

LEISA RUNDQUIST

University of North Carolina Asheville
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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

- 2021 Guest Curator, *Henry Darger: The Room Revealed*, a series of three consecutive exhibitions at Intuit, The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, June 11- November 28, 2021
- 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- 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

1988-89 Graduate Assistant, Art & Architecture Slide Library, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

2016-2017 UNC Asheville Interdisciplinary Block Grant; Art Management & Entrepreneurship curriculum development

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

2015-2016 UNC Asheville Interdisciplinary Block Grant; *Visual Cultures of the American South* curriculum development

2013-14 UNC Asheville University Research Council Faculty Grant; Research travel for *Social Geographies* exhibition

2013-14 UNC Asheville Integrative Liberal Studies Block Grant; Student field trips affiliated with *Social Geographies* exhibition

2013 UNC Asheville Faculty Development Fund Grant; Research travel to Intuit, Chicago

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

2010-11 UNC Asheville University Research Council Faculty Grant; CAA Conference travel

2010-11 Nominee, UNC Asheville Teaching Award

2008-09 Nominee, UNC Asheville Teaching Award

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

2003 Art Department Research Travel Award, UNC Chapel Hill

1996 Nominee, Woman of the Year in the Arts, 1996 YWCA Tribute to Women Program, St. Joseph County, Indiana

1991 Travel Award, Curators' Committee of the American Association of Museums, American Association of Museums Conference, Denver, CO

PUBLICATIONS and EXHIBITIONS

2022 ["Following Battle after Battle: Henry Darger's Panoramic Tale."](#) *International Panorama Council Journal* 5 (2022): 109-112.

2021 "Henry Darger: The Room Revealed – a series of three exhibitions co-curated with Dr. Mary Trent and Michael Bonesteel, subtitled ["Darger as Reader, Writer and Bookmaker"](#) (June 11 – July 18); ["Methods and Manipulations"](#) (July 23 – September 19) and ["Caring for a Chicago Legacy"](#) (September 24-November 28).

2021 ["Some Thoughts on the Recent Past and Future of Outsider Art."](#) *The Outsider* 26 (Winter 2021-22): 15-18.

2021 [*The Power and Fluidity of Girlhood in Henry Darger's Art*](#). Routledge Focus on Art History and Visual Studies Series. Oxfordshire, England: Routledge Publishing, 2021.

2020 Peterson, Karen E. and Leisa Rundquist. ["Valorizing Gee's Bend Quilts: Affinity, Adjacency, and the Modern Eye"](#) in *A Companion to Textile Culture*, edited by Jennifer Harris, 435-458. Oxford, England: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2020.

- 2018 [*Betwixt and Between: Henry Darger's Vivian Girls*](#), April 14-September 4, 2017; Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago.
- 2017 ["Henry Darger's Macabre Fire Scrapbook Reveals Tensions between Innocence and Tragedy."](#) *The Outsider* 22.1 (Fall 2017): 6-11.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 2007 "Pyre: A Poetics of Fire and Childhood in the Art of Henry Darger," dissertation, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, 2007.
- 2005 "Strange Fire: The Art of Henry Darger," *Folk Art Magazine* (Winter 2005): 78. [dissertation abstract]
- 2000 ["Impersonations."](#) in *Susan Sensemann: A Three Year Survey 1997-2000* (Chicago: Booklet Publishing, Inc. 2000). [invited]
- 1996 "The Intuitive Edge," *Folk Art Finder* (April-June, 1996) 6-8.

