LELIA BYRON

ARTIST

Lbyron222@gmail.com - WWW.LELIABYRON.COM

Interdisciplinary artist who makes paintings, installations, film, text, zines, and public art. Also one of the four international artists in Wastelanders Artist Collective, who as a group make site-specific installations related to the theme of "waste." Languages spoken are English, Spanish, and Italian.

EDUCATION

BFA FINE ART: Carnegie Mellon University (US), 2013

MA FINE ART : Chelsea College of Arts, University of the Arts London (UK), expected 2019.

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION WITH RAUMARS : RaumArs (Rauma, Finland), upcoming Feb. - April 2020.

Planned multi-media installation and workshops. The goal of RaumArs is to "take art out of museums and galleries, and to work in a social context to create innovative links between artists, individuals and communities."

PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION WITH BUINHO : (Messejana, Portugal), currently in-progress Oct. - Dec. 2020.

Using the FabLab and Precious Plastics Machine to research the reuse of plastic waste and create public sculptures made out of recycled plastic.

PUBLIC MURAL IN GRANITI : Graniti Art Projects (Graniti, Sicily, Italy), June 2017.

Painted a mural on three building's exterior walls in a public square in the small town of Graniti.

PUBLIC PAINTING INTERVENTIONS : PAINTBOX Program (Pawtucket, RI, US), April 2017.

Commissioned by the Department of Planning and Redevelopment to make paintings on utility boxes throughout Pawtucket.

RECENT EHIBITIONS

SUPERNATURAL : Wells Projects (London, UK), Oct. - Nov. 2019.

WASTELAND 2.0: FAKE RECYCLING (SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATION) : hARTslane Gallery (London, UK), Sept. - Oct. 2019.

ENCONTRAR UM CLICK NUM PALHEIRO (SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATION) : Centro Comercial de Cedofeita (Porto, Portugal), Sept. 2019.

LATE AT TATE BRITAIN: TIME (FILM SCREENING): Tate Britain Museum (London, UK), July 2019.

OPEN MOUTH FILM FESTIVAL (FILM SCREENING) : TT Cinema (London, UK), July 2019.

SUPERNATURAL (PERFORMANCE) : Chelsea College of Arts (London, UK) May 2019.

COOKIES AND COKE : Art Number 23 Gallery (Bermondsey, London, UK) March 2019.

WASTELAND (SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATION) : Filet (London, UK), March 2019.

ONE NIGHT STAND (PERFORMANCE) : Coco's Room, Wimbledon College of Arts (Wimbledon, London, UK), March 2019.

PAINT! : White Conduit Projects (London, UK), March 2019.

B MINE : Cookhouse Gallery (London, UK), Feb. 2019.

WICKED GAME : Triangle Gallery (London, UK), Jan. 2019.

HUMAN : Cookhouse Gallery (London, UK), Nov. 2018.

MAFA INTERNATIONAL ART FESTIVAL : Cookhouse Gallery (London, UK), Oct. 2018.

FIGURES AND FACES : Pawtucket Arts Collaborative (Pawtucket, RI, US), Sept. - Nov. 2017.

AS I LISTENED TO THE SOUND OF AN UPSTREAM CURRENT (SOLO EXHIBITION) : Brown University, Granoff Center for the Creative Arts (Providence, RI, US), Aug. - Sept. 2017.

SMALL WORKS INVITATIONAL : Blue Mountain Gallery (Chelsea, NYC, US), Aug. 2016.

EMERGING ARTIST EXHIBITION : Arsenal Center for the Arts (Waterton, MA, US), Jun. - Aug. 2016.

LANDSCAPE: A SENSE OF PLACE : Site Brooklyn Gallery (Gowanus, NYC, US), May - Jun. 2016.

OPPOSITES : The VETS (Providence, RI, US), Jan. - Mar. 2016.

GROUP EXHIBITION : Blue Mountain Gallery (Chelsea, NYC, US), Jan. 2016.

Curatorial Projects

FILM FESTIVAL CO-CREATOR : Open Mouth Film Festival (London, UK), July 2019.

Free entry film festival that took place at different locations across London. Over 5 days, the festival screened 76 student films totaling 20.5 hours.

CURATOR FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY EXHIBITION : Cookhouse Gallery (London, UK), May 2019.

Co-curation in collaboration with designer Wilson Aguirre of a cross-disciplinary exhibition which included the work of emerging artists and designers working with visual art, interior spatial design, graphic design, and textiles.

CURTATOR FOR CONSUMPTION PERFORMANCES/TALKS: Art Number 23 Gallery, (London, UK), March 2019.

Created a one night event where poets, artists, philosophers, and art critics reflected on "consumption." Invited speakers/performers: Luz Hitters, Paul Chisholm, (Episolipsism) Cyrus Lamprecht and Rachel Wong, MAtt DOughty, Rita Castanheira, (T&P Collective) Marina Silvello and Hannah Duckworth.

CURATOR FOR WICKED GAME : Cookhouse Gallery (London, UK), Jan. 2019.

Group exhibition.

Awards

ERASMUS+ HE MOBILITY GRANT : Oct. - Dec. 2019.

Grant to assist with researching the reuse of plastic waste and create public sculptures for two months at Buinho Creative Hub (Messejana, Portugal).

POSTGRADUATE COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANT : June - July 2019.

Project grant used to create a 5-day free entry film festival for emerging filmmakers. Granted by the University of the Arts London.

