

Michelle Levy

- Arts organizer and artist with 18+ years of leadership experience in New York arts institutions.
 - Established a unique platform for dialogue in the arts as creator of a multi-faceted art venue;
 - Founded the first artist-residency that supports artists who work for arts institutions.
 - Artistic and curatorial concerns explore identity, translation, ethics, and care.
 - Employs media, storytelling, and performance in an evolving interdisciplinary art practice.
 - Skilled grant-writer, arts writer, curator, mentor, and consultant to artists.
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Professional Experience

2019 – current *Freelance Consultant to Artists and Organizations*. New York, NY.

2018 – current *NYFA COACH, New York Foundation of the Arts*. New York, NY.

- Providing remote one-on-one professional development mentorship sessions to artists.

2018 – 2019 *Artist Fellow, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews*. Warsaw, Poland.

- Researched and developed a performance and social engagement project, “Paulina,” investigating challenges of identity, translation, memory and place through the story of one woman.

2008 – 2018 *Founder and Director, EFA Project Space Program, The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts*, New York, NY.

- Created, developed, and directed a socially responsive exhibition and event program as the public venue for EFA, an art institution and center for artists in Manhattan.
- Established an Advisory Committee, a curatorial review process, and represented the program in consortiums and conferences.
- Produced over forty exhibitions of local and international artists, including hundreds of performances, workshops, discussions and other public engagements, creating a platform for marginalized voices, and space to experiment and take risks.
- Supported the work of over 500 artists and independent curators.
- Fundraised for the program’s initiatives, receiving grants from The Lily Auchincloss Foundation, The Foundation for Contemporary Art, The Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation’s Fund for Art and Social Justice, The Trust for Mutual Understanding, The National Endowment for the Arts, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, among numerous others.

2010 – 2018 *Founder and Director, SHIFT Residency, The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts*, New York, NY.

- Designed, implemented, evaluated and led a residency serving needs of artists who work for NYC arts organizations. The aim was to provide opportunities for artistic growth, while nurturing a creative life-balance between art, work and family commitments.
- Designed a structure specifically attuned to artist/arts-workers’ challenges for a cohort of seven artists each year, with a two-week studio intensive in the summer to jumpstart new projects, followed by a year of regular peer meetings, a retreat and a concluding collective exhibition.

2009 - 2011 *Writer, Arslant*, New York, NY.

- Freelance writer covering contemporary art exhibitions and fairs in New York City.

2000 - 2008 *Program Manager, International Print Center New York*, New York, NY.

- Played an integral role in the development of the first seven years of this non-profit exhibition space dedicated to the appreciation and understanding of fine art printmaking.
- Manager of exhibition production, artists’ submissions, programs, website, and design.
- Worked closely with Executive Director on programmatic development and fundraising.

Fellowships/ Grants/Residencies/ Specialized Training

- 2019 Grant, U.S. Embassy, Warsaw, Poland: support for *PAULINA* project.
- 2019 Artist-in-residence, *PAULINA* project, FestivALT: New Currents of Radical Jewish Art, Krakow, PL
- 2018-19 Artist Fellow, POLIN Museum for the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, Poland
- 2018-19 Grant, Asylum Arts: support for collaboration with Polish artist Patrycja Dołowy on *PAULINA*
- 2018-19 Fiscal Sponsorship Support, Brooklyn Arts Council Arts + Innovation Incubator
- 2018 Trust for Mutual Understanding support for travel related to *Apparatus 2.0: The Unreliable Library* exhibition at the Foundation and Center for Contemporary Art in Prague, CR
- 2017 Participant, Poland Retreat for Jewish Artists, Asylum Arts and POLIN Museum, Warsaw, PL
- 2014-16 Magnet Theater, Improv Comedy levels I – V and Advanced Storytelling, New York, NY
- 2014 Connor Fund Study Abroad Scholarship for tuition and travel to Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, The City College of New York, NY
- 2014 Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, Contemporary Drama summer program, London, UK
- 2013 Research Travel Fellowship, Czech Center and the Consulate General of the Czech Republic, New York
- 2013 Curatorial Research Residency, MEET Factory, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2011 Printmaking Fellowship, Gowanus Studio Space, Brooklyn, NY
- 2011 Artist-in-Residence, Contemporary Artist Center, Troy, NY
- 2006 Artist-in-Residence, Chashama North, Pine Plains, NY
- 1999 Tamarind Institute at University of New Mexico Lithography Intensive, Albuquerque, NM