Selected Exhibition Catalogues, South Bend Regional Museum of Art

Catalogues are part of a larger body of exhibition research and writing that included: brochures and tri-fold handouts, interpretive labels, and membership magazine features; typically, one major catalogue was produced by the museum annually; museum also went through a significant renovation and addition during 1995 and early 1996 which disrupted exhibitions

- 2000 *Sculpture at the Airport*
- 1999 *The Practiced Hand: Surface Design & Textiles / Constructions & Sculptural Fiber*
- 1998 *Remembering Beauty: The Nostalgic & Seductive Nature of American Landscape*
- 1998 *Familiar Territory: Photographic Interpretations of South Bend*
- 1996 *The Intuitive Edge: Midwest Folk & Outsider Art*
- 1994 *Getting Real: 20th Century Realism from the Philip Desind Collection*
- 1992 *Treasures of Indiana University*
- 1991 *A Bestly Exhibition: The Schmigdall Collection of American Sculpture and Contemporary Counterparts*

CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS

- 2022 ["We are Made of Stories: Selfhood and Experience in Art."](#) The Margaret Z. Robson Symposium Series, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.
Paper: "A Peculiar Charm: Henry Darger's Little Girl"

- 2021 [“A Closer Look into Henry Darger’s World,” New York Outsider Art Fair panel](#)
presentation with Debra Kerr, Director of Intuit
- 2020 [Outsider Art Day panel at Intersect Chicago / SOFA](#) with Debra Kerr [via Zoom]
“Inside the Henry Darger Room” with Debra Kerr [via Zoom], The Arts Club of Chicago
Lunchtime Program
[“One Night, One Work, One Artist”](#) – George Widener; online program for Intuit: The
Center for Intuitive and Outsider art
- 2019 [The Newberry Seminar in American Art and Visual Culture, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL](#)
Paper: “Rethinking Henry Darger’s Vivian Girl: Transgressive (and Transgressed) Little
Sainthood
- 2018 UNC Asheville, Invited Presentation: “A Place of One’s Own: Self-taught Artists’
Environments,” Humanities Lecture Hall
Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago
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; recorded by Chicago Access
Network (CAN) TV and published on YouTube, July 5, 2017
- 2016 2016 Textile Society of America Conference, Savannah, GA
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 Folk Art Society of America Annual Conference, Richmond, VA
Panel Moderator, “Virginia Folk Artists”
- 2011 Invited Speaker, Asheville Art Museum Docent Speaker Series, Asheville, NC
Presentation: “Contemporary Directions in the Visual Arts”
- 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”

- 2009 *Queer Art, Queer Action (Politics of Possibility)* Conference, UNC Asheville
Paper: “Nick Cave: Soundsuits and Sensual Dynamics”
- 2007 2007 Southeastern College Art Conference, Charleston, WV
Paper: “Recovering Childhood: Approaching Aspects of Creative ‘Genius’ and ‘Madness’ in the Art of Henry Darger”
- 2007 Invited Speaker, UNC Asheville
Paper: “Vivam! The Poetics and Permutations of Henry Darger’s Vivian Girl”
- 2006 *Translation of Form: A Feminine Perspective on the Third Dimension Symposium*,
Meredith College, Raleigh, NC
Panel Moderator for Invited Artists
- 2005 *Supreme Sacrifices: Outsider Art at a Crossroads Symposium*, Gallery of Art & Design,
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
Paper: “Crossroads and Categories: Coming to Terms with Outsider Art”
- 2003 Invited Speaker, *Naked Art Discussion Series* sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate
Research, UNC Chapel Hill
Paper: “Authenticity and the Search for ‘Elsewhere’”
- 2003 2003 Southeastern College Art Association Conference, Raleigh, NC
Paper: “Conflagration! The Origins of Fire in the Art of Henry Darger”
- 2000 Invited Speaker, Art League of South Bend, South Bend, IN
Presentation: “Understanding Abstraction”
- 1999 Invited Speaker, Redbud Summer Session, St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN
Presentation: “Curatorial Problems & Solutions: When Artists Work with Nature”
- 1998 Invited Speaker, Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, IN
Presentation: “Remembering Beauty: Contemporary Landscapes”
- 1997 Invited Speaker, Indiana University-South Bend Fine Art Series, South Bend, IN
Presentation: “Beauty and the Hudson River School”
- 1994 1994 Midwest Museums Conference, Chicago, IL
Panel Moderator, “Museum Collaborations”

