

Sarah Jane Lapp

Artist Statement

Regarding these paintings you see, the source paintings for my jigsaw puzzles: From 1993-2008 I created some twenty-five short-form 16 and 35mm films, many of which included my own hand-drawn animations of comic personae rendered in India ink and gouache on paper, others which presented investigations into the religious imagination and labors of love and money.

While making films, I also served as a cartoonist for a newspaper, and also as a visiting lecturer, which brought me to New England from the West Coast. I began to paint. I funneled all the creative energy I had previously channeled into moving images into a single pictorial space. Painting did not require sound engineers, lab processing, protracted distribution. I painted in private; one image might span the course of an entire year, maybe two.

Then, in 2013, as an experiment for a friend, I reproduced one painting as a 1000pc jigsaw puzzle. She loved the puzzle – and so did her mother, who became my puzzle muse and mentor.

I made more puzzles. The puzzles appeared in open studios, office lobbies, oncology units...and, of course, puzzle and pie happy hours. Communal puzzling became a kind of crusade, an opportunity to promote creative healing, collaboration and spontaneous connection. World peace, piece by piece.

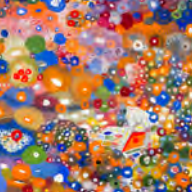
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HOURS

Check website for weekly hours



Photo credit: Paula Martiesian



> texture



> expression



Sarah Jane Lapp

What the New Yorker says about Sarah Jane Lapp...

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Sarah Jane Lapp is an artist best known for her big hair-essay-films and hand-drawn animations. Having fallen in love with the analogue wonders of jigsaw puzzles, she now dedicates studio time to producing images for her jigsaw puzzle series, "Puzzle Tov." Spawned in Minnesota, she earned a BA in Playwriting at Brown University before she moved even farther east as Fulbright Scholar at Filmova a Televizni Fakulta Akademie Muzických Umění (FAMU) in Prague. She apprenticed at Studio Bratri v Triku and, thanks to a full-merit scholarship, completed her MFA from the Department of Filmmaking at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. After a brief stint in NYC typing for R.O. Blechman and Wall Street tycoons alike, Ms. Lapp spent the next eight years in Seattle, vending her drawings at Pike Place Market, contributing editorial cartoons to the Hearst daily, Seattle Post-Intelligence (RIP!), and producing animations, primarily for social justice and arts-dedicated entities as well as her long-term collaborator, contrabassist/composer Mark Dresser. Lured back to teach at Wellesley and Harvard, Ms. Lapp finished a 16mm film before the last lab closed doors. She spent two years directing operations for a solar installation company in Massachusetts and now believes that forgiveness is the most important form of renewable energy.

Education

MFA, Department of Filmmaking, Merit Scholar, School of the Art Institute of Chicago – 1999

Animation Apprentice, Studio Bratri v Triku, Prague – 1996

Fulbright Scholar, FAMU, Prague – 1994-1995

BA, Phi Beta Kappa, Honors in Creative Writing/Playwriting, Brown University, Providence – 1994

Coursework in Illustration, Gage Academy of Art, Seattle – 2006

Rhode Island School of Design – 1992-1994

Selected Solo Screenings and Exhibitions

Paintings by Sarah Jane Lapp, BankRI, Providence – 2016

Chronicles of a Professional Eulogist, Galerie Altes Rathaus Musberg – 2014

Sarah Jane Lapp, Bloomfield College, Bloomfield – 2013

Sarah Jane Lapp, School of Visual Art, NYC – 2013

Graphic Women: Lynda Barry, Alison Bechdel, Sarah Jane Lapp, Wellesley College – 2011

An Evening With Sarah Jane Lapp, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa – 2010

Too Jewish?, University of Minnesota – 2010

Visual Art & Psychoanalysis, Seattle Institute & Society for Psychoanalysis – 2010

Sarah Jane Lapp, Visiting Artist Talk, Harvard University – 2010

Visual Arts Spring Lecture Series, Evergreen State College, WA – 2009

Featured Artist, Seattle Art Museum Rental Gallery – 2008

Writers On The Sound: Sarah Jane Lapp Artist Filmmaker, Edmonds Arts Commission, Edmonds, WA – 2008

Women in Film, Wright University, Yellow Springs, OH, Instructor: Julia Reichert – 2008

