

Sarah Kanouse

Work

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SELECT CREATIVE WORK

- In Progress** Kanouse, Sarah, "My Electric Genealogy," performance, expected 2020
"My Electric Genealogy" uses the landscape infrastructure of Los Angeles to ask far-reaching questions about intergenerational environmental responsibility in the Anthropocene. Wearing a midcentury men's suit, I embody the legacy of my grandfather, whose career at the Department of Water and Power enabled L.A.'s explosive growth between the 1930s and the 1970s. The performance stages live narration, original sound, and choreographed movement over filmic imagery, refiguring as family members the power plants, substations, and transmission lines my grandfather produced, as well as the desert ecologies and organisms he disavowed.
- In Progress** Kanouse, Sarah and Nicholas Brown, "Ecologies of Acknowledgement," essay film and letterpress print, ~9 minutes,
"Ecologies of Acknowledgement" takes an expansive and critical approach to the practice of recognizing traditional Native territories - in this case, the islands of Boston harbor. The film uses impressionistic footage of the islands, interviews, and animation to move beyond the acknowledgement of the past and toward a sense of obligation to the politics of the present and future.
Exhibitions:
Boston, MA - UMass Boston, University Hall Gallery, "Local Ecologies," September 3-October 26, 2019.
Dartmouth, MA - UMass Dartmouth, University Art Gallery, "Local Ecologies," November 7, 2019-January 10, 2020.
Lowell, MA - UMass Lowell, University Gallery, "Local Ecologies", January 21-March 6, 2020.
- 2019** Kanouse, Sarah, "Grassland," essay film, HD video, 19 minutes, 16 seconds.
"Grassland" excavates the stratigraphic layers of belief, ecology, practice, and geology that form a northeastern Colorado landscape. Less explication than essay, the film locates the grassland in historic and geologic time, ranging over changing frameworks of law, ideology, and cosmology, variable and contradictory human practices, and the material and geological forces of the land itself. Meditative original footage of the grassland merges with handmade collage animations created from composited diagrams, drawings, and found imagery portraying the refuge's subterranean activities, from well drilling to missile storage to soil sedimentation.
Screenings/Exhibitions:
Albuquerque, NM - Experiments in Cinema, April 18, 2019.
Kefalonia, Greece - Twisted Oyster Film and Media Festival, May 9, 2019.
Bogotá, Colombia - Cineautopsia, August 2019.
- 2011-2018** Kanouse, Sarah and Shiloh Krupar, "The National Toxic Land and Labor Conservation Service," multi-platform project documented at nationaltlcservice.us.
"The National TLC Service" is a speculative government agency that produces projects addressing the environmental, human health, and cultural impacts of the American nuclear state. Our primary initiative is the participatory design of counter-monuments and heritage trails for atomic landscapes.

Participatory Events:

Colorado Springs, CO - Colorado College, "Design Charrette for the National Cold War Monuments and Environmental Heritage Trail," 2016

Champaign, IL - University of Illinois, Figure One Gallery, "Design Charrette for the National Cold War Monuments and Environmental Heritage Trail," 2013

Exhibitions:

Denver and Boulder, CO - "Facing Rocky Flats," 2018

Colorado Springs, CO - IDEA Space, "Atomic Landscapes," 2016

Boston, MA - Proof Gallery, "Boston Does Boston 9," 2016

Albuquerque, NM - Central Features, "Sarah Kanouse: Show Up Show Down," 2015 (solo)

New York, NY - The Cooper Union, "Monument to Cold War Victory," 2014

Champaign, IL - University of Illinois, Figure One Gallery, "National TLC Service Mobile Field Office," 2013 (solo)

Fairfax, VA - George Mason University, "EcoCultures," September 2011

New York, NY - Momenta Arts, "Institute for Wishful Thinking," 2011

Performative Lectures:

Boston, MA - Northeastern University Food For Thought Colloquium, "National Cold War Monuments and Environmental Heritage Trail," 2015

College Park, MD - University of Maryland Honors College, "National Cold War Monuments and Environmental Heritage Trail," 2015

Monticello, UT - Canyonlands Research Center, Mapping Meaning, "A National TLC Service Public Address," 2014

San Juan, PR - American Studies Association Annual Meeting, "Toward a Cold War Counter-Monument: Decolonizing atomic memory with the National TLC Service," 2012

Iowa City, IA - Project on the Rhetoric of Inquiry, "De-Militarizing Atomic Memory with the National TLC Service," 2012

2012-2014 Compass, "The Monsanto Hearings," public events and video documentation.

