

# RACHEL PARISH

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<http://rachelparish.com>

## PROFILE

Interdisciplinary artist working with diverse ecologies of collaborators, including humans, non-humans, and their histories. Drawing from social and conceptual practices, uses performance-based and material-based practices including ceramics, weaving, painting and plants to create spaces for live and imagined exchange. Currently Lead Artist and Curator of *The City is a Circle* with Art on the Atlanta BeltLine and Artist in Residence at Vlerick Business School (Belgium).

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Atlanta to the Atlantic*, participatory public artwork, Flux Projects, Atlanta, GA (*forthcoming*)
- 2023-2024 *away with words*, paperpulp paintings & audio installation, Vlerick Business School, Ghent, Belgium
- 2023-2024 *The City is a Circle*, guidebook and performance walks, Art on the Atlanta BeltLine, Atlanta, GA
- 2023 *Emergence: a reflection*, video essay, Flux Virtual Art Series, online
- 2022 *Emergence*, multimedia public art installations, Flux Projects, Atlanta, GA
- 2022 *CCA MFA Show*, paintings and ceramics, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco, CA
- 2022 *Barclay Simpson Exhibition*, multimedia installation, Hubbell Street Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2022 *Personal Histories*, ceramics and performance poetry, Hubbell Street Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2022 *Approximations*, photography installation, Hubbell Street Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2021 *Well Meaning Beings*, multi-media installation, PlaySpace Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2021 *Labors of Love*, performance, handwoven textiles, ceramics, SOS gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 *How to Heal A Wound*, handwoven textiles, De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 *The Light Between Us*, multi-channel video projection, Salesforce Tower, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 *Gentle and Kind Things* (solo), handwoven textiles, online
- 2020 *Gala Award Exhibition*, planted ceramic vessels, California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 *On Borders and Boundaries*, performance/photography, Hubbell Street Galleries, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 *Scholarship Award Exhibition*, painting, 350 Kansas Street, San Francisco, CA
- 2018 *Museum of Our Forgotten Selves*, audio-performance, Cambridge Science Festival, Cambridge, UK
- 2018 *Museum of Our Forgotten Selves*, audio-performance, Shop Front Festival Coventry, UK
- 2018 *Hope In Action*, multimedia exhibit, Peachtree Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2017 *Museum of Our Forgotten Selves*, audio-performance, Woodruff Arts Center, Atlanta, GA
- 2017 *Opera in the Shower*, performance installation, Works on Water, New York, NY
- 2017 *Opera in the Shower*, performance installation, Art on the BeltLine, Atlanta, GA
- 2015 *Controlled Explosions*, performance installation, Shop Front Theatre, Coventry, UK
- 2015 *And Some Are Hidden in Plain Sight*, participatory outdoor installation, Duke University, Durham, NC
- 2014 *You Are Here*, All Change International (simultaneous international audio installations), London, UK  
Reykjavik, Iceland; New Orleans, US; New York City, US; Augsburg, Germany
- 2013 *Careful*, A footwashing performance on forgiveness, Museum of Broken Relationships, London, UK
- 2010-2014 *I Confess*, 30+ shows including Tate Britain, Hightide Festival, Standpoint Gallery, UK wide
- 2009-2013 *StoryStation*, 10+ shows incl. Peking University Beijing, China; Bibb Senior Center, Macon, GA;  
Nu:Write Festival Zagreb, Croatia; Battersea Arts Centre, London, UK
- 2008 *London Eyes America* (solo), participatory multimedia installation, CSSD, London, UK

