

Coriana Close  
Associate Professor of Photography  
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## **Education**

### **New York University, Tisch School of the Arts**

Spring at Tisch Filmmaking Program 2005

### **Oberlin College**

*Graduated in 2006 with High Honors in Studio Art*

*Cinema Studies Major, Studio Art Minor*

Advisers: Pipo Nguyen-Duy and Dr. William Patrick Day

### **The University of Arizona**

*MFA Photography 2011, GPA 4.0*

Thesis Committee: Sama Alshibi, Frank Gohlke, Ken Shorr, and Gary Setzer

### **Beta Local Walking Seminar**

*July 2013, San Juan, Puerto Rico*

Professors: Beatriz Santiago Muñoz and Javier Arbona

### **Permaculture Research Institute**

2015 Permaculture Design Certification, Tagari Design Tasmania

Instructor: Geoff Lawton

## **Work Experience**

- 1995-02 Winning Against Violent Environments, Lead Conflict Resolution and Mediation Trainer. Conducted three day Mediation Certification Trainings for students and adults throughout Ohio. Presented the program at national conferences.
- 2005 ABC News World Headquarters Primetime and 20/20 Intern. Researched stories, assisted on shoots, wrote pitches, ordered and logged tapes, NY, NY.  
The *Grape* (Oberlin College and Alumni Newspaper) Contributing Photographer, Oberlin, OH.
- 2003-06 Oberlin College Photography Studio Monitor. Managed wet lab including mixing chemistry and maintaining the equipment for black and white, negative and print developing. Assisted students in printing and developing processes, Oberlin, OH.
- 2007 Acoustic Sessions Production Company Lighting Design Assistant. Facilitated equipment rental, and assisted in lighting design for documentary work.
- 2005-08 *Cleveland Plain Press* Staff Photographer. Photographed local events on Cleveland's West Side.

- 2008-10 *Cleveland Plain Press* Newspaper Photography Editor. Edit images for cmyk printing.
- 2008 Imaging Intern at the Center for Creative Photography. Scanned and edited prints and objects from the Center for Creative Photography's vault and archive.
- 2009 Voices of Photography Intern at the Center for Creative Photography. Directed, Produced, and Edited Short Documentaries.
- 2009-11 Community Resident Assistant in the graduate dormitory. Monitor dormitory for student safety, and facilitate student involvement in the community. Organize events, purchase goods based upon community needs, plan and run student activities.
- Personal Assistant for Professor Emeritus Peggy Bailey Doogan. Scanning, photographing, and archiving forty years of prints, paintings, slides, and drawings.
- Personal Assistant for Professor Emeritus Harold Jones. Rehousing, organizing, and deaccessioning prints and documents in his personal archive. Preparing archival material for acquisition by the CCP, creating PowerPoint Presentations.
- 2010-11 Assistant to the Registrar, Center for Creative Photography. Rehoused, and organized 2,500 prints in the Mieth Hagel Archive.
- 2011 Assistant Professor of Photography at The University of Memphis.
- 2013 Art Selection Committee, UrbanArt Commission's Brooks Road Gateway Public Art Enhancement Design Project, Memphis, TN.
- 2013-15 Multi Cultural Caucus Chair for the Society for Photographic Education.
- 2015 Studio Residency Juror, Crosstown Arts, Memphis, TN.
- Arts and Science Center Southeast Arkansas, Irene Rosenzweig Exhibition Juror, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.
- 2016 UrbanArt Commission, Public Art Oversight Committee, Memphis, TN.

## **Honors and Awards**

- 2006 Best Single Photo: First Place for Neighborhood and Community Press Association (NCPA) of Greater Cleveland, OH.
- Graduated with High Honors in Studio Art in 2006 from Oberlin College.
- Photography was selected for the 5 Colleges of Ohio Student Biennial Exhibition.
- 2007 *Spiral Bound* awarded best use of prop in the 48 Hour Film Project, Cleveland, OH.
- 2008-09 Graduate Diversity Fellowship from the Graduate College, The University of Arizona.
- 2009-10 Graduate Tuition Waiver from The School of Art at The University of Arizona.
- George Grant Scholarship, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
- 2010 1885 Fellowship from The University of Arizona's Graduate College, Tucson, AZ.
- Women on the Move, awarded by the YWCA of Tucson, AZ.
- YWCA Eliminating Racism Award, Tucson, AZ.
- Medici Travel Scholarship for National Archives research from The Medici Circle.
- Albert M. Haldeman Scholarship, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
- Travel Grant to present at The Society for Photographic Education conference, from The University of

- Arizona School of Art.
- 2012 50,000 TAF Grant for a digital editing lab.  
New Faculty Research Grant from the Dean of the College of Communications and Fine Art.
- 2013 Legend's Award Art Commission funded by The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis.
- 2016 Coriana.co featured in the online launch of LOCATEArts.org.
- 2017 Mayoral Appointment to Public Art Oversight Committee, UrbanArt Commission, Memphis, TN.

