

John A. Seed
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Art Educator, Writer and Independent Curator

Overview:

I am a Professor Emeritus of Art and Art History who is keeping busy by writing and curating. My two most recent books are [*Disrupted Realism: Paintings for a Distracted World*](#) and [*My Art World: Recollections and other Writings*](#).

Specialties:

Bay Area Figurative art, Contemporary representational painting, Modern and Contemporary Chinese painting, European and American Modernism, Southeast Asian and Hawaiian 19th- 20th century painting

Education:

1979: Graduated with Distinction, awarded Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts, Stanford University

1982: Graduated, awarded Master's Degree in Practice of Fine Arts, Painting, UC Berkeley

Professional:

1978-9: Intern to the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Anderson, Atherton

1983: Gallery Associate, The Larry Gagosian Gallery, Los Angeles

1984-5: Bookstore Manager, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

1985-2001: Associate Faculty Member in Art History, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena

1986-2017: Department Chair in Art, Professor of Art and Art History, Mt. San Jacinto College

2016-2019: Lecturer in Theory and Criticism, Laguna College of Art and Design

Community and Professional Roles:

1986 – 2017: Various roles while an MSJC faculty member including NEA/CTA (Union) President, Academic Senate President, Online Education Coordinator, Chair of Academic Excellence Committee

2013 – present: Board Member and Treasurer, [The Sam Francis Foundation](#)

2018/19 – Granted extended reader privileges, the Getty Research Institute

2018/19 – Volunteer Curator, [Cambria Chinese Temple at the Greenspace Creekside Preserve](#)

Jurying and Curatorial

September 23 – November 22, 2013

Guest Curator: *Matthew Couper, Recent Devotional Paintings*
Riverside Community College, Quad Gallery

April 3 – April 25, 2014

Guest Juror: *The 25th Annual Juried Exhibition*
The Contemporary Arts Center, Las Vegas

January 9 – February 1, 2015

Guest Juror: *Reaction* (Juried Group Exhibition)
Gallery Route One, Point Reyes

April 3 – 28, 2017

Curator: [Honoring the Legacy of David Park: An Invitational and Juried Exhibition](#)
The Edward M. Dowd Gallery, Santa Clara University

December 2 – 13, 2017

Curator: [Poets and Artists Group Show \(28 artists\)](#)
Arcadia Contemporary, Los Angeles

January 5 – February 24, 2018

Curator: [Disrupted Realism \(16 artists\)](#)
The Stanek Gallery, Philadelphia

November 1, 2019

Curator: *Disrupted Realism: Paintings for a Distracted World*
The Stanek Gallery, Philadelphia

Writing Awards:

2001: Society of Professional Journalist's Award, Hawaii Chapter, Best Arts and Entertainment Feature

2012: Finalist, Creative Capital Art Writers Grant in blogging category

One Person Exhibitions:

1984: "John Seed: New Paintings," Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles

2015: "Recent Mashterpieces: Digital Satires by John Seed," Stanford Art Spaces, Stanford University

Paintings by John Seed – Selected Collections:

The Chase Morgan Collection, New York

The Eli Broad Corporate Collection: AIG/Sun America, Woodland Hills, CA

KB Home, Paris France

Presentations, Panels and Podcasts:

2003: “A Conversation with Nathan Oliveira,” sponsored by the Stanford Alumni Associate at the Orange County Museum of Art

2012: Lecturer: “Arman Manookian: An Armenian American Artist in Hawaii, The Ararat-Eskijian Museum, sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

2012: Organizer/Panelist: Arts Journalism in the Age of the HuffingtonPost, Mt. San Jacinto College

2012: Organizer/Co-Presenter: An Evening with Richard Diebenkorn’s Ocean Park Series, hosted by the Stanford Alumni Association at the Orange County Museum of Art

2012: Presenter, “Anne, Harris, Kyle Staver and Janice Nowinski – Three Approaches to Beauty,” TRAC2012: A Conference on Representational Art, hosted by Cal Lutheran University

2013: Panelist/Presenter, 4th annual “Art of Painting in the 21st Century” Conference, Davis, CA.