## THEATRE

- 2024 Co-Author, *Mystery of Rachel Sinclair*, Gottingen Literature House, Gottingen, Germany (*forthcoming*)
- 2021 Director, *A Most American Town* by Lee Osorio, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA
- 2019 Director, *Be Here Now* by Deb Zoe Laufer, Aurora Theatre, Atlanta, GA
- 2019 Director, *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.* by Alice Birch, 7Stages Theatre, Atlanta, GA
- 2018 Director, *Throw me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up* by Lucy Alibar, Aurora Theatre, Atlanta, GA
- 2017 Dramaturg, *Knead* by Mary-Lynn Owen, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA
- 2016 Director/Deviser, *Manifesting Destiny* by the company, Corbett Theatre, E15, Essex, UK
- 2015 Director/Co-Author, *Hellscreen* by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm and Rachel Parish, The Vaults Festival, London, UK
- 2013 Director, *Camino Real* by Tennessee Williams, East15, Essex, UK
- 2013 Director, *Soon until Forever* by Shireen Mula, Theatre 503, London, UK
- 2012-2013 Director/Co-Author, *Superjohn* by Rachel Parish and Titania Krimpas, UK tour
- 2013 Director, *Other People's Gardens* by Kenneth Emson, Arcola Theatre, London, UK
- 2012 Director, *Arabian Nights* by Mary Zimmerman, City Lit Theatre, London, UK
- 2012 Director, *Caucasian Chalk Circle* by Bertolt Brecht, Royal & Derngate, Northampton, UK
- 2011 Director, *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare, The Scoop, London, UK
- 2011 Director, *The Alchemist (after Jonson)* devised by the company, Hoxton Hall, London, UK
- 2010 Director, *Elevator* by Gabriel Pintilei, New Diorama, London, UK
- 2010 Director/Deviser, *Stella (after Goethe)* by the Company, Southwark Playhouse, London, UK
- 2010 Director/Deviser, *Stella (after Goethe)* by the Company, Douglass Theatre, Macon, GA
- 2009 Director/Deviser, *Grimethorpe Race (musical)* by the Company, Arcola Theatre, London, UK
- 2009 Director/Deviser, *The Silents* by the Company, The Albany, London and the Hive, Brighton, UK
- 2008 Director, *Salsa Saved The Girls* by Rose Martula, The Old Red Lion, London, UK
- 2007 Director, *No Going Back* by Simon Warne, The Tabard Theatre, London, UK
- 2007 Director, *Old O'Malley* by Sam Holcroft, Southwark Playhouse, London, UK
- 2006 Director/Deviser, *The Journey* by the Company, Southwark Playhouse, London, UK

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2023 Nexus Project Fund Award, *The City is a Circle*
- 2023 Creative Capital Award (*finalist, Literature*)
- 2022 Awesome Foundation, *Solar Histories*
- 2021 Barclay Simpson Award
- 2021 Innovator Impact Award, Center for Arts and Public Life @ CCA, *Exit Wound*
- 2019-2022 California College of the Arts, Merit Award + Diversity Award (*full tuition*)
- 2018-2021 Reiser Award Alliance Theatre, *A Most American Town*
- 2017-2018 Fulton County Arts and Culture, Glenn Family Foundation, MailChimp, Kendeda Fund, City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, *Drum Major Project*
- 2009- 2017 Arts Council England, 10 grants awarded for projects including *All Change, Hellscreen, Superjohn, Soon Until Forever, Stella, StoryStation, Museum of Our Forgotten Selves*
- 2014-2016 Dan and Joanna S Rose Fund, *Emotional Competency in Policing Project*
- 2012-2013 Wellcome Trust People's Award *Superjohn*
- 2010 Hoxton Select Award, *The Alchemist*
- 2007-2008 Arts and Humanities Research Council Research Preparation Award + Overseas travel grant
- 2007 Centre for Excellence in Theatre Training Artist Bursary

## ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- 2021-current Inaugural Artist-in-Residence, Vlerick Business School, Brussels/Ghent, Belgium
- 2022-2023 Scholar-in-Residence, Art on the Atlanta Beltline, Atlanta, GA

- 2022-2023 Spillways Residency Fellow, Antenna, New Orleans, LA  
 2013-2016 Resident Artist, John Jay College of Criminal Justice at CUNY, NYC  
 2015 Artist in Residence, Duke University, Forum for Scholars & Publics & Anthropology Department, Durham, NC  
 2008 Artist in Residence, Center for Excellence in Theatre Training, London, UK

### ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

- 2009-current Founder and Artistic Director, Firehouse Creative Productions, US/UK  
 2016-2019 Curator/Artistic Director, Little Five Arts Alive Festival, Atlanta, GA  
 2013-2014 Artistic Director, All Change Festival, London, UK  
 2009-2010 Creative Associate, Arch 468, London, UK  
 2008 Curator, Southwark Playhouse Secrets, London, UK  
 2005-2006 Script reader, Royal Court Young Theatre; Courtyard Theatre, London, UK

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021-current Inaugural Artist-in-Residence, Vlerick Business School, Brussels/Ghent, Belgium  
 Courses: Approaches to Arts-based Research for PhD students  
 Non Hierarchical Teaching Methodologies through Environmental Collaboration  
 Collaborative Teaching in a Hybrid Environment  
 2020-2021 Graduate Teaching Assistant, California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA  
 Courses: Sculpture 1  
 California Parklands  
 Journalism  
 Citizen Artists and Journalists  
 2021 Graduate Student Representative, CCA, MFA Fine Arts Department, San Francisco, CA  
 Duties: Facilitated communication between faculty and students, attending faculty meetings and hosting student town halls; Organized Visiting Artists to give talks and hold studio visits; Created and produced *Notes from the Studio*, a series of faculty and student studio visits/artist talks to network and share work-in-progress; Created and produced *Salons on Speed*, a series of gallery shows connecting students from artist and curatorial graduate programs  
 2016-2019 Adjunct Faculty, Emory University, Department of Theatre Studies and Center for the Study of Human Health, Atlanta, GA  
 Courses: Introduction to Performance  
 Practicing Presence  
 Creating New Works (co-taught with playwright, Edith Freni)  
 Reading a Scene (co-taught class with Emergency Medicine Faculty, Dr. James O'Shea)  
 2016 Guest Director, East 15 Acting School, Contemporary Theatre, Devising New Performance, Essex, UK  
 2013 Visiting Artist, East 15 Acting School, Contemporary Theatre, Expressionism in Text, Essex, UK  
 2012 Guest Director, City Lit, Acting Department, Devising and Adaptation, London, UK  
 2012 Guest Director, University of Northampton, Acting Department, Brecht+Devising, Northampton, UK  
 2012 Visiting Artist, Ideas for Creative Exploration at the University of Georgia, Interdisciplinary Arts Engagement, Athens, GA  
 2012 Visiting Artist, Georgia College and State University Theatre Department, Food Project, Milledgeville, GA  
 2010 Visiting Artist, University of Georgia Drama Department, Devising Stella, Athens, GA  
 2010 Guest Artist, Georgia College and State University Theatre Department, Dramaturgy, Milledgeville, GA

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 Invited Artist, *Weaving Home Truths + Hybrid Warfare*, University of Sherbrooke, Montreal, Canada  
 2021 Presenting Artist, *International Dramaturgy Lab*, Dramaturgy Without Borders, Literary Managers

- and Dramaturgs of the Americas Conference Mexico City, Mexico
- 2021 Featured Topics Speaker, *Fostering Collective Learning Cultures*, Art School Pedagogy 2.0, Teachers College Columbia University, New York, NY
- 2021 Invited Panelist, *Reframing Equity and Inclusion in the Arts*, KSU Creative Placemaking Symposium, Kennesaw, GA
- 2019 Peer Exchange, *ArtPlace America Annual Summit*, Jackson, MS
- 2017 Panel Speaker, *Art and Activism*, 7 Stages, Atlanta, GA
- 2011 Panel Speaker, *Devising new theatre for children*, Dramaturg's Network, London, UK
- 2011 Presenting Artist, *Rethinking Negotiation Teaching and the Arts*, Peking University, Beijing, China
- 2010 Guest Artist, *Movement + Conflict Transformation*, European Graduate School, Saas Fee, Switzerland
- 2010 Presenting Artist, *Cross-arts Collaboration*, Crossroads Writers Conference, Mercer University, Macon, GA
- 2007 Presenting Artist, *Public/Private Identity in Devising Performance*, PG Conference CSSD, London, UK

## PUBLICATIONS

Parish, Rachel and Jack Cambria. *The Other Side of the Door: The Art of Compassion in Policing*. St. Paul, MN, Dispute Resolution Institute Press, 2020.

