

JULIAN NYKOLAK

Department of Art, California State University, Los Angeles, 5151 State University Drive
jnykola@calstatela.edu

Note: some of the following are under my legal (non-preferred) name

EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D. Visual and Cultural Studies, University of Rochester.
“Painting in Question, 1967-1981: ‘BMPT,’ Supports/Surfaces, ja-na-pa.”
Advisor: Douglas Crimp.
- 2014 M.A. Visual and Cultural Studies, University of Rochester.
- 2006 B.A. Wesleyan University.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2025- Associate Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History,
Chair, Art History option (BA/MA),
California State University, Los Angeles.
- 2019-2025 Assistant Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History,
California State University, Los Angeles.
- Fall 2018 Lecturer, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2018-19 Lecturer, Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2016-18 Lecturer, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA.
- 2016-18 Lecturer, California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

- 2026 Trans Studies LA Stipend, California State University, Los Angeles.
- 2024 CSGS Faculty Fellowship, California State University, Los Angeles.
- 2021 University RSCA Award, California State University, Los Angeles.
- 2020 Summer Institute Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities.
- 2018 Outstanding Dissertation Award for the Humanities, University of Rochester.
- 2015-16 Dean’s Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Rochester.
- 2014-15 Chateaubriand Fellowship, Humanities and Social Sciences,
L’École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris.
- 2013-14 Helena Rubinstein Critical Studies Fellowship,
Whitney Independent Study Program, New York.
- 2012-13 Susan B. Anthony Institute Research Grant, University of Rochester.
- 2010-12 Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fellowship, University of Rochester.
- 2006 Carol B. Ohmann Memorial Prize for Best Thesis in Feminist, Gender,
and Sexuality Studies, Wesleyan University.

JULIAN NYKOLAK

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“Supports/Surfaces, Scission, and the Structure of the Avant-Garde,” *Art History* 43, no. 1 (February 2020): 94-119.

“On Moving and Touching: From Kineticism to Dance in the Museum,” *Art Journal* 78, no. 4 (Winter 2019): 38-57.

“Painting With Desire: Color after Collectivity, 1972-1974,” in “Painting after 1968,” special issue, *Selva*, no. 1 (October 2019): 29-62. <https://selvajournal.org/issue/one/>

Peer-Reviewed Essays in Edited Collections

“‘Unpredictable virtues of gesture and material’: Reading Damisch Reading the *Informel*,” in *Informelle Kunst: Begriffe, Kontexte, Rezeptionen*, ed. Christoph Zuschlag and Anne-Kathrin Hinz (Berlin: Deutscher Kunstverlag/De Gruyter, forthcoming).

“Party Formalism: Formlessness and Collective Form in Contemporary Art,” in *Model Collapse: Contemporary European Art at a Time of Democratic Crisis*, ed. Lindsay Caplan and Kerry Greaves (Manchester: University of Manchester Press, 2025), 83-97.

Catalogue Contributions and Other Selected Publications

“To What Ends, Painting?” *The Brooklyn Rail* (invited by Molly Warnock), June 2026.

“For and Against the Wall,” in *Ulrike Müller: Monument to My Paper Body* (Aachen: Ludwig Forum/Verlag der Buchhandlung Walter König, 2025).

“Ulrike Müller: In/Between/Painting,” in *Kunstpreis der Böttcherstraße Prize in Bremen 2020* (Bremen: Kunsthalle Bremen, 2020). English/German translation.

Thirty-nine catalogue entries, in *Outliers and American Vanguard Art*, ed. Lynne Cooke (Washington, DC: National Gallery of Art, 2018).

“A Blueprint for Utopia,” in *Luc Tuymans: Intolerance*, eds. Lynne Cooke and Tommy Simoens (Antwerp: Ludion, 2015), 68-72.

“Fever Dreams: David Wojnarowicz at the New Museum,” *New Museum Digital Archive* (posted October 2012).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Symposia and Panels Organized

Panel: “Figures in Excess” (co-chair Peter Murphy),

Respondent: David Getsy, University of Virginia,

ASAP/15 Conference, Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP),

CUNY Graduate Center, Hunter College, New York City, October 17-19, 2024.

Symposium: *Fast Forward! Women in European Art, 1970-Present* (organizing committee),

University of Copenhagen and Louisiana Museum of Modern Art,

Copenhagen, Denmark, November 17-18, 2021.

Panel: “After ’68: Art and Political Engagement in Europe” (co-chair M. Elena Versari),

Affiliated society, European Postwar and Contemporary Art Forum (EPCAF),

106th Annual Conference, College Art Association (CAA),

Los Angeles, CA, February 21-24, 2018.

