

## LEISA RUNDQUIST

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### EDUCATION

- PhD 2007 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Art History Dissertation: "Pyre: A Poetics of Fire and Childhood in the Art of Henry Darger"  
Advisor: Carol Mavor, PhD  
Areas of Specialization: Modern / Contemporary art & theory, Self-taught art
- MA 1990 The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Art History Thesis: "Collages for Robert: Joseph Cornell Works of the 1960s & 1970s"  
Advisor: Katherine Manthorne, PhD
- BFA 1987 The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Art History

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019- Professor, Art History, University of North Carolina Asheville
- 2016-17 Guest Curator, *Betwixt and Between: Henry Darger's Vivian Girls*, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, April 14 – September 4, 2017
- 2014-18 Chair, Department of Art & Art History, University of North Carolina Asheville
- 2013-14 Guest Curator, *Social Geographies: Interpreting Space and Place*, Asheville Art Museum  
January 18 – May 18, 2014
- 2013-14 Chair Elect, Department of Art & Art History, University of North Carolina Asheville
- 2013-19 Associate Professor, Art History, University of North Carolina Asheville
- 2007-12 Assistant Professor, Art History, University of North Carolina Asheville
- 2004-07 Instructor, Art History, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
- 2001-03 Teaching Assistant, Art History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Instructor of Record
- 2000-01 Assistant to Director of Education, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 1990-2000 Curator, South Bend Regional Museum of Art, South Bend, IN
- 1994-2000 Instructor, Art History, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN
- Summer 1989 Curatorial Intern for the Hemphill Folk Art Collection, The National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- 1988-89 Curatorial Assistant, Krannert Art Museum & Kinkead Pavilion, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL

## PUBLICATIONS and RECENT EXHIBITIONS

### Forthcoming Book

2021 *The Power and Fluidity of Girlhood in Henry Darger's Art*. Routledge Focus on Art History and Visual Studies Series, Routledge Publishing.

### Book Chapter

2020 Peterson, Karen E. and Leisa Rundquist. "Valorizing Gee's Bend Quilts: Affinity, Adjacency, and the Modern Eye" in *A Companion to Textile Culture*, ed. Jennifer Harris (New Jersey: Wiley Blackwell, 2020) 435-458.

### Articles

2017 "Henry Darger's Macabre Fire Scrapbook Reveals Tensions between Innocence and Tragedy," *The Outsider* 22.1 (Fall 2017): 6-11.

2014 "Vivam! The Divine Intersexuality of Henry Darger's Vivian Girl," *Elsewhere: The International Journal of Self-Taught and Outsider Art*, Issue 2 (May 2014): 24-42.

2010 "Small but Mighty: How 'Littleness' Takes on Epic Proportions in the Art of Henry Darger," *The Outsider* 15.1 (Fall 2010): 18-21.

2009 "Little Ways: Girlhood According to Henry Darger," *Southeastern College Art Conference Review*, Volume XV, No. 4 (2009) 434-447. Available via Ebsco's Art Full Text and Humanities Full Text.

### Exhibitions

2017 *Betwixt and Between: Henry Darger's Vivian Girls*, April 14-September 4, 2017; Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago. Digital catalogue.

2014 *Social Geographies: Interpreting Space and Place*, January 25-May 18, 2014, Asheville Art Museum, featuring the art of Henry Darger, Thornton Dial, Minnie Evans, Lonnie Holley, Martín Ramírez, and George Widener. Published museum pamphlet.

### Book Reviews

2018 Review of Franklin Sirmans and Yael Lipshutz. *Noah Purifoy: Junk Dada*. New York and London: Prestel, Delmonico, and Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2015 for CAA Reviews, College Art Association. [CrossRef DOI: 10.3202/caa.reviews.2018.207](https://doi.org/10.3202/caa.reviews.2018.207)

2016 Review of Valérie Rousseau. *When the Curtain Never Comes Down: Performance Art and the Alter Ego*. New York: American Folk Art Museum, 2015 for CAA Reviews, College Art Association

2013 Review of Michael Moon. *Darger's Resources*. *Journal of American Studies* 47.1 (February 2013) DOI: 10.1017/S0021875812002459, Published online: 12 February 2013

## SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

2015-2016 UNC Asheville University Research Council Grant; Research travel to Gee's Bend, AL

2012-13 UNC Asheville Excellence in Teaching Award for the Humanities

2005-06 Terra Foundation for the Arts and American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Fellowship in American Art

2005-06 Dissertation Research Fellowship, The Graduate School, UNC Chapel Hill

2004-05 Merit-based Dissertation Research Award, UNC Chapel Hill in cooperation with the Henry Luce Foundation