Select Curatorial Projects

- 2019 *Joanna Borkowska, RESONANCE*. 20|20 Gallery, EFA Center, New York, NY. August 28 – September 9.
- 2018 *Apparatus 2.0: The Unreliable Library*, Lead organizer and co-curator with Tereza Jindrova and Meghana Karnik. Exhibition based on an ongoing exchange about image, translation, and the limits of communication between artists from New York and Prague. The Foundation and Center for Contemporary Art, Prague, May-July.
- 2017 *Progeny!* Co-curator with David Levine and Prem Krishnamurthy. An exhibition pairing a group of contemporary artists with their artist-parents, to explore bilateral relationships within artistic families, at EFA Project Space, New York, November – January.
- 2016 *Apparatus for a Utopian Image*, Curator of New York artists, in collaboration with artist/curators Pavla Scerankova and Dušan Zahoransky. A call-and-response exhibition prompted by work from a Czech artists, inviting select New York artists to join in a visual conversation/game exploring how we orient ourselves in today's image-infused reality. EFA Project Space, New York, September – October.
- 2016 *Vertical Retrace*, Curator, screening program focusing on Czech women performance and video artists for the Chaluppechy Society, Prague, Czech Republic, May 31.
- 2013 *The Hive: Empathy Corporation*, Lead organizer and co-curator with A Blade of Grass, featuring live artist/ social engagement projects by Robbie Herbst, Cassie Thornton, and Piero Passacantando. EFA Project Space, New York, NY June - July
- 2012 *Pertaining to the Character*, Curator, Queens College MFA Show, One Art Space, New York, NY, March
- 2011 *Telefone Sem Fio: The Word-Things of Augusto de Campos*, Lead organizer and co-curator, with Paul Legault and Sharmila Rao. Invited visual artists and poets to create new work responding to the archive of an influential concrete poet. EFA Project Space, New York, November – December.
- 2011 *SeaWorthy*, Co-curator, with Flux Factory, Gowanus Studio Space. An exhibition and event series featuring artists who approach water navigation as subject. EFA Project Space, New York, June – July
- 2009 *Arctic Book Club*, Co-curator, with Jean Barberis and Flux Factory. The result of a months-long process embarked on by a group of interdisciplinary artists responding to the book *An African in Greenland* by Tété-Michel Kpomassie. EFA Project Space, New York, NY, September – October
- 2008 *Beyond a Memorable Fancy*, Curator. An exhibition about print, perception, and artistic intervention. EFA Project Space, New York, NY, November-December.