Honeyman, Chris and Rachel Parish. "Choreography of Negotiation: Movement in Three Acts." in *The Choreography of Resolution: Conflict, Movement, and Neuroscience*, edited by Michelle LeBaron, American Bar Association, 2013.

Lira, Leonard and Rachel Parish. "Making it up as you go: Educating Military and Theater Practitioners in Design." in *Educating Negotiators for a Connected World*, edited by Chris Honeyman, James Coben and Andrew Wei-Min Lee, Dispute Resolution Institute Press, 2013. Vol 4 of *Rethinking Negotiation Teaching*.

Blanchot, Eric, et al. "Education of Non-Students." in *Educating Negotiators for a Connected World*, St. Paul, MN, Dispute Resolution Institute Press, 2013, Vol 4 of *Rethinking Negotiation Teaching*.

## ILLUSTRATIVE PROJECTS

2022 *Emergence*, Atlanta, GA

Combining my practices with sculpture, live performance, video, sound art and social practice, I conceived and implemented this environmental public artwork, through a commission from Flux Projects. Over six months I created partnerships with community leaders from the Muscogee nation, educators, scientists, urban planners and local governments as well as a dozen local artists to develop a series of artistic offerings illuminating complex histories and contexts of the waterways hidden beneath downtown Atlanta. Public performances, community conversations, sculptural, video and sound installations all activated the sites of the waterways beneath Grady hospital, the state Capitol, the Gulch and Centennial Park, offering the public the opportunity to collectively consider the power of the human and more than human ecologies upon which Atlanta has been built.

2020 *Hybrid Learning Think Tank*, Online

I initiated and ran an online think tank interrogating how we as artists and educators approach learning, making and being, in ways that meet the moment (in collaboration with Kim Anno). Between May 12 and July 21, 2020, a community of artists, scholars, students and creative practitioners gathered to collectively explore the changing landscape at the intersection of the arts, engagement and educational sectors. Dialogic and non-hierarchical, the meetings unfolded as spaces for participants to share and unpack issues from their own experiences/perspectives and to perhaps find ways of moving intersecting fields forward in this unique time with care and intention. Over sixty people based in the US, Canada and the UK took part in the think tank's weekly meetings.

2016-2019 *Little Five Arts Alive*, Atlanta, GA

As Artistic Director of Little Five Arts Alive (L5AA), I developed and curated a three-year creative placemaking project supported by ArtPlace America. L5AA was a free, outdoor performing arts festival, presenting live, interactive and performing arts on two plazas in an independent business district with programming every Saturday and Sunday for six months a year. In three years, I programmed and supported over 300 individual artists, including dancers, musicians, sculptors, filmmakers and theatre makers. The work was simultaneously designed to foster collaboration across a fractured community, to increase public safety, promote community and economic development, and to engage the City of Atlanta with creative placemaking activities leading to a formal program being developed within the city government.

2017-2018 *Drum Major Project*, Atlanta, GA

A city-wide civic arts engagement commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's funeral through collaboration with diverse communities, artists, and activists. This project engaged over 2000 participants across Fulton County in art-and-dialogue workshops, with hundreds more participating in the March for Humanity, which retraced the steps of King's funeral procession on the anniversary itself.

2013-2016 *The Other Side of the Door*, New York, NY

Multi-year collaboration with Lt. Jack Cambria, head of the New York City Police Department's Hostage Negotiation Team, to develop an arts-based compassion-training course for police officers. We developed a program that used storytelling and actor training techniques to facilitate sensitivity training that was reflexive—that allowed the law enforcement officials to engage with their own vulnerabilities as well as the vulnerabilities of the communities that they encountered, on a deeply sensory and personal level.

