

Studio Residency: Jonathan Berger

Artist and participant bios

Studio open to the public: August 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, and 24, 2025

Studio Residency: Jonathan Berger, a Day of Conversation: August 23

Jonathan Berger works across sculpture, installation, performance, archival research, education, and design to create large-scale, collaborative projects. For over 20 years he has sought new ways to approach exhibitions as occasions for gathering people and sharing materials, experiences, and information. He has rejected the standard conventions attached to the role of the individual artist, instead prioritizing working with others to build creative networks that bring together wide-ranging groups of people. Through long-term relationships, collective process, and handmade production, each of Berger's projects imbue found and assembled objects with feeling—an experimental approach to nonfiction in which narrative takes material form.

Nadia Abu El-Haj is the Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Anthropology and codirector of the Center for Palestine Studies at Barnard College and Columbia University. Among other publications, she is the author of *Facts on the Ground: Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society* and *Combat Trauma: War and Citizenship in Post-9/11 America*.

Agnė Bagdžiūnaitė is an artist, curator, and researcher whose work engages with methodologies grounded in people's history, feminist and queer ethnography, and critical theory. Her research focuses on labor history, with particular attention to women's work stories from the Soviet era and the 1990s in Lithuania. She is a cofounder of Social Center Emma and the May 1st Labour Union. Currently, she is a co-curator of the ongoing event series *Obscene West* at Kaunas Artists' House, which explores the cultural and political shifts around gender, sexuality, and desire in post-socialist Lithuania, particularly during the 1990s. She also organizes and coordinates the international art residency programme at the cultural complex SODAS 2123 in Vilnius.

Vaginal Davis was born in Los Angeles and has lived and worked in Berlin since 2005. She is the celebrated intersex doyenne of intermedia arts and sciences. Her medium is the indefinite nature of her own whimsy. Her first museum solo exhibition, *Magnificent Product*, will travel to MoMA PS1 in October 2025, after Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2024), and Gropius Bau, Berlin (2025).

Danièle Fogel, PhD, is an educator, herbalist, and founder of Yervika. She weaves nearly 20 years of teaching and research experience with plant-based healing and Jewish ancestral wisdom. Fogel is Sephardic and Ashkenazi, with roots in Greece, Turkey, and Eastern Europe, and is a founding member of the JSWANA Bay collective.

Esther Kaplan is a longtime writer, editor, and journalist. Projects she's overseen have been recognized with an Emmy, a National Magazine Award, a Peabody, a duPont, and other honors, and her writing on labor, politics, and social movements has appeared in a variety of outlets. In the 1990s she served with Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz on the staff of Jews for Racial & Economic Justice.

Thomas Lax is a curator of Media and Performance at The Museum of Modern Art. At MoMA, Lax has curated the exhibitions *Ceremonies Out of the Air: Ralph Lemon* (2024), alongside Connie Butler and Kari Rittenbach; *Just Above Midtown: Changing Spaces* (2022), with Lilia Rocio Taboada in collaboration with JAM's founder, Linda Goode Bryant; and *Judson Dance Theater: The Work Is Never Done* (2018), alongside Ana Janevski and Martha Joseph.

Lia Leibman is a clinical herbalist, botanist, and educator devoted to ancestral plant knowledge. Trained at the California School of Herbal Studies and holding a biology degree from Whitman College, she teaches herbalism, botany, and folk healing traditions, weaving science and spirit into her work with plants and people.

Aurora Levins Morales is an Ashkenazi Boricua writer, visual artist, and change maker. She wildcrafts stories to make medicines of connection and hope, speaking from body, history, and land, bridging the most intimately personal and the globally systemic. She gardens and creates in the mountains of Western Puerto Rico.

Lisa Suhair Majaj is a poet and scholar of Arab-American literature and the author of the prize-winning collection *Geographies of Light*. Her writing has been translated into eight languages, and was displayed in the 2016 Harn Museum exhibition *Aftermath: The Fallout of War—America and the Middle East*. She lives in Cyprus.

Marija Oniščik is a Jew, a Catholic, a citizen of Lithuania, and a resident of Kaunas. Oniščik was born in 1959. She is currently a guide, a freelance writer, and a consultant on projects, press, and broadcasting related to the history of Kaunas. She is a member of the Kaunas Jewish (Litvaks) Community. She was previously a teacher of the theory of music, a secondary-school teacher of religion, an organist at parish churches, and an assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas.

Sara Roy is an associate of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University. A political economist, she has studied the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, with a focus on Gaza, for over four decades. An accomplished author, Roy held a fellowship from the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library during the 2024–25 academic year.

Susanne Sachsse is a Berlin-based artist and actress. She has exhibited at such institutions as Participant Inc in New York, Kestner Gesellschaft in Hannover, and Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin. As cofounder of CHEAP in Berlin, she has presented work at Accelerator in Stockholm and at Gropius Bau in Berlin.

Asta Volungė is a cultural worker, queer-feminist, and human rights activist based in Kaunas, Lithuania. Volungė employs contemporary cultural practices toward social and political change, leading cultural education programs and curating and producing projects exploring inclusion, queerness, and the politics of happiness. She is also cofounder of Social Center Emma and co-organizer of the annual queer-feminist SapfoFest festival.