

JOHN BORSTEL, MFA
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EDUCATION

MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts, Goddard College, 2014
BA in English, Georgetown University, 1979

EMPLOYMENT

Independent Consultant (Current)

Arts writing and editing; artistic coaching; meeting facilitation; training and facilitation of Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process.

Liz Lerman Dance Exchange *subsequently Dance Exchange*, Takoma Park, Maryland
Senior Advisor (2011-2015); *Humanities Director* (2000-2011); *Director of Development* (1993-2000)

- Authored and served as lead writer/editor on grant proposals, publications, marketing materials, fundraising appeals, websites, promotional videos.
- Secured and administered major grants from private and government sources, providing liaison to funder staff through the full cycle from inquiry to proposal to reporting and grant deliverables.
- Co-conceived and authored print, online, and video communication projects to document and disseminate Dance Exchange's unique methods for choreography, community-building and dialogue, often working in close collaboration with Artistic Director Liz Lerman and other company artists.
- Guided evaluation of major education and audience engagement initiatives, collaborating with contracted assessment specialists on research strategy and survey design, with an eye to making the survey process integral to the artistic experience.
- Coordinated partnership projects between innovative contemporary dance company and universities, museums, and arts presenters, engaging cross-disciplinary perspectives and arts/humanities/science collaboration.
- Developed teaching and engagement processes for Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process, a widely-used four-step method for facilitated feedback on artistic work-in-progress; coauthored the book that serves as the primary text for this method.
- Designed and facilitated public and student-focused workshops and panels at university residency sites and Dance Exchange headquarters, addressing such topics as creative practice, arts-based research, the art/faith connection, and constructive critique.
- Currently advise organizational leadership during its current post-founder phase of growth, while continuing to perform many of the above functions.

The Pennsylvania Opera Theater, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Education Administrator/Marketing Associate (1993)

- Coordinated in-schools education program, managed marketing, developed press kits.

The Washington Bach Consort, Washington, DC
Assistant to the General Manager (1992-93)

- Coordinated marketing, publications, and audience development projects.

Central City Opera, Central City, Colorado
Public Relations Assistant/Summer Staff (Summer 1992)

- Developed PR and marketing materials; coordinated onsite press relations at festival venue.

FIDIA Research Foundation, Washington, DC
Art Director/Publications Specialist (1990-92)

- Designed and coordinated production for veterinary and neuroscience publications.

RII/TRITON, Inc. Silver Spring, Maryland
Senior Graphics Editor (1986-90)

- Designed and coordinated production on U.S. Government health publications.

The Kids on the Block, Alexandria, Virginia
Puppet Maker (1982-86)

- Crafted a line of puppets that teach children about disabilities and diversity issues.

PUBLICATIONS

Arts Writing

Interdisciplinaryness (<http://interdisciplinaryness.tumblr.com/>), current blog, launched 2014, co-authored with Catherine Mueller.

“Critique is Creative: Thoughts at the Intersection of Creative Process and Constructive Feedback,” article in *NCECA Journal*, 2016.

POCKET: The Big Magazine of Small Creation, Goddard College MFAIA Portfolio project, published as a small-run, single edition magazine, 2014.

“The Wonderful Freedom of Not Being Finished: Four Values for Constructive Critique,” article in *Youth Drama Ireland*, 2012.

“Liz Lerman Dance Exchange: Superheroes and Everyday Dancers, Young and Old” article in *Generations, Journal of the American Society on Aging*, 2006.

“Liz Lerman Dance Exchange: An Aesthetic of Inquiry an Ethos of Dialogue” article in *Dialogue in Artistic Practice: Case Studies from Animating Democracy* edited by Pam Korza and Barbara Schaffer Bacon, published by Americans for the arts, 2005.

The Critical Response Process: A Method for Getting Constructive Feedback on Anything You Make, from Dance to Dessert, Co-Author (with Liz Lerman) and illustrator of book published by Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, 2003, currently in its third printing.

Opera reviews, *Parterre Box*, *the Queer Opera 'Zine*, 1998-99.

PANELS and BOARDS

Evaluation Learning Lab, Animating Democracy/ Americans for the Arts, 2014-15.
Takoma Park Commission of the Arts and Humanities, Public Art Advisory Panel, 2015.
Adjudication Panel, AKIMBO Site-Specific Dance Festival, 2014.
Board of Directors, Photoworks Glen Echo, 2008 - 2011.
Takoma Park Commission on the Arts and Humanities, 2005 - 2010.
Advisory Panel for Dance of the Maryland State Arts Council, conducting site visits and grant application review, 2000-2005.
Grant panels for Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation and Arts and Humanities Commission of Montgomery County, 2001-2002.

