

ALEX KAHN
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Education:

Fulbright Scholarship Program – Grant for study in Trinidad and Tobago, focus on Caribbean Carnival culture. 2006.
San Francisco Art Institute – Master of Fine Arts. Thesis work in installation, printmaking, and digital arts. 2000.
George Peabody Gardner Fellowship – One-year travel fellowship in Nepal for study of traditional Buddhist art. 1990
Harvard College – A.B. *magna cum laude* in Visual and Environmental Studies. 1989.

Recent Performance Works and Community Projects:

New York's Village Halloween Parade – Chief Puppet Creator for nation's largest night parade. As co-director (with Sophia Michahelles) of the ensemble, **Superior Concept Monsters**, design annual performance works to lead parade. Past works include:

- **Wings of Desire (2007)** – A retelling of the Icarus myth as thesis/ prosthesis/ synthesis.
- **Jack! (2006)** – A fire-dance of giant Jack Lanterns explores Halloween's Celtic precursors.
- **New Orleans Mourned . . . Reborn (2005)** – A jazz funeral bears up a city after the flood.
- **Cakewalk (2004)** – 25 giant cake-hats evoke the African-American legacy of the jazz burlesque.
- **Trickster (2003)** – Giant puppets conjure the trickster archetype from six different ethnic traditions.
- **Play (2002)** – A living chess-board explores the idea of *Homo Ludens*, or how gaming defines culture.
- **Phoenix (2001)** – A newly arisen firebird carries the spirit of New York aloft, six weeks after 9/11.
- **Evolution (2000)** – In homage to *2001: A Space Odyssey*, a pageant of Apemen and Star-men tracks human evolution.
- **Metamorphosis (1999)** – 20'-tall caterpillars become luna moths, unfolding their wings, revealing shadow puppets.

Coyote's Way – Coyote Trickster tales updated and dispersed in a Texas puppet installation. Ft Worth, TX. 2006.

Rights of Passage – Performance for Trinidad Carnival. Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. 2006.

Around the World and Home Again – Designed community-based pageant for First Night in Binghamton, NY. 2006.

Frame of Reference – Site-specific dance collaboration at Olana Historic Site. Hudson, NY. 2006.

Morinesio Solstice Project – Founded and developed annual community procession for in the Piedmont region of Italy, bringing together international artists and students with local residents. Morinesio, Italy. 2002 – present.

Ebune: Procession of the Ram – Founded annual procession to celebrate West African ritual traditions. Portland, ME. 2003 – 2004.

Henson International Festival of Puppet Theatre – Commissioned by Henson Foundation for outdoor performance to open Festival. Joseph Papp Public Theatre, New York. 2000.

Guest Lectures / Residencies / Fellowships:

University of Michigan – Roman J. Witt Visiting Artist. 2007. Lloyd Hall Scholars Program Visiting Artist. 2008.

Bard College, Language and Thinking Program – Guest lecturer on Caribbean Carnival mask-making. 2007.

Mid-Atlantic Artists Foundation – Artists and Communities Grant. 2006.

University of the West Indies (Trinidad) – Visiting Artist/Lecturer. Carnival and Festival Arts Program. 2006.

Caribbean Contemporary Arts – Artist residency. 2006.

Maine College of Art – Faculty Development Grants. 2003 and 2005.

Puppeteers Guild of Greater New York – Lecture on pageant puppetry. 2003.

Teaching and Related Experience:

Maine College of Art – Assistant Professor and Chair of Printmaking Department. 2000 – 2004.

Omega Institute – Visiting Artist / Faculty for summer arts curriculum. 2003 – 2006.

San Francisco Art Institute – Graduate assistantship in printmaking. 1999 – 2000.