Chronicles of An Asthmatic Stripper: Filmographie, Galerie Altes Rathaus Musberg – 2006

Sarah Jane Lapp: Projekt, Galerie Nauman, Stuttgart – 2006

Sarah Jane Lapp, Color Graphics, Seattle, WA – 2005

Sarah Jane Lapp: Works on Paper, Market Graphics, Seattle, WA – 2004

Independent Visions: Sarah Jane Lapp Webster, University Film Series, St. Louis, MO – 2002

Sarah Jane Lapp: Seven Films 1996-1999, Artist Television Access, San Francisco – 2000

Sarah Jane Lapp: Seven Films 1996-1999, Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, MN – 2000

Reel Jews: Sarah Jane Lapp, MAKOR, New York, NY – 2000

Literature, Art, and Social Change, Hamline University, Minneapolis, MN – 2000

Memory/History, University of Baltimore, MD – 2000

Selected Group Exhibitions

Sequestered Together: The Dangerous and Lonely World of Animation, Archer Gallery, Clark College, Vancouver, WA – 2015

Six Decades, The Blake School, Minneapolis – 2015

Skyjelly & Sweetface, San Francisco Cinematheque, Union Docs, NorthwestFilmForum – 2014

Thinking Like the Universe, Hatch Gallery, K. Imperial Fine Art, Oakland – 2013

City Arts Staff Show, City Arts, Providence – 2013

Anonymous Zeichnung, Tiergarten, Germany, Leipzig and Amsterdam – 2013

Mark Dresser Residency, San Diego Museum of Art – 2013

The Best and the Brightest, Alta Luna Gallery, Bristol, RI – 2013

Drawing Stories: Narration in Contemporary Graphic Art, Museum Folkwang, Essen – 2012

Film Abend Bundestag, Berlin, Germany – 2012

Forthcoming: Moving Pictures, Beard & Weil Galleries, Wheaton College – 2012

Stop Framing Me, Gage Academy, Seattle, WA – 2012

Celebration! Washington Convention Center, Seattle, WA – 2012

Someplace Else, Right Here, Texas State University, San Marcos – 2011

My Summer Fantasy, Gallery Extrana, Berkeley, CA – 2010

Das Lachende Auge, Galerie Naumann, Stuttgart, Germany – 2010

Comic Stil und Psychedelic Kunst/Scores for Artists, Galerie Naumann Galerienhaus/Trick Film Festival, Stuttgart, Germany – 2009

Rite Now: Sacred and Secular in Video, The Jewish Museum, New York – 2009

Visiting Faculty, Sert Gallery, Harvard University, Cambridge – 2009

The Last Book, National Library, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Curator: Luis Camnitzer – 2008

8th Northwest Biennial, Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, Curators: Rock Hushka and David Kiehl (Whitney Museum) – 2007

Solitude and Focus: Recent Work from MacDowell Fellows in the Visual Arts, Aldrich, Contemporary Art Museum, Aldrich, CT, Curator: Richard Klein – 2006

The Matzo Files, NYC – 2005

Selected Awards

Juror's Citation, Black Maria Film and Video Film Festival – 2010

Short List, Genius Award, The Stranger – 2008

Jurors' Choice (First Place), Black Maria Film and Video Festival – 2006

Best Documentary, Humboldt State University, Humboldt International Film Festival – 2002

Juror's Citation, Black Maria Film and Video Film Festival – 2001

Honorable Mention, Ann Arbor Film Festival – 2001

Best Experimental Film, Judah L. Magnes Museum Jewish Film and Video Competition – 1995

Fellowships and Grants

Grant, Seekonk and Massachusetts Cultural Council – 2013

City Artist Grant, Seattle, WA – 2010

Herb Alpert Award in the Arts/UCross Foundation Residency Prize – 2007

Artist Trust/Washington State Arts Commission Media Arts Fellowship – 2007

GAP Grant, Artist's Trust, Seattle, WA – 2004

Edge Fellow, Artist's Trust, Seattle, WA – 2003

The Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, Inc., New York, NY – 2002

The Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, Inc., New York, NY – 2000

The Jerome Foundation New York Media Arts Grant, St. Paul, MN – 2000

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Thesis Fellowship Award – 1999

School of the Art Institute of Chicago Full Merit Scholarship – 1997

CEC International Partners/Artslink (NEA) Collaborative Arts Grant (with Jenny Perlin) – 1997