INTERVIEWS, PRESS COVERAGE

- 2022 [Rhodes, Colin. Book review of “The Power and Fluidity of Girlhood in Henry Darger’s Art.” *The Burlington Magazine* \(April 2022\): 425-426.](#)
Herman, Bernard. Book review of “The Power and Fluidity of Girlhood in Henry Darger’s Art.” *CHOICE Connect* 59.6. Association of College and Research Libraries. (Feb. 2022).
- 2021 [“The Vivian Girls,” episode # 4 of the podcast *OUTSIDER: The Amazing Story of Henry Darger*; interview with Philippe Cohen Solal.](#)
- 2021 [Swislow, Bill. Book review of “The Power and Fluidity of Girlhood in Henry Darger’s Art.” *The Outsider* 26 \(Winter 2021/22\): 33-34.](#)
- 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* \(July 12, 2017\).](#)
- 2015 “UNC Asheville Art Student George Etheridge Accepted to Prestigious Eddie Adams Workshop for Photography.” UNCA News Center (October 2, 2015).

- 2015 ["Melton Melds Dozens of Photos to Create Giant Portraits."](#) *Asheville Citizen Times* (July 12, 2015).
- 2014 ["State of the Arts."](#) *Mountain Express* (January 21, 2014).
 "Social Geographies of the Art World: Katie Johnson '13 and Faculty Mentor Leisa Rundquist Form Curatorial Team." *UNC Asheville Magazine* (Spring 2014).
- 2013 "First Degree: UNC Asheville Debuts Two New Majors." *UNC Asheville Magazine* (Fall 2013).
- 2012 "Art in the Park: Asheville's Free Art Film Series Continues Friday." *Asheville Citizen Times* (September 20, 2012).
- 2011 "Inside UNC Asheville: Honor Society." *UNC Asheville Magazine* 4.1 (Fall/Winter 2011) 24.
- 2011 Oppenheimer, Ann. "Symposium Focuses on Virginia Artists." *Folk Art Messenger* 23.1 (Fall/Winter 2011) 18-19.
- 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.

GUEST LECTURES

- 2016 UNC Asheville, ARTS 310 Arts Leadership & Administration
 Presentation: "Considering a Career in Museums and Curatorial Work"
- 2012 UNC Asheville, LIT 443 Renaissance Bodies and Souls
 Presentation: "The *Danse Macabre* from A to Z"
- 2011 UNC Asheville, LIT 373 Literature & Culture of West Africa
 Presentation: "Yinka Shonibare, El Anatsui, and Sokari Douglas-Camp"
- 2009 UNC Asheville, LIT 443 Renaissance Bodies and Souls
 Presentation: "Classicizing the Postmodern Body: Joel-Peter Witkin and Robert Mapplethorpe"
- 2009 UNC Asheville, LIT 373 Literature & Culture of West Africa
 Presentation: "Yinka Shonibare and El Anatsui"
- 1998 Guest Lecturer, Indiana University-South Bend, South Bend, IN
 Presentation: "Modernism & Outsider Art"
- 1991 Guest Lecturer, Indiana University-Elkhart, Elkhart, IN
 Presentation: "American Folk & Outsider Art"

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2007-present UNC Asheville
 Art of the 18th and 19th Centuries
 Art Since 1945
 Contemporary Self-taught Art
 Introduction to Art History II: Renaissance to Contemporary Art
 Go Figure! Visualizing the Body, Humanness and Humanity in Contemporary Art
 Modern Art and Modernism
 Museum Studies
 "Outsider Art" in the 21st Century, First Year Seminar
 Senior Thesis Research I & II
 Theories and Methods of Art History
- 2004-06 North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

