



LAUREN POND

Interdisciplinary Storyteller and Curator

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Education

2012 – 2014: Ohio University (Athens, OH)

M.A. in Photography, Concentration in Photojournalism

2007: School for International Training (Dakar, Senegal)

Study abroad program in Senegalese arts, language, and culture

2004 – 2009: Northwestern University, (Evanston, IL)

B.S. in Journalism; B.A. with Honors in Art Theory and Practice; Minor in French

Cum Laude; Kappa Tau Alpha journalism honor society

Professional Experience

08/2016 – Present: Multimedia Producer, American Religious Sounds Project at Ohio State University (Columbus, OH)

Collaborate with scholars and communities to document, interpret, and present the sounds of American religious pluralism. Develop educational resources including interactive archive of audio clips, interpretive digital exhibits, Smithsonian poster exhibition, and immersive sound installation. Facilitate conference programs and community workshops.

10/2015 – Present: Manager and Curator, Fresh A.I.R. Gallery (Columbus, OH)

Engage with artists in recovery and share their stories through compelling exhibitions. Manage every aspect of at least six annual shows, including design, installation, written and visual promotion, and programming for multiple audiences. Collaborate with community partners on external exhibits. During pandemic, redesign gallery website and support artists through virtual exhibits, Zoom programs, and art sales. Facilitate annual fundraiser and help write grant applications.

12/2006 – Present: Freelance Artist, Lauren Pond Photography, Multiple locations

Manage freelance documentary business specializing in coverage of religion. Using multiple media, share nuanced stories about diverse faith communities for media assignments and scholarly collaborations. Publish work across diverse editorial and educational platforms. Write grant applications and cultivate partnerships. Clients include Yale University, New York University, University of Chicago, *The Washington Post*, and *Smithsonian Magazine*.

09/2014 – 06/2015: Exhibitions and Outreach Assistant, Athens Photographic Project (APP) (Athens, OH)

Curated, designed, installed, and managed permanent exhibition of artwork by Southeast Ohio photographers living with mental illness. Mentored photographers in curating their work and writing artist statements. Co-produced oral history project. Created digital archive of portfolios and past exhibits. Broadened APP's local and national visibility.

09/2012 – 02/2015: University Photographer and Web Assistant, Ohio University (Athens, OH)

Completed photography assignments on deadline for university communications outlets. Documented the University Library's rare book collection for archival purposes. Provided student tutorials in studio lighting and other technical aspects of photography. Cultivated strong working relationships with student body and university officials.

09/2009 – 06/2010: New Media Initiatives Intern, Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington, D.C.)

Developed engaging multimedia projects to enhance museum's outreach. Edited *Art Signs*, an accessible, internationally recognized video series featuring docent presentations in American Sign Language. Produced educational podcasts about museum collections. Created time-lapse video highlighting museum's unique architecture.

06/2008 – 09/2008: Photography Intern, *The Hutchinson News* (Hutchinson, KS)

Collaborated with reporters to document news and feature stories in rural Kansas. Pursued self-generated story ideas about community members, include a large animal veterinarian. Managed the photo editing desk during evening shifts and prepared images for publication. Produced audio slideshows and augmented newspaper's online presence.

03/2007 – 06/2007: Photography and Web Intern, *The Miami Herald* (Miami, FL)

Photographed and reported news on deadline in a major metropolitan area. Wrote breaking news updates and police blotter stories for the newspaper website. Produced audiovisual project about an emergency veterinary clinic.

Awards and Honors

2020: OSU Global Arts and Humanities COVID-19 Research Grant with American Religious Sounds Project
2020: Scholarship to inaugural Faith In Arts Institute at University of North Carolina, Asheville
2020: First Place, Ohio State Center for Ethics and Human Values “Markets and the Open Society” photo contest
2019: Project Support Grant with Fresh A.I.R. Gallery, Greater Columbus Arts Council
2019: Artist Fellowship, Saint Louis University Lived Religion in the Digital Age Project
2018: Grand Prize, Ohio State Religion COMPAS Visual Arts Show
2018: Individual Artist Resource Grant, Greater Columbus Arts Council
2017: Duke Center for Documentary Studies/Honickman First Book Prize in Photography
2016: First Place, American Experience Category, *Smithsonian Magazine* Photography Contest
2014: Paul Schutzer Memorial Scholarship, Ohio University School of Visual Communication
2014: Selected Participant, *New York Times* Portfolio Review
2014: Selected Participant, Eddie Adams Workshop XXVII
2014: Shortlisted, Lucie Foundation Emerging Photographer Scholarship
2014: Finalist, FotoVisura Student Spotlight Grant
2013: Finalist, Magnum Foundation Inge Morath Award
2013: Gold, Solo Journalist Multimedia Essay, College Photographer of the Year Competition
2012: Third Place Magazine Graphic/Illustration, Religion Newswriters Association Contest
2010: Commendation for Sustainable Growth Award (for *Smithsonian Art Signs* video series), International Jodi Awards
2010: First Place Video, American Geological Institute *Life in the Field* Contest
2009: Winner, Student Category, PDN Photo Annual Contest
2008: Winner, Picture Story Category, William Randolph Hearst Journalism Awards
2008: Second Place in Portraiture and Honorable Mention Picture Story, Illinois Student Best of Photojournalism Contest
2007: Honorable Mention in Portraiture, Illinois Student Best of Photojournalism Contest
2007: First Place Feature Photograph Portfolio, Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Circle Awards
2007: Award Recipient, NPPA Women In Photojournalism Contest

Select Bibliography

Book:

Test Of Faith: Signs, Serpents, Salvation, Durham: Duke University Press, 2017

Recent Articles:

“Queer Nuns and Digital Dragtivism in the Age of COVID-19,” *The Revealer*, NYU’s Center for Media and Religion, 09/03/2020

“Listening for Religion,” *[in] Transition: Journal of Videographic Film and Moving Image Studies*, Issue 6.3, 2019

“On Being Pagan in Prison,” *The Revealer*, NYU’s Center for Media and Religion, 10/11/2018

“Photographing Faith,” *Sightings*, The University of Chicago Divinity School, 05/17/2018

“Signs, Serpents, Salvation,” *The Oxford American*, 11/22/2017

“Pagan Pride Day: Earth-based religions celebrate unique identity,” *Religion News Service*, 09/22/2015

“Why I Watched a Snake Handling Pastor Die for His Faith,” *The Washington Post*, 06/01/2012

“Religious Activism: A Concrete Example of ‘Occupy’ Ideals,” *The Huffington Post*, 02/16/2012

Select Curatorial Record

2021: *American Religious Sounds Project*, Co-Curator, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (Multiple locations)

2021: *American Religious Sounds Project*, Co-Curator, OSU Urban Arts Space (Columbus, OH)

2020: *The Essence of Character*, Curator, Columbus Cultural Arts Center (Columbus, OH)

2020: *Creative Resilience: Art & Mental Health in the Time of Coronavirus*, Curator, All People Arts Gallery (Columbus, OH)

2020: *Fresh A.I.R. Gallery*, Curator, OhioHealth Riverside Hospital (Columbus, OH)

2019: *Who We Are: Journeys of Recovery*, Co-Curator, Columbus Museum of Art (Columbus, OH)

2019: *Belief, Unbound*, Curator, St. Louis University (St. Louis, MO)

2019: *Fresh A.I.R. Gallery*, Co-Curator, Addiction Studies Institute (Columbus, OH)

2019: *Expressions of Recovery*, Curator, 934 Gallery (Columbus, OH)

2018: *Visions of Hope*, Curator, Bricker & Eckler LLP (Columbus, OH)

2018: *Take Heart*, Co-Curator, Gateway Film Center/Flux + Flow Dance and Movement Center (Columbus, OH)

2017: *Finding Inner Peace*, Curator, Martin de Porres Center (Columbus, OH)

2016: *Historic Franklinton*, Co-Curator, Southeast Healthcare Franklin Station (Columbus, OH)

2015: *Athens Photographic Project*, Co-Curator, The Market on State (Athens, OH)

Photography Exhibitions

2019: *Belief, Unbound*, Solo, Saint Louis University Lived Religion in the Digital Age Project (St. Louis, MO)
2018: *Test of Faith: Signs, Serpents, Salvation*, Solo, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (Denver, CO)
2018: *Test of Faith: Signs, Serpents, Salvation*, Solo, West Virginia University Library (Morgantown, WV)
2018: *Diversity Is Our Strength*, Solo, Martin de Porres Center (Columbus, OH)
2018: *Wide Open: Excellence in Photography*, Group, Dairy Barn Arts Center (Athens, OH)
2018: *Slow Exposures: Celebrating Photography of the Rural South*, Group, Cochran Gallery (La Grange, GA)
2018: *Religion COMPAS Visual Art Show*, Group, Ohio State University STEAM Factory (Columbus, OH)
2018: *Test of Faith: Signs, Serpents, Salvation*, Solo, Ohio University Schoonover Gallery (Athens, OH)
2017: *Test of Faith: Signs, Serpents, Salvation*, Solo, Rubenstein Photography Gallery at Duke University (Durham, NC)
2016: *American Pagans*, Solo, The Magical Druid (Columbus, OH)
2016: *Peace*, Group, Martin de Porres Center (Columbus, OH)
2016: *Global Community: What We Have in Common*, Group, Studios On High Gallery (Columbus, OH)
2016: *The Narrative Portrait*, Group, SE Center for Photography (Greenville, SC)
2015: *Looking At Appalachia*, Group, Multiple locations
2014: *School of Visual Communication Spring Exhibition*, Group, Dairy Barn Arts Center (Athens, OH)
2014: *FotoVisura Spotlight*, Group, powerHouse Gallery (Brisbane, Australia)
2013: *Women Photojournalists of Washington*, Group, FotoNOMA Gallery (Washington, D.C.)
2012: *Faith in Action*, Solo, Art Matters Gallery (Mt. Ranier, MD)
2011: *Re-Evaluation*, Solo, The Tasting Room (Chevy Chase, MD)
2009: *Progression*, Group, Dittmar Gallery (Evanston, IL)
2009: *Portfolio Exhibition*, Solo, Northwestern University McCormick-Tribune Center (Evanston, IL)
2008: *Project FOCUS*, Group, Artistic Jeanius Gallery (Chicago, IL)
2007: *Open Shutter*, Group, Norris University Center (Evanston, IL)

Volunteer Experience

01/2020 – Present: Ohio Prison Arts Connection (Columbus, OH)
09/2013 – 05/2014: Teaching Assistant, Athens Photographic Project (Athens, OH)
01/2012 – 06/2012: Exhibitions Committee Chair, Women Photojournalists of Washington (Washington, D.C.)

Skills

Software: Adobe AfterEffects, Audition, Bridge, InDesign, Lightroom, Photoshop, Premiere
Other: Microsoft Office Suite, Final Cut Pro/X, HTML/basic CSS, WordPress, Constant Contact, Transcriba
Hardware: Canon and Fuji camera equipment, Sennheiser and Zoom H4N audio equipment
Languages: Intermediate proficiency in French

References, full curatorial record, and full bibliography available upon request