"The Monsanto Hearings" is a series of public performances loosely using the form of a preliminary hearing to invite public testimony into the effects of biotechnology and industrial agriculture upon lands and lifeforms.

Participatory Events:

Yellow Springs, OH - "A People's Preliminary Hearing into Monsanto," as part of Living as Form: The Nomadic Edition, Herndon Gallery, Antioch College, 2014

Iowa City, IA - "A People's Preliminary Hearing into Monsanto," Boyd Law Building, University of Iowa, 2012

Carbondale, IL - "A People's Preliminary Hearing into Monsanto," Lesar Law School, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, 2012

Select Screenings/Exhibitions:

Chicago, IL - School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Sullivan Galleries, "Rooting: Regional Networks, Global Concerns," 2013

St. Louis, MO - CAMP, 2013

Detroit, MI - Museum of Contemporary Art, 2012

Kassel, Germany - Documenta 13, June 9 and 10, 2012

2012 Kanouse, Sarah, "Around Crab Orchard," essay film, HD video, 69 minutes, 34 seconds.

Taking an Illinois wildlife refuge as its subject, this feature-length video essay uses documents, found footage, and conversations with activists, writers, and local residents to meditate on the persistence of history, the creation of knowledge, the limits of representation, and the commonplace of environmental hazard.

Select Screenings/Exhibitions:

New York, NY - UnionDocs, 2014
Minneapolis, MN - University of Minnesota, 2014
Banff, Alberta - Banff Center, 2013
Iowa City, IA - Headroom Screening Series
Washington, D.C. - Furthermore
Zurich, Switzerland - Cabaret Voltaire
Los Angeles, CA - Echo Park Film Center
Chicago, IL - South Side Projections
Athens, OH - Athens International Film Festival, 2013
Carbondale, IL - Big Muddy Film Festival, 2013

Awards:

Best Iowa-Made Film, Interrobang Film Festival, 2013
John Michaels Award, Big Muddy Film Festival, 2013

2010 Compass Group, "Cartography with Your Feet/Drift and Surge," a series of events and discussions culminating in a community gathering at the historic King Solomon Church in Detroit during the US Social Forum, June 2010.

Participatory Events:

Detroit, MI - Community gathering at the historic King Solomon Church, 2010

Workshops:

Detroit, MI - United States Social Forum, "Midwest Radical Culture Corridor," 2010
Minneapolis, MN - University of Minnesota, Beneath the University (conference), "Cartography With Your Feet: Visioning the Midwest Radical Culture Corridor on the Roads to the US Social Forum in Detroit," April 11, 2010

2008 Kanouse, Sarah and Lee Azzarello, "Voices of America," www.thevoa.net, web platform and public events to promote and facilitate the remixing of US election coverage broadcast on the Voice of America radio network.

Exhibitions/Festivals:

Los Angeles, CA - Sea & Space Gallery, "The Audacity of Desperation," 2008
Minneapolis, MN - The UnConvention, 2008
New York, NY - DEMO Space 122, "The Audacity of Desperation," 2008

Select Published Interviews, Reviews, Catalogs and Citations

2018 Fiks, Yevgeniy and Stamatina Gregory, eds. *Monument to Cold War Victory*. (New York: The Cooper Union and Culver City: The Wende Museum), 100-103.
2018 Holmes, Brian. "On the Passage of a Few People Through a Relatively Vast Space Called the Midwest," in *The Earth Will Not Abide*, edited by Mack McFarland. (Portland, OR: Center for Contemporary Art and Culture).