## **Teaching Experience**

- 2008 Educational Tutorial Services, Tutor for Cleveland Municipal School District. Tutoring for middle and high school students struggling with reading and writing.  
The Ohio State University Young Scholars Program, Study Skills Teacher. Wrote the curriculum and led a study skills course for middle school students, Lorain, OH.  
Cleveland Heights Recreation Center Computer and Digital Photography Instructor for senior citizens, Cleveland Heights, OH.
- 2009 Instructor of Record for Beginning Digital Photography at The University of Arizona.  
Society for Photographic Education Southwest Regional Portfolio Reviewer, Tucson, AZ.  
Teaching Assistant for Frank Gohlke's Advanced Color Photography course at The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
- 2007-10 Kaplan Test Prep Teacher and Tutor, Cleveland OH and Tucson AZ.
- 2010 Instructor of Record Intermediate Digital Photography for Fall Semester, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.  
Volunteer Photography Instructor for Art Activism camp, YWCA, Tucson, AZ.  
Assistant instructor for Frank Gohlke's Large Format Photography class, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
- 2011 Assistant Professor of Photography (Area Coordinator) at The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN.  
Teach Undergraduate and Graduate students. Redesigned Undergraduate Curriculum. Created Fine Art Internship, Lab management and Intro Digital Photography Courses.
- 2018 Career Mentoring, Society for Photographic Education's National Conference, PA.

## **Exhibitions**

- 2002 Winner of Scholastics Art Competition Best in Show Photography for Connecticut, displayed at the University of Hartford's Art School, Hartford, CT.
- 2006 *A Journey Towards Hope* on display in Oberlin College's Mudd Library, Oberlin, OH.  
*A Pictorial History of Oberlin, Abolition, and The Underground Railroad* displayed at Kendal at Oberlin, Oberlin, OH.  
*A Pictorial History of Oberlin, Abolition, and The Underground Railroad* Honors Thesis Exhibition at Oberlin College's Fisher Hall Gallery, Oberlin, OH.  
*John Mercer Langston House, and Wack-Deitz House* photographs chosen for the Five Colleges of Ohio Student Biennial Exhibition, juried show at the College of Wooster Art Museum in the Ebert Art Center,

- Wooster, OH.
- 2007 *A Journey Towards Hope* exhibited at Haverford College's Hurford '60 Humanities Center, Ardmore, PA.  
*Spiral Bound* screened at the Cedar Lee Theater for the 48 Hour Film Project, Cleveland, OH.  
*A Journey Towards Hope* exhibited at Syracuse University's Panasci Lounge in the Schine Student Center, Syracuse, NY.
- 2008 *A Journey Towards Hope* exhibited at Westover School, Middlebury, CT.  
*Ohio and the Underground Railroad* displayed at NY Studio Gallery in Chelsea for the Reality Gallery American Slide-All Contest, NY, NY.
- 2008-9 Curated the *Lionel Rombach Invitational* at The University of Arizona. Exhibited photography and a video entitled *Where are you From?*
- 2009 *Red Sky at Night* exhibited in *Spaces in Between* at the Todd Walker Gallery Tucson, AZ.  
*Ohio and the Underground Railroad* in *Night Lights* at Heights Arts gallery, Cleveland Heights, OH.  
*Be Four Us* Screened at *Photosynthesis the Social Justice Film Showcase*, Tucson, AZ.
- 2010 *Be Four Us* Screened at The University of Arizona Undergraduate Convocation.  
*Be Four Us* screened at *In These Rooms* for Garden Gallery, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.  
*The Voices of Photography Speak* video, showcased in the *Creative Continuum* exhibition at the Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ.  
*Defaced: A Found Archive* at the SANKOFA conference, Tucson, AZ.  
*Defaced: A Found Archive* at the Union Gallery in The University of Arizona's Student Union.
- 2011 *And So On...* Indie Memphis Film Festival, Video Screening Memphis, TN.  
*Hyper Descent*, Video and Photography, Jones Alumni Gallery, Memphis, TN.  
*At This, the Pinnacle of Human Development...* MFA Thesis Exhibition at The University of Arizona Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ.  
*EYE CANDY* in *Four Story* group exhibition at The Fifth on Sixth gallery, Tucson, AZ.  
*Tucsoniana* Group Exhibition of Photo MFA students, at the Lionel Rombach Gallery, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
- 2013 Group Exhibition, Jackson State University, Jackson MS  
*Imagining Unicorns*, Delta Arts, West Memphis, AR  
Faculty Exhibition, Fogelman Galleries of Contemporary Art, Memphis, TN  
*Solar*, Wrong Again Gallery, Solo Exhibition, Memphis, TN  
*Socially Awkward*, Crosstown Arts, Memphis, TN  
*Warming in Plaid*, and *In the Hands of Babes*, Socially Awkward Group Exhibition, Crosstown Arts, Memphis, TN.  
*The Life of a Legend*, The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis Traveling Group Exhibition, Memphis, TN.  
*0.001%* in Super-Epic Memphis Unicorn Magical Exhibition Show, Marshall Arts, Memphis, TN.
- 2014 *Extinction Event*, Solo Exhibition, University of Illinois at Champaign Urbana, Champaign, IL  
*Frack Blink Binural*, MADATAC 06 International Film Festival, Madrid Spain.  
*Sacred to the Memory*, SPE/VASA Online Combined Caucus Exhibition.  
*SPE Combined Caucus Exhibition*, Notre Dame of Maryland University, Baltimore, MD