2004-05 Clemens E. Sommer Prize in Art History, Merit-based award, UNC Chapel Hill

## SELECTED CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS

- 2018 Moderator and presenter on panel, “Future of the Genre: What’s Next?” at *Art Against the Flow Summit*, Chicago, November 1-3, 2018; organized by Intuit, Chicago in conjunction with Art Design Chicago (funded by the Terra Foundation for American Art)
- 2018 UNC Asheville, Invited Public Presentation: “A Place of One’s Own: Self-taught Artists’ Environments,” Humanities Lecture Hall
- 2017 Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, IL  
Paper: “Rethinking Gender and Fluidity in the Realms of the Unreal”  
Panel: “Doing Justice to Gender Particularities” with Adam Greteman, PhD, SAIC and Rev. M Barclay, United Methodist Church, LGBTQ advocate
- 2016 2016 Textile Society of America Conference, Savannah,  
Paper: “From the Authentic to the Synthetic: The Multiple Receptions of Gee’s Bend Quilts” co-authored with Karin Peterson
- 2015 2015 Southeastern College Art Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA  
Paper: “The Power of Cuteness in the Art of Henry Darger”
- 2015 2015 Southeastern College Art Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA  
Co-organized panel with Ned Puckner, “New Notions of Community for Folk and Self-taught Art”
- 2014 Asheville Art Museum  
Paper: “Henry Darger’s Landscapes—Panoramas and Hyperbole”
- 2013 *Queering Spaces / Queering Borders* 2013 Queer Studies Conference, UNC Asheville  
Paper: “Vivam! The Divine Intersexuality of Henry Darger’s Vivian Girl”
- 2012 2012 Southeastern College Art Association Conference, Durham, NC  
Paper: “Little (White) Girls: Racial Homogeneity and the Vivian Girl”
- 2011 The McLeod and Mildred Riggins Lecture, UNC Chapel Hill  
Paper: “Being Perpetual: Intersexuality and Performances of Martyrdom in the Realms of the Unreal”
- 2011 2011 College Art Association Conference, New York, NY  
Panel: “Henry Darger: Intersections with Contemporary Art”  
Paper: “Tinderbox: Tragic Fires (Big or Small) and Endangered Childhood”
- 2010 Invited Speaker, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, IL  
Paper: “More Little Ways: Littleness, Henry Darger, and Fires (Big or Small)”
- 2009 Invited Speaker, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC  
Paper: “Little Ways: Girlhood According to Henry Darger”

## SELECTED INTERVIEWS, PRESS COVERAGE

- 2020 Intersect Chicago livestream interview with Deb Kerr, Intuit President and CEO about *The Power and Fluidity of Girlhood in Henry Darger’s Art*; <https://www.sofaexpo.com/daily-programming/2020/9/14/outsider-tuesday-november-10>
- 2017 “The Radical Message behind Henry Darger’s Transgender Child Superheroes.” *Artsy* (April 11, 2017)  
“The Sexual Ambiguity of Henry Darger’s Vivian Girls.” *Hyperallergic* (June 24, 2017)  
“Henry Darger.” *Flash Art* (June 27, 2017)

- “Art Event Looks at Gender Mysteries in Artist Henry Darger’s Works.” *Windy City Times* (July 12, 2017)
- 2014 “Social Geographies of the Art World: Katie Johnson ’13 and Faculty Mentor Leisa Rundquist Form Curatorial Team.” *UNC Asheville Magazine* (Spring 2014)
- 2010 “Henry Darger Room Collection Helps Advance Scholarly Research,” *The Outsider* 15.1 (Fall 2010): 22-23. Interview with Lisa Stone, Director of the Roger Brown Study Center, Art Institute of Chicago.

#### **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- 2019- Board Member, Open Hearts Art Center, Asheville, NC
- 2018 Member of Darger Research Advisory Board and Darger Portal Project, American Folk Art Museum, NYC; contributing scholar for NEH planning grant to digitize Henry Darger collection of art and archival material
- 2018 Manuscript referee: monograph proposal for Routledge Publishing
- 2017 Manuscript referee: *American Art Journal* (Smithsonian Institution)
- 2017 Consulting Scholar for Intuit’s *Henry Darger Resource Kit for Educators*, an open-access resource on Outsider art and the artist, Henry Darger for middle school and high school students and teachers; wrote and edited sections on the artist’s biography and history of Outsider art

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

- American Folk Art Museum, Visiting Scholar/Darger Research Advisory Board Member
- Association of Historians of American Art
- College Art Association
- Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Humanities Scholar/Guest Curator
- Southeastern College Art Conference