JULIAN NYKOLAK

Invited Talks and Events

Response, book launch for Lindsay Caplan, *Arte Programmata: Freedom, Control, and the Computer in 1960s Italy*. Hosted by CAA-affiliate EPCAF/online, May 4, 2023.

Papers Presented

- “A Bohemian Underworld’: Nicolas Moufarrege and the East Village Art Scene.”
“Locating Downtown” Symposium,
New York University /Whitney Museum of American Art,
New York City, January 23-25, 2026 (withdrawn due to circumstance).
- “Trans/figure/ground: The Figurative Returns of Greer Lankton.”
ASAP/15 Conference, Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP),
CUNY Graduate Center/Hunter College, New York City, October 17-19, 2024.
- “The Doll Club: Greer Lankton and Trans-figuration,”
CSGS Faculty Fellow Symposium, Cal State LA, October 3, 2024.
- “Towards a Materialist Theory of Painting.”
47th Annual Conference, Association for Art History (AAH),
Online, April 6-8, 2022.
- “Unpredictable virtues of gesture and material’: Reading Damisch Reading *Informel*.”
“Kunst des Informel” symposium, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Universität Bonn,
Germany/online, March 30-April 1, 2022.
- “Anti-Oedipal Filiations and the Obscurity of the Avant-Garde.”
46th Annual Conference, Association for Art History (AAH),
Online, April 14-17, 2021.
- “Party Formalism.”
109th Annual Conference, College Art Association (CAA),
Online, February 10-13, 2021.
- “Painting with Desire: Color and the ‘Chromatic Libido’ After Supports/Surfaces.”
11th Annual Conference, Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP),
University of Maryland, College Park, October 10-12, 2019.
- “BMPT’ and the Rejection of the *Groupusculaire* c. 1968.”
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 5-7, 2018.
- “*Un se divise en deux*’: Collectivity, Scission, and the Structure of the Avant-Garde.”
106th Annual Conference, College Art Association (CAA),
Los Angeles, CA, February 21-24, 2018.
- “Painting: Real Objects and Objects of Knowledge.”
18th Annual Conference, Modernist Studies Association (MSA),
Pasadena, CA, November 17-20, 2016.
- “Supports/Surfaces and Painting as a Theoretical Practice.”
41st Annual Conference, Association for Art History (AAH),
Norwich, England, April 9-11, 2015.
- “Andy Warhol’s End of Painting.”
American Art and Negation Symposium,
The Terra Foundation for American Art, Institut national d’histoire de l’art (INHA),
Paris, France, March 31-April 1, 2015.
- “Painting in Question: Supports/Surfaces in the Seventies.”
Annual Critical Studies Symposium, The Whitney Independent Study Program (ISP),
The Whitney Museum, New York, NY, May 20, 2014.

JULIAN NYKOLAK

Papers Presented, continued

- “Is It Jazz? Is It Static? Is It Op Art?": The Early *Museum Events* of Merce Cunningham.”
Institute of Fine Arts (IFA)/Frick Graduate Symposium in the History of Art,
New York, NY, April 19-20, 2013.
- “Movements in the Museum, 1964-1970.”
Metamatic Reloaded Symposium,
Museum Tinguely, Basel, Switzerland, March 20-23, 2013.
- “Impersonating History: David Wojnarowicz’s *Arthur Rimbaud in New York, 1978-1979*.”
100th Annual Conference, College Art Association (CAA),
Los Angeles, CA, February 22-25, 2012.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2019-22** Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for Contemporary Artist Lecture Series,
California State University, Los Angeles
Featuring: *Beatriz Cortez, Kang Seung Lee, Paul Mpagi Sepuya, Sayre Gomez, Rafa Esparza, and Gala Porras-Kim.*
- 2017-18** Invited Participant, “Seth Price is on our minds” think tank,
CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA.
- 2015** Curatorial Research Assistant to guest curator Hilton Als for exhibition
Christopher Knowles: In a Word, ICA Philadelphia, PA.

SELECTED SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2024-** Board Member, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality,
California State University, Los Angeles
- 2022-** Board Member, American Communities Program,
California State University, Los Angeles
- 2026** Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Visual Culture*
- 2023** Peer Reviewer, *Art Journal*
Peer Reviewer, *Grove Art Online (Oxford University Press)*
- 2020** Peer Reviewer, *View: Theories and Practices of Visual Culture*
- 2019** Peer Reviewer, *ASAP/Journal*