- 2015 *Kids to a Warzone* and *World Command*, SPE Multicultural Caucus Film Festival, New Orleans, LA.  
*After the Flood*, SPE Combined Caucus Exhibition, New Orleans, LA.
- 2016 Drinks with UrbanArts Commission, Crosstown Arts, Memphis, TN.  
 Mysterious Flight of the Peacock, Coop Gallery, Nashville, TN.  
*Sacred to the Memory*, Digital Cultural Map, Visitme.us.
- 2017 *After the Flood*, SidebySide Warhol, Yoga, and the Body, Slocumb Galleries Eastern Tennessee State University Johnson City, TN.  
*Food Forest Stage 1*, Our Food Access, Hiram Van Gordon Gallery, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN.
- 2018 Memphis to Nashville, Zeitgeist Gallery, Nashville, TN. [upcomming]  
 Collaboration with Robbie Lynn Hunsinger, Nashville, TN. [upcomming]

## **Collections**

- 2002-06 Semi-Permanent Display at Westover School Middlebury, CT.
- 2005 Susan Welsh, Private Collection, New York, NY.
- 2007 Underground Railroad Freedom Center's Art Collection, Cincinnati, OH.
- 2009 Cleveland Clinic Collection Cleveland, OH.  
 John Williams, Private Collection, Cleveland, OH.
- 2013 The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis, Memphis, TN.

## **Publications**

- 2009 Photographed the Images printed in the *PRESENCE: Thirty Years at the Joseph Gross Gallery* catalog.
- 2009 Interview in the Fall Cleveland Museum of Art Member's Magazine.
- 2010 Co-wrote article entitled *Rethinking Photographic Education: Expanding the Canon*, For the Society for Photographic Education's newsletter.
- 2014 Co-Editor *SPE/VASA Online Combined Caucus Exhibition* eBook.
- 2016 *Permaculture as Homeland Security*, Feature article for No. 68.

## **Lectures**

- 2006 Guest Artist Lecture for Senior Photography Majors at Syracuse University, NY.  
*A Light in the Darkness: Revealing the History of the Underground Railroad in Oberlin*, for Kendal at Oberlin, Oberlin, OH.  
*The History of Oberlin and Abolition* for the Oberlin College Alumni Association of African Ancestry Reunion, Oberlin, OH.  
 Guest Artist Lecture on *A Light in the Darkness* for Kendal at Oberlin, Oberlin, OH.