- 2016 Scott, Emily Eliza. "De-Naturalizing the American Landscape," in *Thinking the Contemporary Landscape: Concepts and Positions*, edited by Christophe Girot and Dora Imhof. (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Architectural Press), 38-51.
- 2016 Demos, T.J. *Decolonizing Nature: Contemporary Art and the Politics of Ecology* (Berlin/New York: Sternberg Press).
- 2016 Yelena Gluzman, Sophia Cleary, Katie Gaydos, eds. *Emergency Index: an annual document of performance practice*, Volume 5.
- 2016 Mattern, Shannon. "Cloud and Field," *Places Journal*, August.
- 2015 Timken, Kris. *The New Explorers* (Oakland, CA: Conveyance Press).
- 2015 Hudson, Dale and Patricia Zimmerman. *Thinking Through Digital Media* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), 170-171.
- 2014 Tucker, Daniel, "Drifting Together," in *Immersive Life Practices*, edited by Daniel Tucker (Chicago: School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2014), 167-173.
- 2014 Linebaugh, Peter, "The Earth vs. Monsanto," *CounterPunch*, May 14.
- 2013 Scott, Emily Eliza, "Artists' Platforms for New Ecologies," *Third Text* 120 (online supplement).
- 2013 Wallace, Lewis, "Around Crab Orchard," *WBEZ Chicago*, May 31.
- 2013 Karl, Brian and E. Maude Haak-Frendscho, eds. "Other Histories," edited transcripts from group residency at the Headlands Center for the Arts.
- 2012 Williams, Gloria, "Artists Call For Monsanto Accountability In Mock Hearings," *Z Magazine*, July 2012.
- 2012 Braverman, Blair, "Taking Monsanto to the People's Court," *Waging Nonviolence*, April 24, 2012. Republished *Nation of Change*, April 26, 2012 and *Yes! Magazine*, April 30, 2012.
- 2011 Joseph-Hunter, Galen, with Penny Duff and Maria Papadomanolaki, *Transmission Arts: Artists and Airwaves* (New York: PAJ Publications, 2011), 19.
- 2011 Sholette, Gregory, *Dark Matter: Art and Politics in the Age of Enterprise Culture* (New York and London: Pluto Press, 2011), 178.
- 2010 Ise, Claudine, "Exhibiting the Intangible," *Art21 Blog*, April 27, 2010.
- 2009 Esche, Charles, Kerstin Niemann, and Stephanie Smith, eds., *Heartland*, Chicago: University of Chicago Smart Museum of Art and Eindhoven: Van Abbemuseum, 2009, 107-108 and 174.

Select Publications

- In Review Kanouse, Sarah. Staying with the Troubling. In Emily Eliza Scott, TJ Demos, and Subhankar Banerjee, eds. *The Routledge Companion to Art and Ecology*. Expected 2020.
- In Review Brown, Nicholas and Sarah Kanouse, "Common Tensions," submitted to *Passapartout* special issue on "New Infrastructures."
- In Review Kanouse, Sarah, "Roots and Stems in a Sea of Grass," submitted to *Drain Magazine* special issue on "Ecologies of Bad Ideas."
- Accepted Kanouse, Sarah and Shiloh Krupar. "The National Toxic Land/Labor Conservation Service: Recovering an Atomic Commons." In Livia Monnet, ed. *Toxic Immanence* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, expected 2019).
- Forthcoming Kanouse, Sarah. "Surviving Extinction." *Art Journal Open*. Expected 2019.
- 2019 Kanouse, Sarah. "Outside, Beyond the Frame." *Panorama* 5, no. 1 (2019): <http://editions.lib.umn.edu/panorama/article/ecocriticism/going-outside>.
- 2019 Kanouse, Sarah. Review of Michael Allen's "How Not What: Anthropocene Landscapes of St. Louis." *Forty-Five*. <http://forty-five.com/papers/220>.