Selected Exhibitions and Installation Works:

- Send** – Institute of Contemporary Art. Maine College of Art. Portland, ME. 2008.
- Mas: Process to Procession** – Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, NY. Fall 2007.
- Drawing from the Mas** – Solo exhibition of collaborative project with Sophia Michahelles. Drawings and maquettes rethinking Caribbean Carnival. Caribbean Contemporary Arts. Laventille, Trinidad. 2006.
- Robert Indiana and MECA Prints** – Institute of Contemporary Art. Maine College of Art. Portland, ME. 2006.
- Paper Politics** – Seattle Print Arts. Seattle, WA and 5+5 Gallery. Brooklyn, NY. 2005 – 2006.
- Passamaquoddy Suite: A Collective Geography** – Curated and participated in a collaborative suite of 40 prints deconstructing maps of the US-Canada border. Traveling Exhibition. Maine State House, Augusta, ME; Tides Institute, Eastport, ME; Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia. 2005.
- Waves of Light** – The Pocketbook Factory. Hudson, NY. 2004.
- Between Existing Things** – Solo exhibition. Southern Exposure Gallery, San Francisco, CA. 2003.
- Women's Work** – Collaborative artist book project and public art installation. Portland, ME. 2003.
- Boston Printmakers North American Print Exhibition** – 808 Gallery, Boston University. Boston, MA. 2003.
- Leap Year** – Screening of video work as part of performance series. The Skinny, Portland, ME. 2002.
- Portland Atlas** – Zero Station Gallery. South Portland, ME. 2002.
- Plugged In** – Juried exhibition of digital artists. Center for Maine Contemporary Art. Rockport, ME. 2002.
- Towers of Remembrance** – Projection installation in response to 9/11, assembled from nearly 1000 images contributed from across the country. Maine College of Art. Portland, ME. 2001.
- I:I** – Refusalon Gallery. San Francisco. 2000.
- Art / I / Fact** – Diego Rivera Gallery. San Francisco Art Institute. 2000.
- Art and Technology** – Emily Carr Institute. Vancouver, Canada. 1999.
- Carrie Haddad Gallery** – Hudson, NY. 1998.
- 5 Artists in Print** – Diego Rivera Gallery, San Francisco Art Institute. 1998.
- Prophylactics for the Soul** – Solo exhibition. 320 lithographs with haiku verses, dispensed from a retrofitted condom machine. HERE Center for Contemporary Art. New York. 1997.
- Emerging Collector Gallery** – New York. 1996.
- Bob Blackburn Printmaking Workshop Gallery** – New York. 1996.
- John Cage Variations I-IV** – Multimedia performance installation, based on random numerical parameters of John Cage score. Collaboration with Ben Neill and Essential Music. The Kitchen, New York. 1995.
- Meredith Monk: Archeology of an Artist** – Retrospective of objects fabricated in collaboration with designer Debby Lee Cohen for Meredith Monk performances. Vincent Astor Gallery, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. 1995.
- Monsters and Other Companions** – Solo exhibition, works on paper. The Kitchen. New York. 1994.
- El Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)** – Instituto Allende. San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. 1994.

Press / Articles:

- Trinidad Guardian (4/25/06)** – “Puppeteers Find That Cultural Link” by Kayode James
- The Independent – Hudson/Berkshire (10/8/05)** – “What You See Is What You Choose” by Richard Baim
- La Guida (6/13/03)** – “I Puppazzi gigante di Morinesio” by Massimiliano Cavallo
- Middletown Times Herald-Record (2/23/03)** – “It Takes a Community to Build a Puppet” by Deborah J. Botti
- Harvard Magazine (Jan/Feb 03)** – “Community Puppeteer” by Ellenor J. Honig
- Art New England (Feb/March 02)** – “Light Upon Light: Towers of Remembrance” by Chris Thompson
- Portland Phoenix (10/26/00)** – “Gathering Intelligence” by Chris Thompson
- Teokikixtli - Mexican Review of Puppet Arts (July 01)** – “The Mysterious Life of Giant Puppets” by Sophia Michahelles
- New York Times (11/1/00)** – “Night of the Living Dot-Com” by Shaila Dewan
- NyTeknik (11/00)** – “Halloween årets rysare” by Jan Aschan. Swedish technical journal – feature article on puppetry works
- San Francisco Chronicle (8/19/00)** – “Artists Create Show at Refusalon's 'I:I' ” review by Kenneth Baker
- Chronogram (September 00)** – “Pulling Strings: Hudson Valley Puppetry Renaissance” by Pauline Uchmanowicz
- New York Times (11/1/98)** – photo from performance work