

## **Narrative Biography**

Olivia Lahs-Gonzales was appointed Director of the Sheldon Art Galleries in St. Louis in November, 2001. At the Sheldon, she curates exhibitions, directs educational programs, and assists in fundraising for six gallery spaces devoted to photography, architecture, jazz history, St. Louis artists and collections, and children's art. From 1992-2001 she worked at The Saint Louis Art Museum, most recently as Assistant Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs. She received her M.F.A. from Columbia College, Chicago, where she worked at the Museum of Contemporary Photography for three years as Curatorial Assistant and in her final year as Education Manager. She received her B.A. Honors from West Surrey College of Art and Design, Farnham, Surrey, England.

LaHS-Gonzales specializes in photography and photographic history, but has also published on prints, drawings, painting and sculpture. Publications and essays include *My Nature: Works with Paper* by Kiki Smith (1999), *Defining Eye: Women Photographers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (1997), and *Photography in Modern Europe: The Spring 1996 Bulletin of The Saint Louis Art Museum, Currents: 63 -Peter Fraser: Ice and Water* (1995), *Currents 81: Glenn Ligon* (2000), among others. She also contributed the essay *To Unseal the Deeper Nature* to the book and exhibition *Inge Morath*, (1999), published by Prestel and the Kunsthalle, Vienna. In 1996, LaHS-Gonzales organized a major exhibition and edited and wrote for the accompanying catalogue, *Josephine Baker: Image and Icon*, organized by in celebration of Baker's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The exhibition traveled to the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, in late 2006. Most recently, she organized the major exhibition with catalogue, *Ralston Crawford and Jazz*, which opened at the Sheldon Art Galleries in the fall of 2011 and traveled to the New Orleans Museum of Art in the summer of 2012. Other Sheldon exhibitions with publications include *Candida Höfer Photographs* (2005); *Secrets of Real Estate: John Gossage* (2008), *Clifford Martin: Navy Photographer* (2008), and the retrospective *Larry Fink: Attraction and Desire – 50 Years in Photography* (2011), among others. LaHS-Gonzales has taught the history of photography at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, where she was Adjunct Assistant Professor. Also a practicing artist, she has exhibited her work in St. Louis, Chicago, London, Taipei and Tokyo.

## **Exhibitions (Personal Work)**

2012 (July) 12th Annual Whitaker St.Louis Filmmakers Showcase. Video:*Garden*, 2012 (group)  
2010 (July) *Life in Decay*, Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis (group)  
2010 (May-August) *Summer Group Show*, Schmidt Contemporary Art, St. Louis  
2009 (June) Schmidt Contemporary Art, St. Louis (two person exhibit)  
2008 Exposure 11 (July 31-Sept 20 - with Andrew Millner and Snail Scott), Gallery 210, University of Missouri, St. Louis (group)  
2007 (July-Oct) *Millions Taken Daily*, University of Maine Museum of Art (group)  
2007 (May) Flatfiles Selection chosen by Katie Holten, Contemporary Art Museum, StL (group)  
2006 (Summer) *Intertwined/St. Louis/Japan/Taiwan*, Regional Arts Commission Gallery, (group)  
2006 (July) *Flatfiles* Group Show (Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis) (group)  
2005 (June) Cultural Exchange Exhibition, National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, Taiwan (group)  
2005 (March) Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, *Arts Desire Auction* (group)  
2004 (November) Ethical Society of St. Louis, *New Work*, (one-person)  
2004 (August) Regional Arts Commission Gallery, *Local Women and Exotic Places* (group)  
2004 Elliot Smith Contemporary Art, *Women Only* (group)  
2003 Philip Slein Gallery, *Schmidt's Picks* (group)  
2002 Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, *Art Cache* (group)  
2002 Innsbrook Gallery, *New Work* (one person)  
2002 Meramec Art Gallery, *Regarding Nature* (group)

### **Exhibitions (Personal Work) cont.**

1999 The Mayor's Office, St. Louis. (group)  
1998 Hunt Gallery, Webster University, *Exposure I* (three person)  
1998 Lemp Brewery, St. Louis, *IN/FORM*, (group)  
1997 Martin Schweig Gallery, St. Louis, *New Work* (one-person)  
1996 Bonsack Gallery, St. Louis, *American Landscapes* (one-person)  
1995 R. Duane Reed, St. Louis *Edenic Fictions - Insidious Realities* (one-person)  
1995 Fermilab Art Gallery, *Edenic Fictions - Insidious Realities* (one-person)  
1994 Martin Schweig Gallery, *Edenic Fictions - Insidious Realities* (one-person)  
1992 Columbia College Art Gallery, *Master of Fine Art Thesis Exhibition*  
1992 Gallery 2 School of the Art Institute, *College Art Association M.F.A. Exhibition*  
1991 Paper Press Gallery Chicago, *Paper Press Fellowship Recipients*  
1991 Columbia College Art Gallery, Chicago, *End of the Year Student Honor Exhibition*  
1990 Columbia College Art Gallery, Chicago *End of the Year Student Honor Exhibition*  
1989 N.A.M.E. Gallery, Chicago, *Assumption*  
1989 Hofner and Hofner Accountants Gallery, Wheaton, Illinois (one-person)  
1988 Wheaton Family Services Center, Wheaton, Illinois (one person)  
1988 West Chicago Public Library Gallery, West Chicago, Illinois (one person)  
1988 Evanston Art Center, Evanston, Illinois *Evanston and Vicinity, Photography '88*  
1988 The Photographer's Gallery, London *Bachelor of Arts Degree Exhibition*  
1987 Touring Group Exhibition for Oxfam Charity, England  
1986 The New Ashgate Gallery, Farnham, England, *Farnham*  
1986 Johnson Wax Kiln Gallery, Farnham, England, *The People of Farnham*  
1985 Battersea Community Center Gallery, London, *Women in Photography*  
1985 HTV Cardiff, Wales, *Menorca* Audio-Visual Presentation

