

Finley Coyl

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Finley Coyl is an artist, activist and media maker working at the intersection of multimedia storytelling and social justice. Coyl's work delves into dynamics of social justice and resistance, queerness and obscenity, codes and mythologies, transformation and shift. Coyl utilizes a variety of traditional and new media formats - ranging from print design and installation to video documentary and interactive web-based narrative. Originally from Delaware, Coyl currently works in the Bay Area, CA.

EDUCATION

2001 B.A., English Literature, Washington University, St. Louis, MO.
2017 M.F.A. Candidate, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015-17 Teaching Assistant, UCSC. Santa Cruz, CA.

2015-17 Freelance print and web designer and videographer. Bay Area, CA.

2013-15 Communications Associate. Glide Foundation, San Francisco CA.
Print, web and media production designer. Assisted in working with non-profit staff and participants for storytelling workshops to articulate personal narratives.

2003-14 Freelance web and print designer. Philadelphia, PA and San Francisco, CA.

AWARDS / GRANTS / FELLOWSHIPS

2017 Florence French Fellowship award recipient. Santa Cruz, CA.

2016 Florence French Fellowship award recipient. Santa Cruz, CA.

2011 Awesome Foundation grant recipient. San Francisco, CA.

EXHIBITION RECORD

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2017 *DANM MFA Show*. Santa Cruz, CA.
- 2015 *Open Studios*. DANM MFA first quarter show, Santa Cruz, CA.
- 2014 *Queer Prophecies*. At SubMission and the LGBT Center, San Francisco, CA.
Curated by Noelle Duncan.
Part of the 2014 National Queer Arts Festival.
We Are all Made of Dead Stars. Two 18" x 24" digital portraits with drawing based on crowdsourced ideas of queer visions for the future.
- 2014 *L.A. Art Book Fair*. At the Geffen Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA.
The Infinite Asshole of the Present, *The Subtle Horror of the Everyday*, *We Never Sleep and We Never Say No / Resistance*. Dimensions variable, books of drawn portraits and photography.
- 2013 *Dirty Comics*. At the Center for Sex and Culture, San Francisco, CA.
The Infinite Asshole of the Present, *The Subtle Horror of the Everyday*, *We Never Sleep and We Never Say No / Resistance*. Dimensions variable, books of drawn portraits and photography.
- 2012 *Best Revenge*. At Alley Cat, San Francisco, CA.
Curated by Lex Non Scripta and Caitlin Sweet.
Part of the 2012 National Queer Arts Festival.
Resistance. A series of ink and pencil drawings on paper, dimensions variable, depicting queer poses of resistance.
- 2012 *Streetopia*. At the Luggage Store, San Francisco, CA.
Curated by Erick Lyle.
A month of art shows, workshops, performances, and tours connecting a history of critical resistance in San Francisco to artwork questioning utopia within a social justice context.
The Where It Is We Get To. An 8' x 34' large-scale drawn and painted installation on canvas.
Documentation of this piece was published in the Streetopia book, ed. Erick Lyle (Booklyn, 2015).
- 2011 *The 2011 National Queer Arts Festival: Queer It Yourself*. At SOMArts, San Francisco, CA.
Curated by the Queer Cultural Center
Panorama. An 8' x 16' drawn and painted installation on canvas with large-scale digital prints. The installation served as an interactive photo booth for the audience during the opening.
- 2011 *Five Objects and a Story*. At Million Fishes, San Francisco, CA.
Curated by Emmett Ramstad.
An installation of five suspended objects and five corresponding digital prints or ink drawings on paper, dimensions variable.
- 2010 *Bring Your Own Queer*. At Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA.
May Queens / The Body No Longer has the Monopoly for Enacting the Desires of the Brain. Eight 9' x 5' stenciled and painted banners on canvas of large-scale stencil portraits / one 8' x 5' painted banner on canvas.