Select Artistic Projects

- 2018 – current *PAULINA*, a site-specific investigation of identity, translation, and memory, reimagining a woman's story of survival in World War II Poland. A collaboration with Polish artist, Patrycja Dołowy, and in cooperation with the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, with research support by the Jewish Historical Institute, and Festivalt. The work-in-progress and related events were presented at Festivalt, Kraków; Galicia Jewish Museum, Kraków; Instytut Teatralny, Warsaw; Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw; Museum of the City of Kraków's Apteka pod Orłem; POLIN Museum, Warsaw.
- 2017- 2018 *She is alone*, performance-lecture acting as a bridge between two stories: Michelle had been investigating mysteries around her grandmother, when she found the survival account of an unknown ancestor, demonstrating how history does not rest. Presented by NurtureART, Brooklyn; Festivalt, Kraków, PL; and Foundation and Center for Contemporary Art, Prague, CR.
- 2016 - 2017 *Ruins of Achelach*, Multimedia performance summoning serendipitous elements: a déjà vu in a field; a religious craving; an overlooked report card that is very, very old; a letter drafted from the sky; a grandmother's cryptic message; a scotch sour; Poland; and possibly, falafel. A genealogical mystery as it unfolds, performed at the intersection of premonition, research and reanimation. Developed with and directed by Sarah Cameron Sunde, with assistant director, Jenna Rossman. Debuted at Dixon Place, NYC, October 15, 2016, with a restaging at Theaterlab, NYC on January 8, 2017.
- 2014 – 2016 *COME BACK*, an investigation between video archive and life, exploring the sagas of the artist's father, a once great motivational salesman. Through moments of private and public, live and virtual, present and past, a daughter explores the trials of "Lucky" Levy and his flirtations with the next big "comeback." Presented in various forms (from focus group to performance art to comedy show), at Abrons Art Center Experimental Theater, Dixon Place, the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (Conference Room), Magnet Theater, and Theaterlab (all New York, NY).
- 2010 – 2015 *Search for Agent C*, a campaign to make contact with a lost TV icon. Presented as a series of performance lectures, rituals, and body of related imagery and text, at Flux Factory, Glasshouse Gallery, Gowanus Studio Space, Le Poisson Rouge, Magic Future Box, Pete's Candy Store, Secret Project Robot, and on the internet.
- 2011 – 2012 *The Origin of Cornucopia Stromberg*, a multimedia experience inspired by the healing vision of a young man named Stromberg. With original score by Anne Hege and Roddy Shrock. Performed at Spectacle Theater, Brooklyn; Machine Project, Los Angeles; and La Sala, Brooklyn.

Lectures, Presentations, Panels, Critiques

- 2019 Workshop leader, "Writing an Effective Artist Statement" workshop, **New York Foundation for the Arts**, September 18.
- 2019 Panelist, "Strategic approaches to marketing, messaging, and communicating what you do," in *Artist as Entrepreneur* program, **New York Foundation for the Arts**, August 21.
- 2019 Guest Critic for international artists-in-residence, **Art in General**, August 13.
- 2019 Artist Talk in *Women's Journeys in Central Eastern Europe*, **Artes Liberales, University of Warsaw**, Warsaw, PL, May 12.
- 2019 Presenter, reading and discussion on the *PAULINA* project with inmates of **Montelupich Prison**, Kraków Poland, May 7.
- 2019 Presenter, reading and discussion on the *PAULINA* project, **The Eagle Pharmacy/ Museum of the City of Kraków**, Kraków, PL, May 6.
- 2019 Presenter, lecture and guided walk about *PAULINA*, **Wieliczka Public Library**, Wieliczka, PL, May 2.
- 2019 Presenter, workshop, *Paulina's Journey*, **Instytut Teatralny**, Warsaw, PL, April 16.
- 2019 Artist Talk, research-in-process meeting and discussion of *PAULINA* project for the Artist-Lecture series of **The Jewish Historical Institute**, Warsaw, PL, March 12
- 2019 Artist Talk, research-in-process meeting and discussion of *PAULINA*, **POLIN Museum for the History of Polish Jews**, Warsaw, PL, January 31.
- 2018 Presenter, workshop and discussion on *PAULINA*, **JCC Warszawa**, Warsaw, PL, November 18.
- 2018 Artist Talk, on *PAULINA* Asylum Arts, Brooklyn, NY, September 15.
- 2018 Guest Panelist, School of Visual Arts MFA work sample review, **NYFA**, Brooklyn, NY, July 19.
- 2018 Panelist, Pratt MFA work sample review, **NYFA**, Brooklyn, NY, February 9.
- 2017 Guest instructor, writing workshop for artists, **Groundswell**, Brooklyn, NY, October 13.