- Guest Artist Lecture for Honor's Thesis, Intro and Color Photo classes through the Oberlin College Art Department, Oberlin, OH.
- 2007 *Oberlin and the Underground Railroad* artist talk for a Haverford College Symposium entitled: From Slavery to Freedom: The formation of African-American and American Identity, Haverford, PA.
- 2008 *Northern Ohio and the Underground Railroad* lecture for the Diversity in Educational Settings course at Cleveland State University's College of Education, Cleveland, OH.  
*Slavery and Freedom* speech at Westover School, Middlebury, CT.
- 2010 Artist Talk for ART 105, Exploring Art/Visual Studies for Pima Community College, Tucson, AZ.  
 Artist Talk at ART 203, Survey of Contemporary Studio Art Fall Semester at The University of Arizona Tucson, AZ.  
 Society for Photographic Education panel discussion entitled *Rethinking Photographic Education: Expanding the Canon* at the national conference in Philadelphia, PA. Peer reviewed selection process.  
*Defaced: A Found Archive* Artist Talk, for the Public Health Conference Tucson, AZ.  
 Artist Talk at ART 203, Survey of Contemporary Studio Art Spring Semester, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.  
*Defaced: A Found Archive* Artist Talk, for the SANKOFA Conference, Tucson, AZ.  
*Defaced: A Found Archive* Artist Talk, at the Union Gallery, The University of Arizona.  
*Defaced: A Found Archive* Gallery Walk with YWCA students, Tucson, AZ.
- 2011 *Hyper Descent*, Artist Talk for University of Memphis Students and Faculty, Memphis, TN.  
*Hyper Descent*, Artist Talk for Returning the Gaze ARH 6033, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN.  
*Hyper Descent*, University of Memphis Recruitment Talk for visiting Mississippi State Students, Memphis, TN.  
*Hyper Descent*, University of Memphis Recruitment Talk for Local High School Seniors, Memphis, TN.
- 2013 Shared Vision Guided Tour of the Brooks Museum Exhibition, Memphis, TN.  
 Revealing the Unseen, Artist Talk, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY.  
*Deadlands*, Library Research Presentation, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN.  
 State Violence and Social Media, International Conference on Conflict Resolution Education, Cleveland, OH. Peer reviewed selection process.  
*Deadlands*, Artist Talk College of Communications and Fine Arts Advisory Board, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN.  
*Warming in Plaid*, and *In the Hands of Babes*, Artist Talk, Crosstown Arts, Memphis, TN.  
*Rethinking Photography Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Panel Discussion Society for Photographic Education's nation conference, Chicago, IL. Peer reviewed selection process.
- 2014 *Sacred to the Memory*, Invited Lecture at West Tennessee Historical Society, Memphis, TN.  
*Sacred to the Memory*, Panel Presentation Radical Arts & the Politics of Race and Public Memory in Memphis: Denial & Hidden Histories, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Memphis, TN.  
 Sacred to the Memory, Preservation of African American Cemeteries, Incorporated conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN.  
 Co-Keynote Speech, International Conference on Conflict Resolution Education, Fairfax, VA.  
 Critical Engagement with Visual Media, International Conference on Conflict Resolution

Education, Fairfax, VA.

*Sacred to the Memory* Artist Talk for 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Memphis Black History Month Celebration at the Chucalissa Museum, Memphis, TN.

- 2015 *Mind The Gap: Surviving the Paradigm Shift in Photography Education*, Panel Presentation, Society for Photographic Education, New Orleans, LA.  
*Creative Solutions to Current Crises: Design for a Livable Future*, International Conference on Conflict Resolution Education, George Mason University, VA.  
*This Little Light of Ours*, Audio Tour for Brooks Museum, Memphis, TN.  
*This Little Light of Ours*, Docent Training for Brooks Museum, Memphis, TN.  
Artist Talk, Brooks Museum League Program, Memphis, TN.
- 2016 Invited Artist Talk, Society for Photographic Education West/Southwest Conference, AZ.  
Artist Talk, Society for Photographic Education South Central Conference, Tx.
- 2017 *Strategies for Resistance and Effective Action*, Combined Caucus Sponsored Panel Presentation, Society for Photographic Education, FL.
- 2018 Artist Talk for Cultural Geography Graduate Art History, Kent State University, Kent, OH

## **Reviews**

"Local Filmmaking Team awarded at Confab," *The Athens News*, September 6, 2007.

Sean Hughes, "Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery Opens with HC Prof's Work," *The Bi-College News*, October 2, 2007, 11.

Victoria Donohoe, "Strong African American Role in Civil War," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 14, 2007, L8.

"Through February 7: Westover Alumna Exhibiting Pictorial History Photographs," *Voices the Newspaper*, January 23, 2008.

Kellie Mejdrich, "'Defaced' Allows Artist, Viewers to Talk Back," *Arizona Daily Wildcat*, January 20, 2010, B5.

*Defaced: A Found Archive Showing at the Union Gallery*, Streaming Video, Directed by Will Holst, UA News Website, accessed February 4, 2010. <http://www.uanews.org/node/29915>.

Chris, Shaw, "Sidewalk screenings," *The Daily Helmsman*, November 7, 2011.

Eileen Townsend, "Coriana Close's 'Solar' at Wrong Again Gallery," *Exhibit M Memphis Flyer Blog*, July 18, 2013.

Erin Williams, "Let's Build Some Visual Literacy: Conversation with Coriana Close," *RE: Brooks Blog*, October 21, 2013.

Local Memphis Live Interview, April 12, 2016.

Erica Ciccarone, "Interview: Coriana Close," *THE FOCUS Locate Arts*, May 28, 2016.

<http://locatearts.org/the-focus/2016/interview-coriana-close>