

# DONNA NAPPER

323-422-6340

donnaanpr@gmail.com

## SUMMARY

Professional in the field of contemporary fine art for 14 years as the owner and director of a Los Angeles commercial gallery, and as curator and director of public programs at a Bay Area non-profit art organization.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Knowledge of and passion for Contemporary Art
- Extensive curatorial experience
- Program development
- Personnel and operations management
- Sales, marketing, event-planning, and community outreach
- Highly skilled with various computer programs (e.g., database, graphic design)
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Professional and diplomatic in client and public relations
- Goal-oriented with a strong ability to prioritize multiple tasks
- Trouble-shooter and creative problem solver

## CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

### At San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art:

- Created and directed a new art performance program (2015)
- Expanded curatorial department by creating additional positions; hired, trained and supervised the Curatorial Assistant and Curatorial Intern (2015)
- Curated ICA's first solo exhibition for an international artist (2014)
- Launched a new ICA collector group at \$500 membership level (2013)
- Expanded ICA's exhibition and educational programming to include L.A. artists and colleagues in (2013)
- Responsible for Artist Portfolio Reviews success with record number of sold out appointments plus a waiting list for the first time, for three consecutive years (2013-2015)
- Contributed to the success of the annual art auction fundraiser, with record-breaking donations for two consecutive years (quantity of artist donations as well as the total funds raised) (2013, 2014)
- Initiated a new ICA docent program working with local college students (2012)

### Other Affiliations and Committees:

- Serve as Curatorial Committee Member for **San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art** (2015-present)
- Served as Founding Member and Publicity Chairperson for *Contemporary Craft Council*, the first contemporary art council formed to support the **Craft and Folk Art Museum**, Los Angeles (2012)
- Served on the Executive Committee for the Southern California Chapter of **Art Table**, the national organization of professional women leaders in Visual Arts (2011-2012). Nominated member since 2008.
- Benefit Committee Member, **Los Angeles Art Association** non-profit art organization fundraiser (2011)
- Served as the only gallerist Committee Member in collaboration with **Culver City Cultural Affairs** to organize the first annual district art walk. (2006)

### At den contemporary art:

- Selected to present ongoing exhibitions in a 4,500 square foot space for the Invitational Art Program in Pacific Design Center, West Hollywood and helped PDC become an L.A. destination for art (2009-2012)
- Served as Executive Director to co-organize and sponsor BOOM 2012, an exhibition featuring 90 artists from MFA programs in ten southern California universities. Secured five temporary venues to present the exhibition. (2012)
- Along with galleries from New York and New Delhi, organized an ambitious exhibition of internationally recognized contemporary artists from India, presented for the first time in a west coast gallery. Received several critical reviews including a full spread, two-page article in the Los Angeles Times. (2008)
- den contemporary was selected as "1 of 50 Emerging Galleries from Around the World" in London-based international art magazine Contemporary (2007)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

*Chandra Cerrito Contemporary*, Oakland  
November 2015 – present

Work with director to curate approximately ten exhibitions per year. Manage daily gallery operations. In charge of client outreach, gallery sales, marketing and artist promotion. Organize gallery events and artist talks. Write press releases and website content. Develop and maintain relationships with collectors, curators, art consultants, and press.

### CURATOR AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

*San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art*, San Jose  
November 2012 – November 2015

**Curatorial** - Assisted Chief Curator with the conception, organization, and production of six to eight exhibitions per year. Created and curated ongoing performance art program. Curated ICA ancillary spaces (Façade Windows and SJC Mineta VIP Airport Lounge) Trained and managed Curatorial Assistant and Curatorial Intern. Wrote exhibition descriptions and wall labels. Drafted and designed exhibition guides. Completed loan forms. Conducted exhibition tours.

**Public Programming** - Invited artists and other professionals for public talks and panel discussions. Managed the annual Artist Portfolio Reviews. Curated, organized and managed ICA's booth at art fairs.

**Management** - Managed ICA's docent program and trained incoming docents. Hired, trained and supervised Curatorial Assistant and Curatorial Intern.

**Membership & Fundraising** - Planned and lead group activities and events for the \$500 membership level. Assisted in curating and organizing the annual auction exhibition, the biggest fundraising event of the year, including coordination of documents and delivery of art donations from more than 200 artists.

**Promotion and Marketing** - Managed public audio tours. Wrote exhibition promotional text for website and electronic newsletter. Wrote press releases. Managed database of artwork images.

### GALLERY OWNER AND DIRECTOR

*den contemporary*, Los Angeles  
September 2004 – October 2012

**Curatorial** - Presented an exhibition program featuring painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, video, audio, installation and performance art by emerging and midcareer artists. Conceptualized and organized seven to ten exhibitions per year, including: developing exhibition theme, researching and selecting artists, designing installation layout, writing press releases, and organizing receptions and events.

**Development and Sales** -Cultivated valuable relationships with collectors, artists, critics, museums, and other art community professionals in order to promote artists, exhibitions, and the gallery. Participated in vetted art fairs in Los Angeles, New York, Miami and San Diego. Conducted artwork sales, managed operating budget, and balanced accounts in *QuickBooks*.