TEACHING, CURATING, PUBLIC SPEAKING and FACILITATION

Curator of *Self and Subject: Ideas in Contemporary Portraiture*, invitational group exhibition at Photoworks Glen Echo (2016).
Meeting Facilitation, Atlas of Creative Tools National Advisory Group Meeting, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (2015).
Keynote Presentations for: Professional Association of Canadian Theatres, Victoria, BC (2013); Theatre for Young Audiences Ireland, Kilkenny, Ireland (2011); Kedja Aarhus, Aarhus Denmark (2011).
Course Offerings at Photoworks Glen Echo, ongoing since 2006, including: Ideas in Contemporary Photography (six-week course); Veronica's Veil: Creative Strategies for Visionary Photography (six-week course); Creative Thought, Creative Action: A Course for Photographers (six-week course); and Words and Pictures (eight-week course).
Instigator and co-organizer of Photoworks Photo Slam, annual event since 2010.
Visiting artist at James Madison University, where activities have included lectures on my own work, Photography as Performance, and creativity theory; guest teaching in photography classes; workshops; studio visits with MFA students; and participation in annual critiques at special invitation, 2010-present.
Organizer and co-artistic lead on community component of *Shadowplay: Borderlands*, a photography-plus event at the Takoma Park Community Center, Takoma Park, Maryland, 2009.
Slide lectures on my work at Photoworks Glen Echo and Eastern New Mexico University, 2004-2005.
Lectures on Creativity Theory for North Bethesda Camera Club, Bethesda, MD, and Gateway Arts District, Mt. Rainier, MD.
Collage, spray paint, guerilla costuming, text-and-image, altered book and altered map workshops for Dance Exchange institutes, 1999-present.
Organizer and facilitator of numerous post-performance and humanities panels, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange 1997 - present.
Teaching and facilitation of Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process, 1999 to present, numerous sites including Arena Stage, Washington, DC; Cornish College, Seattle, WA; St. Louis Symphony, St. Louis, MO; St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, St. Paul, MN; New York Theater Workshop, New York, NY; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; Annual Conference of the Theater Communications Group, Milwaukee, WI; Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT; Opera America Trustee Council, New York, NY; Yale School of Drama, New Haven, CT; The Curb Center at Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN; Contredanse, Brussels, Belgium; The Big Intensive, Sadler's Wells, London, UK; Kunstfactor, Utrecht, Netherlands; Theatre for Young Audiences, Kilkenny, Ireland; Kedja Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark.

ARTIST ACTIVITIES

Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

- 2014 *POCKET, The Big Magazine of Small Creation* Goddard College, Plainfield, VT
2009 *Process Word & Image, with Matthew Smith* Photoworks, Glen Echo, MD
Closet Opera Atrium Gallery, Takoma Park, MD
2006 *Identified, with Chehalis Hegner* Gallery Imperato, Baltimore, MD
2004 *Sex Education and Other Memories* Electric Maid, Washington, DC
1978 *Collages in Two and Three Dimensions* Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Group Exhibitions (partial list)

- 2015 *CROTCH: Contested Territory* Whitdel Arts, Detroit, MI
2012 *Skin* Strathmore Hall, Rockville, MD
The Collective & the Collection ArtGallery Bat-Yam, Bat-Yam, Israel
2010 *Alternate Selves* Lexington Art League, Lexington, KY
This Is Our Body Atrium Gallery, Takoma Park, MD
2009 *Beyond the Pond* Beyond the Image, Suffolk, UK
2008 *The Minotaur in the Mirror* Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH
Photoworks: Faculty Exhibit Popcorn Gallery, Glen Echo, MD
2007 *Ganymede Arts Festival* Church Street Theatre, Washington, DC
2006 *Notes, Symbols and Icons* VisArts, Gaithersburg, MD
The Lens as Mirror Glenview Mansion, Rockville MD
2005 *Is That a Boy or a Girl?* Warehouse Gallery, Washington, DC
The Seventh Side of the Dice Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH
Under the Influence: Tom Wolff and Friends Spectrum Gallery, Washington, DC
The Fraser Gallery Summer Group Exhibition The Fraser Gallery, Bethesda, MD
Glen Echo, Then and Wow! Photoworks, Glen Echo, MD
Queering Sight/Queer Insight Warehouse Gallery, Washington, DC
Bethesda International Fraser Gallery, Bethesda, MD
Photography Competition
Series & Sequentials Photoworks, Glen Echo, MD
2004 *Anonymous Returns* WPA/Corcoran, Washington, DC
Introspective Images Capitol Arts Network, Bethesda, MD
Me/My/Self/Eye The B Complex, Atlanta, GA
SNAP 2004 Eastern New Mexico Univ., Portales, NM
Regional Juried Gallery Show Washington Gallery of Photography, Bethesda, MD

Awards

- Second Prize Maryland Writers' Association, Annapolis, MD; Short Works Contest, Poetry, April 2005
First Prize Bethesda International Photography Competition, Bethesda, MD; March 2005, Juror: Connie Imboden
Third Prize Introspective Images, Capitol Arts Network, Bethesda, MD; November 2004, Juror: Joe Yablonsky
Best in Show SNAP 2004 National Juried Photography Exhibition; Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, NM; April 2004, Juror: Carol Squiers, International Center of Photography