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS**

1990 Chicago Historical Society *An Old-Fashioned Fourth of July*  
1989 Environmental Study, Public Art Projects, Southeast England  
1988 Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Photographs for Conference Room and  
Restaurant  
1987 Public Art Feasibility Study, South East Arts, England  
1985 Redgrave Theatre, Farnham. Audio-visual effects and Photographer for *Alice In Wonderland*

### **REVIEWS AND PUBLISHED WORK**

*Riverfront Times*, Sept-Oct, 2004, Exhibition Review  
*Riverfront Times*, Dec. 17 – 23, 2003, Exhibition Review  
*St. Louis Post Dispatch*, Mar. 2002, Exhibition Review  
*St. Louis Post Dispatch*, June 1999, Exhibition Review  
*St. Louis Post Dispatch*, Oct. 1997, Exhibition Review  
*St. Louis Post Dispatch*, Sept. 1994, Exhibition Review  
*Chicago Tribune*, Friday, April 24, 1992, Reproduction, Arts Section  
*New Art Examiner*, 1989. Exhibition Review  
*New Art Examiner*, 1989 Summer Issue, Portrait Illustration  
*Art For Public Places*, Winchester Press, 1989, Photographic Illustrations  
Posters: *Fermilab Arts Series*, Oct. 1981, Aug. 1982; Sept. 1987; July, 1988; Jan. 1992  
*The Wednesday Journal*, Chicago 1983-84, Freelance Work  
*Fermilab Annual Report*, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988

## **COLLECTIONS**

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Chicago  
Columbia College Chicago  
Various Private Collections

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

1990 Educational Opportunity Award - Full Scholarship for Graduate Study  
1990 Paper Press Fellowship - Fellowship and Studio Space at Paper Press Chicago  
1989 Follett Fellowship - Full Scholarship for Graduate Study  
1986 Oakdale Trust - For Environmental Issues Photographic Project, England

## **COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS**

1991 President's Purchase Award, Columbia College,  
1990 President's Purchase Award, Columbia College  
1989 Best of Show, Artist's Guild, Wheaton, Illinois  
1987 Fuji Film Award, England  
1986 Polaroid Award, England  
1980 Ball State Journalism Workshop, "Award of Excellence"

## **OTHER**

2005-2011 Work on file in Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis *Flatfiles*  
2005 *Arts Desire* benefit auction, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (invitational)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Elected Board Member, Print Council of America (2003 -2005), Member of Print Council since 1998.  
Commissioner, St. Louis City Commission for Heritage and Urban Design  
Advisory Board, Center for Advanced Imaging, Meramec College  
Regular Oracle (Photography curator's group) attendee (Since 1993)  
Advisory Board, Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES and AWARDS**

2009-present Student Advisor/Guest Critic, UMSL Photography program.  
2011 Riverfront Times "Best of St. Louis" winner: Larry Fink exhibit  
2005 Wacks Scholarship Judge, Washington University in St. Louis  
2003 Riverfront Times "Best of St. Louis" winner: Best Curator  
2003 Judge, AIA International Photography Contest  
2001 Portfolio Reviewer, PhotoAmericas, Portland, Oregon  
1998 Tenure Reviewer  
1997 Juror, Department of Photography End of Year Juried Exhibition. Webster University  
1997 Juror, *The Golden Mean*, Art St. Louis  
1996-7 Adjunct Professor, History of Photography, University of Missouri Saint Louis  
1996 Visiting Lecturer, St. Louis Camera Club  
1995 Visiting Lecturer, Public Policy Research Center, University of Missouri, St. Louis  
Subject: Manuel Alvarez Bravo  
1995 Juror, Women Artists of Missouri, University of Missouri, Columbia  
1995 Section Co-coordinator, Photography Section, Midwest Art History Association

1994-5      *Advisor for Programming*, Public Policy Research Center Gallery, University of  
Missouri, St. Louis  
1994      *Portfolio Reviewer*, Houston FotoFest  
1994      *Visiting Lecturer*, St. Louis Artists Guild  
1993      *Tenure Reviewer*

**Languages:** German (fluent)