**Administrative and Management** - Oversaw art inventory and client/press mailing lists in computer programs. Drafted consignment agreements, loan forms and price lists. Handled all packing and shipping logistics. Performed preparatory work for exhibition installations.

**Marketing and Promotion** - Photographed artwork and color-corrected digital images in *Photoshop*. Designed all exhibition and event announcements, print advertisements, promotional material and wall signage. Developed and maintained website and online social media updates. Created marketing strategies in order to generate media coverage for gallery and artist reviews in numerous fine art, travel, and lifestyle publications and websites.

**Event Planning** - Organized, produced and hosted public programming and special projects at den contemporary including artist lectures, panel discussions, and special interactive art performances.

## CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2016 Guest Curator (with Emily Fayet), *Demarcate: Territorial shift in personal and societal mapping*, group exhibition featuring 14 artists from around the world, **San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art**
- 2015 Co-Curator, group exhibition of 12 young painters, **George Lawson Gallery**, San Francisco  
Curator, *Lift Off*, 2015 MFA exhibition, **San Jose State University**  
Curator, *ICA Live!*, monthly sound and performance art, **San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art**
- 2014-15 Curator, *Façade Windows*, rotating installations, **San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art**
- 2014 Curator, *Leyla Cardenas: Scarcity*, first solo show of an international artist, **San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art**
- 2013-15 Curator, *On The Road*, rotating installations at **SJC Airport VIP Lounge**

## JURIES/PANELS/INTERVIEWS

- 2016 Moderator, Gallery Game with Bay Area art dealers, **San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art** [upcoming]  
Visiting Curator, Undergraduate Critiques, Printmaking, **California College of the Arts**, Oakland  
Juror, MFA NEVER, **Root Division**, San Francisco
- 2015 Guest Lecturer, Introduction to Art History class, **San Jose State University**  
Guest Lecturer, Arts Entrepreneurship class, **San Jose State University**  
Moderator, Artist Talk with Mel Prest and Connie Goldman, **Chandra Cerrito Contemporary**, Oakland  
Visiting Curator, Undergraduate Critiques, Senior Art Exhibition, **Stanford University**  
Moderator, Gallery Game with Bay Area art dealers, **San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art**  
Juror, **U.S. Congressional Student Art Competition** presented by U.S. Representative Mike Honda
- 2014 Juror, *In 3-D*, **Pacific Rim Sculptors** exhibition, Art Ark Gallery, San Jose  
Juror, *BAYcentric*, **Pacific Art League**, Palo Alto  
Juror, *Sacramento Open Studios*, co-sponsored by **The Center for Contemporary Art and Verge Center for the Arts**  
Juror, Visual Artist Residency, **Djerrasi Resident Artist Program**, Woodside  
Panelist, Discussion among ten Bay Area curators, **Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**, San Francisco  
Reviewer, Artist Portfolios, **Root Division**, San Francisco
- 2013 Juror, 2014 MFA NOW exhibition, **Root Division**, San Francisco  
Juror, Congressional Student Art Competition (High School), **Office of U.S. Representative Mike Honda**  
Moderator, Artist Talk with Penny Olson and Mari Andrews, **Chandra Cerrito Contemporary**, Oakland  
Juror, Artist Laureate Award, **Silicon Valley Arts Council**
- 2012 Reviewer, MFA Portfolios, **Azusa Pacific University**  
Reviewer, Artist Portfolios, Month of Photography Los Angeles, **Lucie Foundation**
- 2011 Panelist, Discussion: *New Visions for Contemporary Art*, with co-panelists Howard Fox (LACMA Emeritus Curator), Chris Mercier, and Liz Gordon, **FlagStop** alternative contemporary art event, Torrance  
Interviewed for *'LA Woman'*, a documentary film featuring Los Angeles women in the arts  
Produced by Kate Crash and Michael Masucci, EZTV  
Reviewer, Artist Portfolios, Month of Photography Los Angeles, **Lucie Foundation**
- 2010 Reviewer, MFA Portfolios, **Azusa Pacific University**  
Reviewer, Artist Portfolios, **Los Angeles Art Association**, Gallery 825
- 2009 Panelist, *Art Gallery/Art Advisor Roundtable*, **College Art Association (CAA) Conference**, Los Angeles Convention Center
- 2008 Guest Speaker, *Art Forum*, **Santa Ana College**
- 2007 Panelist, *Creative Industry*, **Loyola Marymount University**, L.A.  
Juror, **Culver City High Schools**, Student Art Contest
- 2006 Panelist, Discussion: *Navigating the Art World*, with co-panelists art critic Peter Frank and educator Sant Khalsa, **Riverside Art Museum**
- 2006 Interviewed by Jay Kugelman about Culver City Artwork, **KPFK** "Sound Exchange" Radio Program

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Art, Liberal Arts, *Loyola Marymount University*, Los Angeles  
Business and legal courses, *Chapman University*, San Diego

## COMPUTER EXPERIENCE:

Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook; Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign; QuickBooks