- 2010 *Beast*. At Million Fishes, San Francisco, CA.
Co-curated by Finley Coyl and Chrystal Powell.
Habit. Performance installation within a 7' x 2.5' installation of ink and pencil drawings on paper.
- 2009 *Chicken*. At The Spare Room Project, San Francisco, CA.
Curated by Emmett Ramstad.
The Twin Protective Chickens. An 8' x 10' installation of digital prints made from photographs and drawings on a stenciled paper background.
- 2009 *Prayers for Children*. Online art publication: www.prayersforshildrenbe.com.
Creaturesque. Two digital prints from the *Creaturesque* series.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2012 *The Subtle Horror of the Everyday*. At the Center for Sex and Culture, San Francisco, CA.
Curated by Dorian Katz.
A 9.5' x 40.5' large-scale drawn and painted installation on canvas with photographs and found objects detailing queer potential for change amidst a tenuous economy and community instability.
- 2008 *The Miss Rockaway Armada: storytelling space*. At the Albany Bulb Landfill, Albany CA.
Organized by Elan Margolis.
Painting and digitally prints on banners, dimensions variable, detailing drawings and writing about my experience with the Miss Rockaway Armada in 2006, organized by Swoon.
An excerpt of this writing was published in Swoon's self-titled book (Abrams Books, 2008).

Selected Collaborations

- 2011 *Permutae*. Performance at CounterPULSE, San Francisco, CA.
(Projected drawings and choreography: Finley Coyl. Projected video and sound: Mary Franck.)
A 24 min. performance featuring performers Qilo Matzen, Kyra Rice, Chrysalis Hyon.
- 2011 *Reception*. Performance at the Garage and CounterPULSE, San Francisco, CA.
by Tessa Wills.
(Set design and costumes: Finley Coyl.)
- 2009 *May Queens*. Installation for film shoot, *Surrender Dorothy*, Ida, TN.
(Organized and filmed by: Elan Margolis / Loose Collective. Banner installation / set design: Finley Coyl.)
- 2006 *The Miss Rockaway Armada*. Performance installation, Mississippi River.
Organized by Swoon.
(Crew member, storyteller: Finley Coyl.)
A group of 30 artists from New York and San Francisco gathered to build installation rafts from recycled materials and travel the upper Mississippi River while hosting workshops and performance events.
- 2006 *Mame Losh'n*. Performance, Hampshire College, MA.
(Writing: Finley Coyl and Elan Margolis. Directing: Elan Margolis.)
A feature-length queer Yiddish theater spectacular.

ARTIST RESIDENCY

2010 – 12 Resident artist at Million Fishes Arts Collective, San Francisco, CA

EXHIBITIONS CURATED

2012 *Telltale: Concocting Queer Mythologies*. Group performance event at Million Fishes, San Francisco, CA.
Co-curated by Finley Coyl and Chrystal Powell.
Featuring solo and group performance nights as part of the 2012 National Queer Arts Festival.

2010 *Beast*. Group show at Million Fishes, San Francisco, CA.
Co-curated by Finley Coyl and Chrystal Powell.
A visual art, performance and installation show featuring 17 artists working in creaturely themes.

TECHNICAL ABILITIES

- + Proficient in Adobe Creative Cloud: [for graphic design for print + web, video / interactive media and audio editing]
Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, After Effects, Premiere Pro, Audition, Media Encoder
- + Proficient in WordPress, NationBuilder, Squarespace, Blackbaud products [CMS maintenance and design]
- + HTML5 / CSS
- + Tableau, Carto [data visualization]
- + Experienced in digital photography and videography
- + Experienced in drawing, painting and large-scale installations
- + Experienced in large-format printing, commercial printing process and file preparation

REFERENCES

Emmett Ramstad. Artist and post-doctoral fellow at the University of Minnesota. ramsoo57@umn.edu

Dorian Katz. Artist and Curator at the Center for Sex and Culture. dorian.katz@gmail.com