- 2018 Kanouse, Sarah, "Notes on a Performance-in-Progress," in Christopher Heurer and Rebecca Zorach, *Ecologies, Agents, Terrains* (Williamstown, MA: Clark Art Institute), 196-215.
- 2015 Kanouse, Sarah. "Critical Daytrips." In Emily Eliza Scott and Kirsten J. Swenson, eds. *Critical Landscapes* (Berkeley: University of California Press), 43-56.
- 2015 Kanouse, Sarah, "Mapping the Depths of a Lake," in Rebecca Zorach, ed. *Art Against the Law* (Chicago: School of the Art Institute of Chicago), 91-93.
- 2013 Kanouse, Sarah and Heath Schultz, "Notes on Affective Practice: An Exchange," *Parallax* 67: 7-20.
- 2011 Kanouse, Sarah. "A Post-Naturalist Field Kit: tools for the embodied exploration of social ecologies." In Sébastien Cacquard, William Cartwright, and Laurene Vaughan, eds. *Mapping Environmental Issues in the City* (Heidelberg: Springer), 160-177.
- 2011 Kanouse, Sarah, "Take it to the air: radio as public art," *Art Journal* 70(3): 86-99.
- 2011 Kanouse, Sarah, "Transmissions Between Memory and Amnesia," *Leonardo Journal of Arts, Sciences, and Technology* 44(3): 200-206.
- 2011 Kanouse, Sarah and Dara Greenwald, "What the Market Bares," *Critical Planning* 18: 92-98.

Select Awards, Fellowships, and Residencies

- 2019-20 Ludwig Maximilians Universität, Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Humanities, Outreach Fellow (December 2019-March 2020)
- 2018 University of Utah, Taft-Nicholson Center for Environmental Humanities, Artist-In Residence (July 8-28)
- 2016 Colorado College, Artist-in-Residence (March 21-April 13)
- 2014-15 University of Iowa, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Scholar
- 2013 Committee for Tacit History, Finalist, Monument to Cold War Victory Design Competition (with Shiloh Krupar/National TLC Service)
- 2012 Headlands Center for the Arts, "Other Histories" residency, December 7-14
- 2011 University of Southern California, NEH Summer Institute in the Digital Humanities and American Studies, July 18-August 11 (with Nicholas Brown)

Select Grants Funded

External Grants

- 2013 Iowa Arts Council, Individual Artist Project Grant for *Re-Collecting Black Hawk*, PI (\$10,000).
- 2011 Iowa Arts Council, Individual Artist Major Grant for *Around Crab Orchard*, PI (\$7,020).

Internal Grants

- 2019 Collaborative Research Grant, with Nicholas Brown, College of Arts, Media and Design, Northeastern University
- 2018 Dissemination Grant, College of Arts, Media and Design, Northeastern University
- 2018 Summer Research Grant, College of Arts, Media and Design, Northeastern University
- 2017 Mutual Mentorship Advancement Program, Northeastern University
- 2016 Faculty Research and Creative Activity Grant, Northeastern University
- 2013 Obermann Interdisciplinary Research Grant, with Shiloh Krupar
- 2013 Arts and Humanities Initiative, PI, University of Iowa
- 2010 Arts and Humanities Initiative, PI, University of Iowa

Select Invited Lectures

- 2020 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL - Experimental Environments Symposium, keynote lecture, March 5-6
- 2018 University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT - visiting artist lecture, February 20.
- 2017 Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA - Ecologies, Agents, Terrains Symposium, "My Electric Genealogy," keynote performance-lecture, May 5.
- 2016 Mapping Meaning, Santa Cruz Island, CA - "My Electric Genealogy," performance-lecture during residency, July 28.
- 2016 Woodland Pattern, Milwaukee, WI - "Re-Collecting Black Hawk," with Nicholas Brown, April 24.
- 2016 Harper College, Schaumburg, IL, April 21.
- 2015 Prairie Lights Books, Iowa City, IA, May 12.
- 2015 Iowa State University, Ames, IA - Department of English Goldtrap Lecture, March 9.
- 2015 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM - visiting artist lecture, February 10.
- 2014 University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA - Obermann Summer Seminar on Problem Solving Social Practice, "Re-Routing Atomic Memory with the National TLC Service," artist talk, June 19.
- 2014 Englert Theater, Iowa City, IA - Ten Tiny Performances, "Sketches from the Death of My Grandfather," April 21.
- 2013 University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, IL - artist's talk with National TLC Service, October 24.
- 2013 Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, Zürich, Switzerland - visiting artist lecture, October 10.
- 2013 Washington University, St. Louis, MO/Iowa City, IA - Spatial Practices I - Productive Landscapes, guest artist presentation in Iowa City to Washington University master's-level field seminar, August 18.
- 2012 Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI - visiting artist lecture, October 29.
- 2011 Mess Hall, Chicago, IL - "Natural Histories of the Boundary Line," work-in-progress screening/discussion, January 22.
- 2010 Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL - "America Ponds," artist's talk in conjunction with exhibition, November 11.
- 2009 University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI - visiting artist lecture, April 1.

