

## Biographies Students California College of the Arts (CCA)

**Joseph Becker** is an Assistant Curator of Architecture and Design at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, a position he has held since 2008 after assisting in the production of *Your tempo: Olafur Eliasson* (2007). In the role of assistant curator, Joseph has contributed to the exhibitions, *CUT: Revealing the Section* (2008), *246 and Counting: Recent Architecture + Design Acquisitions* (2008), *Otl Aicher: München 1972* (2009), *Austere: Selections from the Collection* (2009), *Sensate: Bodies and Design* (2010), *How Wine Became Modern: Design + Wine 1976 to Now* (2010), among others, and was co-curator of *ParaDesign* (2011) with Henry Urbach and Jennifer Dunlop Fletcher. Recently, he was the curator for *Less and More: The Design Ethos of Dieter Rams* (2011), *Parra: Weirded Out* (2012), and *Field Conditions* (2012). He is the co-curator, with Jennifer Dunlop Fletcher, of SFMOMA's current exhibition, *Lebbeus Woods, Architect*. In addition, he has been responsible for the exhibition design and visual direction of the majority of SFMOMA's A+D shows. He has moderated and served on numerous design panels, including the recent *Liminal Design* conference at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (2012), as well as the international *TYPO Design Conference*, the *San Francisco Arts Commission*, and the *Headlands Center for the Arts*. Becker has been an invited juror at Princeton University, UC Berkeley, and the California College of the Arts and has led workshops on exhibition and experiential design. He received his Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) from the California College of the Arts in 2007 and co-founded OFFICEvsOFFICE, a multidisciplinary design and consulting firm in 2006.

**Lex Kosieradzki** is a performer, sculptor, and occasionally a musician. He facilitates artist-led group encounters. His work has been shown in Vermont, San Francisco, and Amsterdam.

**Irinia Contreras** (1977) is an interdisciplinary artist and writer, whose individual and collaborative projects examine personal reflections of collective experiences. Recent projects take the form of performance, narrative, video, play, archives and collaboration as a way to manipulate and interrogate physical space. In 2008, she was a resident artist in DF/Mexico City and in Berkeley in 2009. She has written for various anthologies besides writing regularly for such publications like *make/shift Magazine*. In 2010, she was a recipient of the *Creating Community Grant* to co-create a production entitled, *Scenes Unseen*, which explored the historical and contemporary realities of immigration and gender-based laws. Born in Los Angeles, she will complete her MFA/MA in Social Practice/Visual and Critical Studies from the California College of Arts in 2015. She can be found at [machinegunsteady.tumblr.com](http://machinegunsteady.tumblr.com) or [scenesunseenproduction.com](http://scenesunseenproduction.com).

**Omar Mismar** holds a BFA in Graphic Design from the American University of Beirut. As a practicing professional, he has worked at *Mind the gap*, a design studio in Beirut involved in designing publications, periodicals, campaigns, corporate identities, advertisements, and cultural projects. He is also involved in design-related research and artistic production. He is a participating artist in the *Queer Geography Workshop* in Beirut and is part of the team for producing a book and an exhibition. He joined the department of Architecture and Design at the American University of Beirut in Spring 2011 as a part-time teacher. He was awarded the Fulbright scholarship for 2012–

2014, and he is currently pursuing an MFA in Fine Arts-Social Practice and an MA in Visual and Critical Studies at the California College of the Arts.

Walking, intervening, subverting, resisting, satirizing, conversing, imagining, narrating, and browsing inform his practice. He investigates the everyday: what people do in the city, how we go about our routines, our free and alone time, our private versus public lives.

**Brittany Watkins** is currently an MFA Candidate at California College of the Arts in Studio Arts. She received her BFA from Montana State University with an emphasis in Sculpture. Her work uses found, obsolete and every day materials to create environments that explore and catalogue the personal histories of the detritus. Through the use of obsessive repetition and ritual she transcends the materials value into a new language and logic system for the viewer to decipher. Brittany Watkins was awarded an outstanding student achievement award in contemporary sculpture through the international sculpture center in 2011. She was published in October of 2011 issue of international sculpture and her work was shown at the grounds for Sculpture in New Jersey and in the arts District of Chicago. Brittany's work is part of the Esvelt Gallery Permanent Collection at Columbia Basin College. She has exhibited work throughout Montana, Washington and Idaho.

**Melissa Miller** is currently a dual-degree MFA and visual and critical studies MA candidate at California College of the Arts in San Francisco. She received her BFA in printmaking from the University of Oregon, Robert D. Clark Honors College, in 2011. Melissa has shown at Incline Gallery in San Francisco and the Laverne Krauss Gallery in Eugene, OR. Her current work explores the tension between popular culture and historical presentations of Feminism in the media and in art. Melissa's practice includes video, performance, mixed-media sculpture, and printmaking.

**Diedrick Brackens** is a recent graduate of the University of North Texas. He works in installation, performance, and textiles. He thinks of himself as an artist and educator. He has instructed and assisted in teaching several workshops in textile techniques across the country.