- 2017 Panelist, SVA MFA work-sample review, **NYFA**, Brooklyn, NY, July 6.
- 2017 Artist Talk, POLIN Museum, Warsaw, Poland, February 7.
- 2016 Curator/ Lecturer, *Vertical Retrace*, curated screening of performance art and video for **Chalupecky Society**, Ponrepo Cinema, Prague, Czech Republic, May 31.
- 2016 Guest Lecturer and visiting critic, BFA and MFA students, **Carnegie Mellon School of the Arts**, Pittsburgh, PA, April 1.
- 2015 Guest Lecturer, Professional Practices, **American University** MFA Studio Art, November 16.
- 2014 Guest Lecturer, **New York Arts Practicum**, New York, NY, July 18.
- 2014 Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate Screenprinting, with Professor Carl Fudge, **The City College of New York**, New York, NY, Spring Semester, 2014.
- 2013 Guest Critic, Workspace Program, **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council**, New York, NY, November 4.
- 2013 Panel Moderator, *What We Learned from the Hive*, **EFA Project Space**, New York, NY, July 18.
- 2013 Lecturer, *How to Connect and Define Artist Communities*, **Tranzit Display**, Prague, CR, June 12.
- 2013 Artist Talk: *Never Letting Go of the Myth*, Dorkbot, **Location One**, New York, NY, May 1.
- 2013 Guest Critic, **Project Print**, Pratt MFA Printmaking, Brooklyn, NY, March 22
- 2013 Guest Curatorial Advisor, **NURTUREart**, 2013 Curatorial Workshop, Brooklyn, NY, February 17
- 2013 Guest collaborator, *A General Theory of Last Night*, organized by Pablo Helguera for CAA Conference, New York, NY February 14-15
- 2012 Guest Lecturer, *Professional Practices* Course, **Pratt MFA Program**, February, December.
- 2012 Guest Lecturer, *Theory, Practice Career* Course, **The New School**, New York, NY April 25
- 2011 Guest Lecturer, *Professional Practices* Course, **Pratt MFA Program**, February, October
- 2011 Portfolio Review, Center for Book Arts, New York, NY, October 12
- 2010 Guest Critic, **Hunter College MFA Program**, New York, NY, 2 November 19
- 2010 Guest Critic and Lecturer, **Rhode Island School of Design**, MFA Printmaking Department, Providence, RI, 2010
- 2010 Senior Thesis Guest Critic, **Pratt Institute** BFA Printmaking, Brooklyn, NY, May 5
- 2009 Guest Lecturer, **Kent State University** Printmaking Program, April 19-20
- 2008 Moderator, *Converge and Conquer: A Conversation About the Trials and Victories of Collaboration*, **EFA Project Space**, New York, NY, November 11
- 2007 Senior Thesis Guest Critic, **Pratt Institute** BFA Printmaking, Brooklyn, NY

Selected Publications as Author

- "Resonance," curatorial essay on the work of Joanna Borkowska, on the occasion of the exhibition "In the Realm of Slow Painting" at the National Museum in Szczecin, published in [Blok Magazine](#), December 10, 2019.
- "Between Myth and Fact, Wonder and Disillusion," (on the work of Adéla Součková), Catalogue for Jindrich Chalupecky Award 2018, Prague, Czech Republic, 2018.
- "Beyond Jobs and Institutions," (on keyon gaskin's performance) *Writing Bodies*, University of California, Irvine. Edited by Litia Perta and Shauna Steinback, 2017.
- "[The Ghost is the Impossible One](#)," Ghost Project, Printeresting, October 2015.
- "Je ne sais quoi of X," Flux Factory 20th Anniversary Publication, August 2014.
- "A Necessary Shift," exhibition catalog essay, EFA Project Space, New York, NY, November 2013.
- "Pertaining to the Character," exhibition catalog essay, CUNY Queens College MFA Program, Queens, New York, March 2012.
- "Telefon Sem Fio: The Word-Things of Augusto de Campos," Forward in exhibition catalog/ Telephone Issue #3, Edited by Sharmila Cohen and Paul Legault, printed and bound by Ugly Duckling Presse, Brooklyn, NY, 2011.
- ArtSlant* [New York Exhibition Reviews](#), eighteen reviews conducted between 2009- 2011.
- "New Prints 2011 Winter," curatorial essay, International Print Center New York, January 2011
- "Beyond a Memorable Fancy," exhibition catalog essay, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, October 2008

Education

- 2015 MFA, Digital and Interdisciplinary Art Practice, City College of New York, New York, NY
- 1998 BA with Honors, Studio Art, Minor in English, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

Computer Skills: Adobe Suite (AfterEffects, DreamWeaver, Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Premiere), Google Suite, Microsoft Office, Wix, Wordpress, Square Space, Constant Contact, Mail Chimp, Filemaker Pro.