

**Selected Exhibitions and Interventions:**

- 2023 **Homeward Bound** BRIC Project Space, Brooklyn, NY. Solo show  
**Drawing As Practice** National Academy of Design, NY  
**8x5 Houston** Billboard Exhibition, with Fortune Society artists, various locations, Houston, TX  
**For Those Without Choice** Weinberg Newton Gallery, Chicago
- 2022 **Pennants & Poets** with Fortune Society Writers and Fred Wilson, More Art, Columbus Park, Brooklyn  
**Inheritance** Brief Histories Gallery, Bowery, NY
- 2021 **Walks to Sites of Detention, Paris/Chicago** Walking As A Question, Greece  
**Pennants & Poets** Participatory installation with Fortune Society Writers, PS1/MoMA
- 2020 **Monuments Now: Call and Response** Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, NY  
**In Plain Sight** skywriting over detention centre, Elizabeth, NJ with Cassils and rafa esparza  
**First Person, Second Person, Third Person** Pierogi Gallery, New York
- 2019 **ICE Escape Signs** Tufts University campus & Aidekman Gallery Boston/Medford, MA  
**(after)Care** ICE Escape Signs for Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn NY, with No Longer Empty
- 2018 **3 Days, 42 Miles: Mobile Speakers' Podium Chicago to Gary Walk** with Regin Igloria, various venues  
**Walls Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the US Justice System** Contemporary Art Museum Houston TX  
**I'm Afraid of Americans** Fiendish Plots, Lincoln, NE Two-person show
- 2016 **Mobile Speakers' Podium for Citizens and Noncitizens** Comfort Station, Chicago, IL  
Participatory Public Installation. Traveled: Arts and Public Life Garfield Arts Block, U Chicago, IL  
**Agitprop!** Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY  
**Residual Lives** Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2015 **Respond!** Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, NY  
**Lengua, Libertad!** intervention in Campos Plaza, NYC, with Art in Odd Places
- 2014 **The Wayland Rudd Collection** Winkleman Gallery New York, NY Traveled: First Floor Gallery, Harare  
**Imaginary Archive Ukraine** Les Kurbas Centre, Kyiv, Ukraine: Traveled: ICA at U Penn
- 2013 **Museum of Arte Útil Archive** Van Abbemuseum Eindhoven, Holland with Tania Bruguera
- 2011 **Strategies for Public Occupation** Storefront for Art and Architecture, NYC
- 2009 **Rights of Culture, Culture of Rights** Dana Women Artist Series, Rutgers University NJ Solo show
- 2008 **Democracy in America** Park Ave. Armory, NYC with Creative Time  
**Sedition!** White Box, NYC  
**Art, Architecture and Activism** Paul Robeson Gallery, Rutgers/NJIT Architecture School Newark, NJ
- 2007 **Trojan Horse Travel Agency** Lower East Side Tenement Museum NYC Solo Window Installation  
**Jamaica Flux Public Art** Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning Queens, NY  
**Emerge 8** Aljira Center for Contemporary Art Newark, NJ
- 2006 **3+3 - Work from the Residency** Newark Museum Newark, NJ  
**Design for the Alien Within** solo web-based project
- 2003 **Biennial: The Reconstruction** Exit Art NYC
- 2002 **New York New Work Now** Currier Museum of Art NH  
**HardPlace** Lower East Side Tenement Museum Web Site - collaborative web-based project
- 2000 **Black and Blue: Examining Police Violence** Zilkha Gallery, Wesleyan University, CT
- 1998 **Civil Disturbances + Circulation** Two public projects, with RepoHistory NY
- 1996 **Rubies and Rebels: Jewish Female Identity in Contemporary British Art** Barbican Concourse Gallery
- 1995 **Unleashed; Images and Experience of Disability** Laing Gallery Newcastle, UK, with Nancy Willis  
**Fight for Rights** Art for Change Billboard, Isle of Dogs, London, UK, with Lorraine Leeson & Nancy Willis
- 1994 **Artists Select** Artists Space, NYC (Selected by May Stevens)
- 1993 **Your Property, Your Point of View** In You Gotta Have Park! Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY. Public art