- Art History Survey I: Prehistory to the Middle Ages
 History of American Art
 2002-03 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC
 Art History Survey: Renaissance to the Present [TA for Mary Pardo, PhD]
 Art Since 1945 [instructor of record]
 Introduction to Modern Art [instructor of record]
 Special Topics in Modern Art: *Rethinking Folk, Self-Taught, and Outsider Art* [instructor of record]
 1994-99 Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN
 Art Since 1945 [instructor of record]
 Special Topics in Art History: *Women in Contemporary Art* [instructor of record]

PROFESSIONAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2019- University Curator for the UNC Asheville Fine Art Collection
 2018 Advisory Group Member, Henry Darger online portal, American Folk Art Museum, NYC
 2018 Manuscript referee: monograph proposal for Routledge Publishing
 2017 Manuscript referee: *American Art Journal* (Smithsonian Institution)
 Consulting Scholar, [Intuit's Henry Darger Resource Kit for Educators](#) (Middle and High School)
 2016 Panelist on "How to Research Your Artwork, *Make it Last Workshop Series* at the Asheville Art Museum
 2016-17 Faculty mentor for "Curatoria"- a collective of faculty, students, and scholars engaged in curatorial practices
 2016-17 Faculty mentor for "Curatorial Reconnaissance"-a campus wide artwork inventory project
 2016-17 Planning Committee for Arts Management & Entrepreneurship major and minor
 2016 WNC Task Force on Creative Entrepreneurship
 2015-17 Committee of Tenured Faculty
 2013-14 Teaching Awards Committee
 2012-14 University Planning Council, UNC Asheville
 2011-12 Gee's Bend Quilt Show & Related Curriculum Development Committee, an ad hoc group comprised of UNCA faculty & staff and Warren Wilson College Faculty
 2011-14 Minority Affairs Committee, UNC Asheville
 2011-12 Dept. of Art Faculty Liaison to Alumni Office for Alumni E-newsletter, UNC Asheville
 2010-11 Review of Tenure & Rewards Committee, UNC Asheville
 2009-12 Chancellor's Honorand Committee, UNC Asheville
 2009-12 Writing Intensive Subcommittee, UNC Asheville
 2008-12 Board Member, Center for Craft, Creativity, and Design, Hendersonville, NC
 2007 Art Professions Panel for College Students, Asheville Art Museum, NC
 2004-07 Board of Directors / Collections Committee, Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, Longwood University, Farmville, VA
 1996-2000 Board Member, Middlebrook Center for the Arts, Three Oaks, MI, (non-profit residency for international artists)
 1995 Chair, Travel Stipend Committee, Curators' Committee of the American Association of Museums

- 1993-2000 Programming Committee Member, Third District Congressional Art Competition, South Bend, IN (annual high school art competition hosted by 3rd District Congressman, Tim Roemer)
- 1993-94 Consultant, Ad Hoc Art Committee, St. Joseph County Public Library, South Bend, IN

Juror

- 2012 Tidewater Arts Alliance, Portsmouth, VA, “The Child” exhibition
- 2010 Art Front Student Show, Highsmith Union Art Gallery, UNC Asheville
- 2000 Covington Art Fair, Fort Wayne, IN
- 1998 Paint Creek Art Center, Annual Michigan Competition, Rochester, MI
- 1998 ARC Gallery, Regional Competition, Chicago, IL
- 1998 Woman Made Gallery, International Competition, Chicago, IL
- 1997 Indianapolis Museum of Art, Regional Screening Panel for the exhibition, *1998 In Indiana Series*, Indianapolis, IN
- 1997 Indiana Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Regional Screening Panel for the exhibition, *Matter, Mind, Spirit: Celebration of Indiana Women Artists, 2000*
- 1997 Louisville Visual Art Association, Watertower Annual, Louisville, KY
- 1992 Saint Mary’s College Annual Student Show, Notre Dame, IN

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- American Council of Learned Societies, Fellow
- 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