



CONTACT

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EDUCATION

- **MA Gender Sexuality & Culture**
University of London
2009-2010 - Post Grad. Diploma
- **BA Fine Art (HONS)**
University of Lincoln
2005-2008 - 1st Class Degree

EXPERTISE

- Curating Contemporary Art
- Critical Research & Writing
- Exhibition Design & Installation
- Grant writing and fundraising
- Project & Programme Management
- Budget Management & Negotiation

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- Extensive knowledge of contemporary art
- Specialist knowledge of time-based art
- Far reaching professional networks
- Excellent organisation skills
- Database creation & management
- Open and clear communication
- Confident public speaker
- Accurate copy writing & editing
- Natural collaborator
- Partner development and management
- Line management
- Artist liaisons
- Graphic design and online content creation
- Exceptional time management
- Loan negotiation and administration

BENJAMIN SEBASTIAN

CURATOR

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Independent curator and founding co-director of]performance space[and VSSL Studio with 11 years curating experience specialising in contemporary time-based media. Foregrounding performance and installation art from Queer and Black & Global Majority artists.

EXPERIENCE

CURATOR

VSSL Studio (2020-Now)

Responsible for the development, planning and delivery of VSSL's annual exhibition programme (exhibitions, performances, screenings et al). Including grant writing, fundraising, partner development, artist liaisons, audience development & engagement (talks, workshops, seminars et al), copywriting, works-on-loan management, budget management.

Exhibitions & Programmes

- 2022 - Hollie Miller - Solo Exh.
- 2021 - Working with Entities // Setting Intent - Solo Exh.
- 2021 - WARNING! The final boss is coming!! - Solo Exh.
- 2021 - These Teeming Forms - Solo Exh.
- 2021 - Alicia Radage - Solo Exh.
- 2020/21 - Gathering a Time of Plague - Group Exh.

CURATOR

]performance space [(2012-Now)

Responsible for the development, planning and delivery of]ps[annual exhibition programme (exhibitions, performances, screenings et al). Including grant writing, fundraising, partner development, artist liaisons, audience development & engagement (talks, workshops, seminars et al), copywriting, works-on-loan management, budget management.

Exhibitions & Programmes

- 2022 - Tiding - Group Exh.
- 2021 - PSX: A Decade of Performance Art in the UK - Group Exh.
- 2019 - Salvage - Group Exh.
- 2018/19 - Pause & Affect - Group Exh.
- 2017 - Wake - Group Exh.
- 2016 - Drawn - Group Exh.
- 2014/15 - Performance Art Faction - Group Exh.
- 2013 - Performance Economies - Group Exh.

CURATOR

Independent (2012-Now)

Responsible for the development, planning and delivery of independent exhibition programmes (exhibitions, performances, screenings et al). Including grant writing, fundraising, partner development, artist liaisons, audience development & engagement (talks, workshops, seminars et al), copywriting, works-on-loan management, budget management.

Exhibitions & Programmes

- 2019 - New Queers on the Block - Lecture Series & workshops.
- 2018 - New Queers on the Block - Lecture Series & workshops.
- 2018 - Visible Pride - Group Exh.
- 2017 - Becoming Constellation - Group Exh.
- 2012 - Aliens in New York - Group Exh.



LANGUAGES

- English - Fluent
- Japanese - Basic
- Spanish - Basic

APPOINTMENTS

- **Live Art UK**
Member (2013-Now)
- **Royal Society of the Arts**
Fellow (2018-Now)

TALKS

- **2022 - Art, Memory & Place**
Turner Contemporary
- **2021 - Curating Living Archives**
University of Dundee
- **2019 - Visiting Lecturer (BA Fine Art)**
School of Art Institute Chicago
- **2015 - Visiting Lecturer (BA Fine Art)**
Chelsea School of Art
- **2014 - Visiting Lecturer (BA DRAMA)**
Queen Mary University
- **2014 - Artist Run Spaces & Performance Art**
Live Art Development Agency
- **2012 - Performance Matters**
ArtsAdmin

REFERENCES

- Available upon request

AWARDS / GRANTS

VSSL STUDIO Affiliated

- 2020 - Arts Council England (ACE) - £15,000

]PERFORMANCE S P A C E [Affiliated

- 2022 - Kent County Council (KCC) / Creative Folkestone (CF) / Roger De Haan Charitable Trust (RDHCT) / Kent Wild Life Trust - £13,000
- 2021 - ACE - £67,800
- 2020 - ACE - £33,800
- 2019 - ACE / KCC / CF / RDHCT / Live Art UK (LAUK) - £17,500
- 2018 - ACE / KCC / CF / RDHCT / LAUK - £59,100
- 2017 - ACE / KCC / CF / RDHCT / LAUK - £98,400
- 2016 - ACE / KCC / CF / RDHCT - £21,900
- 2015 - ACE - £15,000
- 2014 - ACE / The Legacy List (TLL) - £74,600
- 2013 - ACE / TLL - £33,000

INDENPENDANT

- 2020 - ACE - £15,000
- 2018 - CF / RDHCT - £5,000
- 2016 - ACE - £15,000
- 2015 - The Arts Foundation - £1,000
- 2013 - ARTQUEST Work Week Prize - Shortlisted
- 2012 - ACE / British Council - £5,000

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming

- 2023 - Working With Entities/Setting Intent - Published: VSSL Studio
- 2023 - PSX - Published:]performance s p a c e [
- 2022 - PAUSE & AFFECT - Published:]performance s p a c e [
- 2022 - Salvage - Published:]performance s p a c e [

Previous

- 2020 - Impossible Performances - Published: Helen Davison
- 2019 - Lines Cut Through Us All - Published: Centre for Live Art Yorkshire
- 2019 - (re)collecting (f)ears - Published:]performance s p a c e [
- 2018 - (States of) Wake - Published:]performance s p a c e [
- 2018 - FUTURE RITUAL - Published: Future Ritual
- 2015 - Performance Art Faction - Published:]performance s p a c e [

TEACHING

• Royal Central School of Speech & Drama

Module Leader - Curating Performance
BA Performance Arts

2017 (12 weeks)

• Royal Central School of Speech & Drama

Module Leader - Curating Performance
BA Performance Arts

2016 (12 weeks)