J. William Fulbright Fellowship, Prague, Czech Republic – 1994

Ittleson Research and Travel Grant, Brown University, Providence, RI – 1994

CEU Prague Writer's Workshop Fellowship, University of Southern California – 1993

Residencies

Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, New Mexico – 2011

Ucross Foundation/Alpert Award Fellow, Wyoming – 2008

Villa Serbelloni/Bellagio, The Rockefeller Foundation, Italy (collaborative residency with Mark Dresser) – 2008

The MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, New Hampshire – 2000, 2001

The Anderson Center, Red Wing, Minnesota – 2000

The Atlantic Center for the Arts, Civitella Ranieri Foundation, Umbertide, Italy (selected associate for William Kentridge) – 2000

Selected Press

Art of the Contrabass, Robert Bush, *San Diego Reader* – August 23, 2013

Defining the Solo Contrabass at UCSD, Robert Bush, *San Diego Reader* – October 25, 2012

Sarah Jane Lapp, Lines/Fiction Interview, Bettina Munk http://linesfiction.de/lfd/?page_id=301

Best of 2011, Charles Burnham, outsideinsideout.com – December 17, 2011

Night Thoughts: Jen Shyu and Mark Dresser perform tonight at the Big Room in New Haven – Michael Hamad, ct.com – September 13, 2011

Inspiring Bi-Coastal Event, Robert Bush, *San Diego Reader* – November 2, 2011

Visiting Faculty Bring Their Art Along, Cordon Ireland, *Harvard Gazette* – September 17, 2009

Finish this Masterpiece or Look for a Job? Jamie Friddle, *City Arts Magazine* – July 2009

Animated Ladies: Signe Baumann and Sarah Jane Lapp illustrate their points, Anne Lewis, *The Austin Chronicle*, Vol. 28, Number 28 – March 13, 2009

A Film Festival Celebrates a Jewish World That Spans the Globe, A.O. Scott, *New York Times* – January 10, 2007

Moderne Kunst im Alten Rathaus, Filder-Zeitung/Wochenblatt – April 6, 2006

Sarah Jane Lapp in Stuttgart: Zauber der Strichmannchen, *Stuttgarter Nachrichten*, Eva Maria Schlosser – April 5, 2006

Kunst aus Übersee im Alten Rathaus: Wenige Striche und Viel Leichtigkeit. Tipps & Termine, Filder-Zeitung – March 28, 2006

Reflections/Deceptions, *Fairfield Weekly* – March 10, 2005

The Real Pike Place Market, Anne Marie Ruff, *Savvy Traveler, NPR* – August 2003

MadCat FilmFestival, hoardmagazine.com – August 2003

Ann Arbor Film Festival, *Monroe Street Journal*, Ann Arbor, MI – March 24, 2003

Critic's Choice: *Documental LA Weekly*, Los Angeles, CA – September 27, 2002

Critic's Pick, *Riverfront Times*, St. Louis, MO – March 30, 2002

Critic's Pick, *Riverfront Times*, St. Louis, MO – January 30, 2002

Interviews with Lapp, Siegel and Fleming, Screening the Past.com – December 1, 2001

Artists Bring Brew to Festival, *Republican Eagle*, Red Wing, MN – July 20, 2001

Mixed Media, *Republican Eagle*, Red Wing, MN – July 5, 2001

Critic's Choice: Sarah Jane Lapp, *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, San Francisco, CA – October 25, 2000

Smaller Cinematic Endeavors Triumph, *Berkeley Daily Planet*, Berkeley, CA – September 8, 2000

Mad Cat Women's International Film Festival, *San Francisco Bay Times*, San Francisco, CA – September 5, 2000

8 Days A Week, *San Francisco Weekly*, San Francisco, CA – September 5, 2000

Seven Films: 1996-1999, *City Pages*, Minneapolis, MN – April 5, 2000

Your Best Film, *Please Siren*, Minneapolis, MN – February 24, 2000

Fall Line-up of New Filmmakers, *Chicago Tribune*, John Petrakis, Chicago, IL – Fall 1999

Shorts/South by Southwest Film Festival, *Austin Chronicle*, Austin, TX – March 22, 1999

Women in the Directors' Chair, *The Independent/AIVF*, New York, NY – 1997

Critic's Choice, *City Pages*, Minneapolis, MN – March 1997