Select Conference Papers, Panels, and Workshops

- 2019 Re:Publica Festival, Berlin, Germany - "Meet the Anthropocene," Skype presentation on panel with Bernd Scherer and Brian Holmes, May 6.
- 2019 Georgetown University, Washington DC - "Art/Politics/Method," workshop, March 29.
- 2019 University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth - "Anthropologies of Place," panel discussion, March 7.
- 2019 New York University, New York, NY - "Ecology as Intersectionality," panel discussion, February 14.
- 2019 College Art Association Conference, New York, NY - "Making/Writing Artists' Lives," session co-chair with Monica Bravo, February 14.
- 2018 School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University, Boston, MA - "Teaching Capitalism," panel discussion, September 14
- 2018 College Art Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA - "Public Trust," paper presentation with Shiloh Krupar, February 24.
- 2017 Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities Conference, Boston, MA - respondent to keynote Peter Galison, November 4.

- 2017 ASAP 9 Conference, Berkeley, CA - "The Toxic Everyday: trans-local creative responses to the nuclear weapons complex," position paper, October 28.
- 2017 Institute for Contemporary Art, Boston, MA - "Artifacts of the Future," session moderator and symposium respondent, October 13.
- 2016 Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO - "Atomic Landscapes," panel discussion in conjunction with exhibition opening, March 22.
- 2016 MIT Program in Art, & Culture Technology, Cambridge, MA - respondent to Gerald Raunig, November 7.
- 2015 Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY - "Critical Landscapes," panel discussion, November 30.
- 2015 CalArts, Valencia, CA - AND NOW Conference 2015: Blast Radius: Writing and the Other Arts, "My Electric Genealogy," performative lecture, March 27.
- 2014 Princeton University, Princeton, NJ - "What the Humanities and Arts Are Good For," symposium, November 13-14.
- 2014 Iowa City International Documentary Film Festival, Iowa City, IA - moderator and discussant for juror screening with John Gianvito, April 19.
- 2014 Obermann Symposium on Affect & Inquiry, Iowa City, IA - "Crossing the Creative/Scholarly Divide," panel discussion, March 29.
- 2013 American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC - "Toxic Debt," session respondent, November 23.
- 2013 Open Engagement, Portland, OR - "RURALscapes," panel discussion, May 18.
- 2012 University of Southern California and College Art Association, Los Angeles, CA - Tourism and Culture, "Can Tourism be Critical?," paper presentation, February 23.
- 2011 Goddard College, Plainfield, VT - Making Meaning and Context (conference), "Collective and Activist Art Practices," panel discussion, October 14.
- 2011 York University, Toronto, Canada - Staging Sustainability (conference), "America Ponds: landscape re-interpretation in the post-natural refuge," artist's talk, April 21.
- 2009 Smart Museum, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL - panel discussion with Kerry James Marshall and Marjetica Potrč, moderated by Charles Esche, in conjunction with Heartland exhibition, October 1.
- 2009 College Art Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA - "Take It To The Air: Radio as Public Art," paper presentation, February 25.
- 2009 Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY - Visible Memories (conference), "Fishing for Uranium: Race, Nature and the Military at the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge," performative presentation, with Nicholas Brown, October 4.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2015- Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Arts, Department of Art and Design, Northeastern University
- 2008-2015 Assistant/Associate Professor of Intermedia, School of Art and Art History, University of Iowa
- 2005-2008 Assistant Professor of Digital Arts, Department of Cinema and Photography, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

EDUCATION

- 2004 MFA in Art & Design, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
- 1997 BA in Art, *magna cum laude*, Yale University