2011-2016 *Firesides*, London, UK; New York, NY; Athens, GA; Atlanta, GA

Firesides were curated dinner gatherings bringing together artists and non-artists for conversation and collaboration. Over six years I developed, produced and curated 35 events internationally. Part community-building and part development platform, participants brought to the table something they were working on or thinking about at the moment (whether a question or issue concerning them, or a creative project they were in the process of making). Through a guided process, people shared stories, provided constructive critique, and found points of intersection with a diverse group of others over a shared meal.

2011-2015 *Big Idea Workshops*, London, UK and New York, NY

An annual week-long interdisciplinary arts incubator bringing diverse artists and thought leaders together to explore contemporary relationships to big ideas including Power, Belief, and Time. I originated, produced and facilitated these fully funded opportunities which resulted in six produced shows, two new companies, and numerous collaborative performance research projects.

2013-2014 *All Change Festival*, London, UK; Reykjavik, Iceland; New Orleans + NYC, US; Augsburg, Germany

All Change Festival was a free, boundary busting performance festival animating outdoor and indoor spaces with accessible and innovative contemporary performance. The 2014 iteration of this festival included simultaneous events in five international cities (Reykjavik, Augsburg, London, New York and New Orleans), with forty-five performance events at the UK site alone (Lyric Hammersmith). I established, directed and co-produced the festival, developed an artist residency, and commissioned performances for the festivals. All Change provided a platform to discuss (through practice and debate) issues such as authorship, primacy of text, translation between languages and between verbal and nonverbal forms of communication, process, ensemble work, different approaches to training, and setting up the rules of the game for a performance culture.

2011-2013 *Superjohn*, UK

Multi-year collaboration between artists and the Whittington Hospital's Pediatric Oncology Unit, exploring the power of imagination in dealing with adversity. I originated the project, recruited a team, designed the

engagement process, co-authored, co-produced and directed the creation of the new play. Outcomes included a new play for family audiences (national tour), a book, publications and innovation within medical practice.

2011+2015 *Tesseract*, Macon, GA and Pickering, UK

An intergenerational story-sharing program using the arts to create community between two isolated groups while promoting memory function in the elderly with cognitive deficits and literacy in vulnerable youth. I designed the concept, recruited the teams, worked as lead facilitator, and creatively produced all aspects of the project.

2010-2012 *Re-locate*, London, UK and Georgia, USA (multiple locations)

An international artist residency program that provided a unique place for artists to explore and develop their work within underserved communities. Over a duration of 2-6 weeks artists enjoyed a fully funded time and space to create new works while offering opportunities to share knowledge and practice with diverse communities.

2010-2012 *Bread and Roses*, Macon, GA

A three-year arts-based resiliency-building program for vulnerable girls in Macon, GA, USA. Bread and Roses consisted of a year round program of engagement, and a month long summer intensive for up to 17 girls between the ages of 7-13, with a team of five professional artists and a consortium of local partners to deliver the ongoing program of activities.

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

2023 Deborah Silver, Split Shed Weaving, Atlanta, GA

2021 San Francisco Center for the Book, Letterpress Core Certificate, San Francisco, CA

2015 Permaculture Institute, Permaculture Design Certificate, Taos, NM

2014 Yoga Teacher Training, Sonic Yoga, New York, NY

2013 Lincoln Center Director's Lab, New York, NY

2008 National Theatre Studio's invitation-only directors' course, London, UK

2007 Anne Bogart, the SITI Company and Tina Landau on Viewpoints and Composition, NY

2006 LaMama ETC (Rina Yerushalmi, John Jesurun, Ping Chong, and Jean-Guy Lecat), Umbria, Italy

2004-2006 Directing with Katie Mitchell, performance with Simon McBurney, ensemble practice with Gardzienice, puppetry with Improbable, directing with Matthew Dunster workshops, London, UK

## EDUCATION

2022 MFA Fine Arts, *California College of the Arts*, San Francisco, California, USA

2008 MA Performance Practices and Research, *Royal Central School of Speech and Drama*, London, UK  
(*graduation with distinction*)

2003 BA Philosophy and BA Drama and Theatre, *University of Georgia*, Athens, Georgia, USA (*cum laude*)