**Selected Residencies, Awards:**

- 2023 **Camargo/EHESS Residency**, Cassis, France – collaboration with Dread Scott and Clara Lecadet  
**Lower East Side Studio Program Residency**, NYC
- 2022 **BRIClab Residency**, Brooklyn  
**Creatives Rebuild NY** grant to continue collaborations with the Fortune Society in Long Island City  
**Villa Albertine/Ford Foundation residency** at five regional French art schools, “Passes” with Dread Scott.
- 2020 **Socrates Sculpture Park** Long Island City, NY – Annual Fellowship – “Offshore,” a site-specific work.
- 2019 **Stony Brook University**, Long Island, NY – Visiting Artist
- 2017 **Camargo/Art Matters/Jerome Foundation Residency**, Cassis, France
- 2012 **Jean Gimble Lane Artist in Residence, Northwestern University**  
**New York Foundation for the Arts** Fellowship – Interdisciplinary Work
- 2009 **Center for Contemporary Art**, Santa Fe, NM. Residency
- 2007 **The Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts** Grant
- 2006 **The Newark Museum** Newark NJ. Residency  
**Aljira Contemporary Art Center** Newark NJ. Emerge Program
- 2005 **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council** NY. Workspace Residency
- 2004 **Franklin Furnace Future of the Present** Award
- 2001 **Lower East Side Tenement Museum** NY Digital Artist Residency
- 1995 **Sculpture Space** Utica NY. Residency
- 1990 **Whitechapel Art Gallery**, London, UK: Artists in East London Schools Residency

**Selected Bibliography:**

- Millar Fisher, Michelle: “Jenny Polak. Art About Visibility and Hiddenness”, *BOMB* (Jan 4 2024)
- Lecadet, C., Polak, J., Scott, D., “Excavations: politique des migrations, passé présent”, *Polygraphe(s)*, n°5, (2023)
- Lorch, Danna: “Three Boston Exhibitions Confront Migration and Displacement” *The Art Newspaper* (Oct. 28 2019)
- Hardy, Michael: “A Houston Art Exhibit Gazes Unflinchingly at the Cruelty of Mass Incarceration” *Texas Observer*
- Vartanian, Hrag: “In the Event of an ICE Raid, Please Follow These Signs”, *Hyperallergic* (March 6 2018)
- Wolgamott, Kent: “‘I’m Afraid of Americans’ is a provocative exhibit”, *Lincoln Journal-Star* (Feb 13 2018)
- Sierzputowski, Kate; “Confronting Fears Detained Immigrants Face in the US”, *Hyperallergic* (July 22 2016)
- Sholette, Gregory; “Dark Matter; Art and Politics in the Age of Enterprise Culture” *Pluto Books* (2010) p77
- Genocchio, Benjamin: “From Young Storytellers, a Playful Tone” *NY Times Regional Special* (August 26 2007)
- Powhida, William: “Exit Art Biennial” *Brooklyn Rail* (June-July 2003) p11-12
- Smith, Roberta: “A Space Reborn, With A Show That’s Never Finished” *NY Times* (April 4 2003)
- Mirapaul, Matt: “Within Walls and Memories: Dimensions of Detention” *NY Times* (June 10 2002)
- Dodson, Sean: “Crime Watch” *The Guardian (UK) Web Watch section* (June 13 2002)

**Public Collections:**

- Fisk University Galleries, Nashville, TN
- Griffiss International Sculpture Garden, Rome, NY
- Collection of Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson, 21C The International Contemporary Art Foundation, Louisville, KY
- MoMA Library, New York, NY
- Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK

**Education:**

- 1993 **Whitney Independent Study Program** New York
- 1992 **School of Visual Arts** New York: M.F.A. Fine Arts.
- 1988 **St. Martins School of Art** London: B.A. (Hons.): Fine Art and Critical Studies.
- 1980 **Cambridge University**, Cambridge, UK: B.A. (Hons.): Architecture.