota, Robert Rauschenberg, Robin Rhode, Viva Ruiz, Jamilah Sabur, Jacolby Satterwhite, Ryan Trecartin, Tori Wranes et al.
- Mentored university students and international trainees alongside 50+ volunteers and staffers during the biennial; trainees placed in full-time positions at museums and galleries following the biennial
- Conceived and produced special events, membership programming, curatorial travel itineraries, press strategies; served as manager of communications, marketing and social media; founded and built the marketing and brand partnerships style guide.
- Recruited all public relation teams; served as lead contact for press inquiries; developed strategic press, branding and communications plans
- Launched and managed all social media platform growing a devoted following from 0 to 70k followers; produced original content, edited archival content, and cultivated community engagement
- Organized partnerships with world class art organizations and brands including Art Basel, Frieze Fair, The Armory Show, AOL, Swarovski, Perrier, Absolut, Aesop, Redbull Arts, Gagosian, Zwirner, Hauser & Wirth, Salon 94, Levy Gorvy, Art 21, Art Africa, Interview, Visionaire World, and W Magazine
- Produced events with Marina Abramovic with Jay-Z, Isaac Julien, Cindy Sherman, Mickalene Thomas, Francesco Vezzoli, Rosa Barba, Jérôme Bel, Elmgreen & Dragset, Jeremy O'Harris, Ivo Van Hove, Inez &

Job Piston

1326 ½ Miller Drive Los Angeles, CA 90069
+1 347 200 6946 job.piston@gmail.com

Vinoodh, Pauline Curnier Jardin, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Marilyn Minter, Tyler Mitchell, Papi Juice, Eddie Peake, Miuccia Prada, Sia, TOTAL FREEDOM, Venus X

CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA

Assistant to the Director, 2006-2008

Archivist of Paul McCarthy *Low Life Slow Life* catalog; production for Allora & Calzadilla and Tino Seghal exhibitions

Artist Liaison, Jérôme Bel, Abraham Cruzvillegas, Aurelien Froment, Annette Kelm, Tim Lee, Inti Guerrero, Raimundas Malašauskas

Visiting Artist Program, UCLA, 2009-2010

Guests RoseLee Goldberg, Jens Hoffmann, Runa Islam, Philipp Kaiser

Independent Curator, 2017 - present

LA Dance Project, Programmer, Open Studio showcase, 2023

Artist-in-Residence Program, The Aster, 2023

[Flutter Experience](#), **Art Director**, Charlap Hyman & Herrero, Jacolby Satterwhite, Saya Woolfalk

[Art at at Time Like This, NOWNESS, NOWNESS ASIA](#), Asian & Asian Diaspora videos, 2022

Vidoun Group, Curatorial Consultant, 2022 - present

Chanel Arts and Culture, Curatorial Consultant, 2022

[Jessica Silverman Gallery, Marching to the Beat](#), Kutlug Ataman, Juliana Huxtable, Shirin Neshat

[Perrier](#), **Art Ambassador**, Ryan McNamara, Hayal Pozanti, 2017

Artist/Exhibitions/Etc.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

Job Piston and Chella Man, Los Angeles private residence, 2022

Project, Charlie James Gallery, 2015

Flash: Job Piston, California Museum of Photography, UC Riverside, 2013

We Took A Family Portrait / 我們拍了一張全家福, Jessica Silverman Gallery, 2010

An Unsung Rhythm in a Colonnade of Stars, Jessica Silverman Gallery, 2006

Selected Group Exhibition

[For Freedoms](#), **National Billboard Commission**, Asian American Pacific Islander Campaign, 2022

Reds, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, 2014

Out-Of-_____, Michael Benevento Gallery, Khastoo Gallery, Los Angeles, 2012

Out-Of-_____, Galerie Dohyang Lee, Khastoo Gallery, Paris, 2012

Wild Thing, Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles, 2010

The Paper Exhibition, curated by Raimundas Malasauskas, Artist Space, New York, 2009

A Kingdom for a Horse, MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles, 2007

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS

Barbara Kruger in conversation with Job Piston, Performa publication (forthcoming 2023)

Tavio Nyong'o on Shikeith, Performa publication (forthcoming 2023)

Dean Kissick on Sara Cwynar, Performa publication (forthcoming 2023)

Benjamin Tausig on Korakrit Arunanondchai, Performa publication (forthcoming 2023)

[Performa Biennial](#), Rachel Valinsky, Artforum, November 23, 2021

[Thoughts on the Suffering of "Others" or, The Aims of Performing Resistance](#), Joseph Akel, October 19, 2020

[Introducing TIMESHARE](#), Katy Diamond Hamer, Cultured Magazine, May 6, 2020

[TIMESHARE](#), Will Heinrich, New York Times, print, April 28, 2020

[Korakrit Arunanondchai](#), Emma McCormick-Goodhart, Flash Art, November 20, 2019

[Two Vogue Shows Strike Art-World Poses](#), Brian Seibert, New York Times, print, November 11, 2019

[Engaging with the Thing': the Hard Work of Performa 19](#), Erica Cardwell, Frieze, print, December 9, 2019

[Barbara Kruger: 'Nobody should be surprised at Trump, Brexit, or white grievance.'](#) Nadja Sayej, The Guardian, Nov 2017

[With Zanele Muholi, the South African LGBTQ Community is Taking Center Stage](#), Mary Wang, Vogue, Nov 10, 2017

Job Piston

1326 ½ Miller Drive Los Angeles, CA 90069
+1 347 200 6946 job.piston@gmail.com

[Barbara Kruger's Supreme Performance](#), Jamie Lauren Keiles, The New Yorker, November 12, 2017
[Kendall Jenner and Gigi Hadid do Performance Art](#), W Magazine, March 23, 2017
Job Piston on Tania Bruguera, Performa 15 publication, 2017
Job Piston on David Gilbert, Performa 15 publication, 2017
[Cruising BDSM, and Grindr: Interview with Jacolby Saternbite](#), Standard Culture, July 8, 2016
[Juliana Huxtable's Bold, Defiant Vision](#), Antwaun Sargent, Vice, March 24, 2015

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Board Gala Committee, 2020-2021
Creative Time; Baxter Street at CCNY, Art Advisory Committee, 2020 - present
Independent Curators International, The Independents Committee, 2020 - present
Voices4, programmer, Elmgreen & Dragset event, 2019
Downtown 4 Democracy, Auction Committee, 2018

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California
Bachelors of Fine Art, California College of Arts, San Francisco, California

LANGUAGES

Mandarin ILR Level 1 (conversational)
French ILR Level 1 (conversational)