2015: Moderator, “Painting the People Around You: Conor Walton, F. Scott Hess, Cynthia Sitton, Max Ginsburg,” TRAC2015: A Conference on Representational Art, hosted by Cal Lutheran University

2016: Panelist: [“Name That Art – Kids Explain Art to Experts,”](#) , Produced by Soul Pancake for Google Arts and Culture

2017: [“John Seed: Art Writer,”](#) The Savvy Painter Podcast

2018: Panelist “What is Disrupted Realism?” The Stanek Gallery, Philadelphia

2018: Panel Participant, “Made by Hand: The Revival of Drawing from Direct Observation,” the College Art Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, with Ruth Weisberg, Vincent Desiderio and Sharon Allicotti.

2019: Guest Speaker, “Arman Manookian: An Armenian Artist in Hawai’i,” Cambria Association for the Arts

2019: Guest Speaker, “Disrupted Realism,” Laguna College of Art and Design

Books:

2011: “Nine Artists: Julie Heffernan, F. Scott Hess, Sarah McKenzie, Jon Swihart, Leonard Koscianski, John Nava, Rod Penner, Jerome Witkin, and Anne Harris.” 38 pages, softbound, published by blurb.com

2011: “Arman Manookian: An Armenian-American Artist in Hawai’i,” 36 pages, softbound, published by blurb.com

2015: "Artist's Statements of the Old Masters," 40 pages, softbound, published by Createspace

2019: ["My Art World: Recollections and Other Writings," KDP, softbound](#)

2019: ["Disrupted Realism: Paintings for a Distracted World," 208 pages, hardbound, Schiffer Publishing](#)

Magazine Articles, Catalog Essays and Book Contributions:

2001: "Fragile Paradise": The Life and Art of Artist A. T. Manookian (1904-1931) Published in "Honolulu" Magazine, November, 2001

2002: Nathan Oliveira: A Mentor and a Friend, Stanford Magazine

2009: "Fernando Zóbel de Ayala, Brief Life of a peripatetic man of the arts: 1924-1984," Harvard Magazine, March/April

2010: "Lost Genius: Arman Manookian," Maui No Ka Oi Magazine, November/December

2011: "Seven Years in Paradise," Yerevan Magazine, September/October

2011: "The Great Man," (a short story) published by Arts Perspectives Magazine, November

2012: "Julie Heffernan," published by Connect, the Magazine of the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, January issue

2012: "Richard Diebenkorn: An Appreciation," Arts Ltd Magazine, March/April

2014: ["Setting the Stage for Insight: Nathan Oliveira's Road to Stanford,"](#) essay for "A Family Affair: Modern and Contemporary American Art from the Anderson Collection at Stanford University," published by Stanford University and Delmonico Books.

2014: Essay for "F. Scott Hess," monograph published by Gingko Press

2014: ["Hubert Vos: Court Painter to the Empress Dowager Cixi,"](#) Arts of Asia Magazine, November/December

2015: "Heightened Perceptions: Curated by John Seed," a print-on-demand magazine by Poets and Artists

2015: "Collecting, Robert Shiell," Art Ltd. Magazine, March 2015

2015: "Slightly Out of Focus, Lyle Carbajal," Nashville Arts, June 2015

2016: "Contemporary Ink Painting: Continuity, Improvisation and Hybridization," Arts of Asia Magazine, September/October, 2016

2017: "Report, The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art," Art Ltd. Magazine, February 2017

2017: "Review, Matisse/Diebenkorn at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, April 2017

2018: "DEAR Big SAM: The Letters of Walasse Ting to Sam Francis Tell the Story of Their Friendship Over Time," Arts of Asia Magazine, September/October, 2018

2019: "Driftwood on a Heaving Sea: Zhang Daqian in the Modern West," Arts of Asia Magazine, July/August, 2019

Catalog Essays:

Since 2007, I have written over 30 catalog essays to accompany exhibitions. My clients have included Ameringer|McEnery|Yohe, Christies (Hong Kong), Smith Andersen Editions, CK Contemporary, Koplín Del Rio Gallery, Sue Greenwood Gallery, Hackett|Mill and the John Natsoulas Gallery.

Blogging:

Between May of 2010 and July of 2017 I contributed wrote weekly blogs for the HuffingtonPost Arts page. The 350+ blogs included interviews, reviews, profiles and essays.

[HuffPost Author Index](#)

Since 2014 I have also written more than 20 blogs for the Brooklyn-based blogazine "Hyperallergic."

[Hyperallergic Author Index](#)

Video:

Text and Narration: "[Zóbel and the Pfeufers: A Friendship in Art and Letters](#)"