ELIZABETH GREENSHIELDS FOUNDATION AWARD : Nov. 2018.

Awards CAD $15,000 to emerging figurative artists who "demonstrate the determination and talent to pursue a lifetime career in their art practice."

UAL INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP : Sept. 2018.

JUROR'S CHOICE AWARD : Nov. 2017.

"Faces" Award from the Pawtucket Arts Collaborative for "Nico and the Accursed Kings" painting. Award juror: Robin Wiseman.

DIGITAL STORYMAKERS AWARD : July 2013.

First place winner in the nonfiction long-format category for "Miguel." This $5,000 award was granted by The Pearson Foundation and digital publisher Atavist to emerging artists and writers for new nonfiction digital stories. Winners were also invited to participate in a multiple day journalism workshop in NYC.

PATRICIA A KENNER SCHOLARSHIP AND ELIZABETH B STEELE SCHOLARSHIP: 2009 - 2013.

DEDALUS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP: May 2009.

Award given for written essay about women artists in art history.

Features and Publications

FEATURED IN CREATIVE BOOM MAGAZINE : "Lelia Byron's community inspired exhibit highlights diversity in the world," by Alex Withers, 2017.

https://www.creativeboom.com/inspiration/lelia-byron/

FEATURED IN SOUTH COAST TODAY NEWS : "Brown University exhibit focuses on factory workers in New Bedford and Providence," 2017.

http://www.southcoasttoday.com/news/20170907/brown-university-exhibit-focuses-on-about-factory-workers-in-new-bedford-and-providence

CO-AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR FOR "MIGUEL" : Atavist Magazine, 2013.

"Miguel" tells the non-fiction story of a potion-making recycler in Bogotá, the capital city of Colombia. The story narrates his life and his continuous search for freedom, questioning the notion of what can and cannot be recycled.
https://contest.creatavist.com/story/1279#/

Artist Residencies

RAUMARS COMMUNITY ART RESIDENCY : RaumArs (Rauma, Finland), upcoming Feb. - April 2020.

Planned multi-media installation and workshops. The goal of RaumArs is to "take art out of museums and galleries, and to work in a social context to create innovative links between artists, individuals and communities."

BUINHO ARTIST RESIDENCY : (Messejana, Portugal), currently in-progress Oct. - Dec. 2020.

Using the FabLab and Precious Plastics Machine to research the reuse of plastic waste and create public sculptures made from recycled plastic.

CASTIGLIONE D'ORCIA RESIDENCY : (Tuscany, Italy), Aug. 2017.

Recipient of a scholarship award for a two-week artist residency.

GRANITI MURALES RESIDENCY : Graniti Art Projects (Graniti, Sicily, Italy), June 2017.

Invited by local initiative arts organization Graniti Murales to stay in Graniti for five weeks to paint a public mural.

Other Relevant Work Experience

INSTALLATION ARTIST : Anthropologie (RI, US), 2017 - 2018.

Designed and built large scale creative installations, window displays, custom shelving/display tables, and murals.

ART TEACHER : Armory Center for the Arts (MA, US) 2017.

TEXTILE DESIGNER : 2015 - 2017.

Created "Lelia's Studio" - an independent and eco-friendly textile design business.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR : Higher Achievement (Hill District, Pittsburgh, PA, US), 2014 - 2015.

Higher Achievement is a rigorous college-prep program that closes the opportunity gap for students in low-income neighborhoods.

AMERICORPS EDUCATOR : (Pittsburgh, PA, US), 2013 - 2014.

Served "at-risk Pittsburgh area youth" through education. AmeriCorps is a national service program dedicated to improving lives and fostering civic engagement

ASSISTANT TEACHER : Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA, US), 2013.

Pre-college drawing course.

ART GALLERY ASSISTANT : Miller Institute for Contemporary Art (Pittsburgh, PA, US), 2011 - 2013.

Assisted with art installation/de-installation, interacting with gallery visitors, and gallery renovations.

ASSISTANT ART TEACHER : Brooklyn Museum of Art (NYC, US), 2008.

ARTIST PORTFOLIO

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ARTIST STATEMENT

Investigate. Experiment. Connect.

In my art practice I make paintings, installations, films, zines, and text. Through exploring different forms of narratives, combining intensely saturated colors, and working on a large scale with a theatrical sense of drama, I am interested in portraying alternatives to established expectations and contradictions in systems of classifications/conventions. I use my creative practice as a way to work through a challenging systemic problem and as a way to make connections.

I investigate a topic for my work thoroughly by collecting research and first-hand information whether that be interviewing factory workers for a painting series or examine waste centers, people's homes, and businesses for an installation about waste.

In my work, I experiment with different forms of narratives such as writing or film, spatial narrative in an installation, or visual narrative, which exposes all its elements at the same time and connects all its pieces simultaneously. Visual narrative need not be woven in one direction; a painting has no one beginning, it has no one end.

It is possible to connect people through the creative process either literally by bringing different people together in a space or by provoking an emotional response or idea. Public art is very interesting to me as it is a way to make creative disruptions that connect people; when I say public art I mean art that is made in or shown in the everyday space and not necessarily a dedicated art space. I see my art practice as a way to express my own ideas but also as a way to create a platform for other creative practices and public discussion. Ultimately, I hope for people to talk about the topics I make artwork about, and in general for my artwork to connect with people and connect people with each other.