

Bjorn Lee Varella

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EDUCATION

Columbia University

B.A. in Art History and Visual Arts (*summa cum laude*)

2016 – 2020

Major GPA: 4.06 (Average grade > A)

Cumulative GPA: 3.9578 (Average grade = A)

Academic Honours: Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, School of General Studies Honor Society, Dean's List

Scholarships: William Strong Scholarship (2018, 2019), Beatrice Gilbert Scholarship (2017)

Study Abroad Fellowships: Finley Fellowship in Venetian Studies (Summer 2019 in Venice), Earth Institute Fellowship (Summer 2018 in Jordan)

Relevant Coursework

Art in China, Japan and Korea

Arts in Venice (Study Abroad)

Arts of Africa

Arts of Islam: Realignments of Empire and State (circa 1000-1400)

Concepts in Visual Art: Performance (Mixed Grad-Undergrad Seminar)

Contemporary Art at the Venice Biennale (Study Abroad)

Curatorial Positions 1969-Present

Ethical Issues in Museums (Graduate-level seminar)

Evaluating the Evidence of Authenticity

Experimental Film and Video (Film Department)

Introduction to Architecture

Introduction to Art History II

Majors' Colloquium: Literature and Methods of Art History

Queer Performance (Theatre Department)

Instructor: Miriam Chusid

Instructor: Caroline Wamsler

Instructor: Zoë S. Strother

Instructor: Heather Ecker

Instructor: Liz Magic Laser

Instructor: Alexander Alberro

Instructor: Valerie Smith

Instructor: Sally Yerkovich

Instructor: Lynn Catterson

Instructor: Ronald Gregg

Instructor: Michael J. Waters

Instructor: Anne Higonnet

Instructor: Meredith Gamer

Instructor: Paige Johnson

Visual Arts Coursework: Basic Drawing (Instructor: Laleh Khorramian), Making Without Objects (Instructor: Rirkrit Tiravanija), Photo I (Instructor: Thomas Roma), Photo II (Instructor: Alex Strada), Printmaking I: Photogravure (Instructor: Craig Zammiello), Printmaking I: Silkscreen (Tomas Vu-Daniel), Sculpture I (Instructor: Jon Kessler)

Raffles Institution

Secondary and Pre-university Education

2007 - 2012

A Level H2 Subjects: Theatre Studies, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology

A Level H1 Subjects: General Paper, Project Work

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

National Arts Council of Singapore Undergraduate Arts Scholarship

2016 - 2020

"The NAC Arts Scholarship aims to nurture outstanding individuals to contribute to the arts and cultural development in Singapore. As future leaders of the arts and culture sector, scholars will be game changers to push artistic boundaries, and lead their peers to create positive impact for the Singapore community through the arts."

NSF of the Year Letter of Commendation Award (Outstanding Military Service)

2015

Best Soldier of the Month	2014
Raffles Diploma with Merit – Arts and Aesthetics	2012
SYF Central Judging for Drama – Gold with Honours	2012
Marist of the Year (Primary School Valedictorian)	2006
Top Eurasian Pupil Nationally in the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE)	2006

ARTS WORK EXPERIENCE

Richard Maxwell: *Queens Row* at The Kitchen (NYC)

Assistant Stage Manager

Jan '20

- ✓ Stage management duties for New York Times Critic's Pick *Queens Row* at legendary avant-garde performance venue, The Kitchen, including pre-show checks and preparation, post-show laundry, running lines with performers, facilitating rehearsals and being on book.
- ✓ Operation of light board for shows in absence of stage manager.
- ✓ Stagehand and operation of show elements including overhead fans, hazer and house lights.

Performa 19 (NYC)

Administrative Coordinator

Oct '19 – Dec '19

- ✓ Sole person in charge of liaising with curators, producers, marketing team and printing company on layout, production and delivery of print programs (for all 18 performances within a tight three-week turnaround) for the 2019 Performa Biennial, the world's leading performance festival. Commissioned artists in 2019 included Ed Atkins, Kia LaBeija, Korakrit Arunanondchai, Maria Hassabi and Yvonne Rainer among others.
- ✓ Coordinated schedules of judges for the festival's flagship Malcolm McLaren Award.
- ✓ Assisted other members of staff on front-of-house, website and ticketing-related matters.
- ✓ Assisted producers on production-related matters including accommodation for visiting artists, sourcing for artwork fabricators, contractors, furniture, performance props and costumes.

The Wooster Group (NYC)

General Intern

Feb '19 – Mar '20

- ✓ Miscellaneous administrative and office duties with NYC downtown experimental theatre company, The Wooster Group.
- ✓ Observation of company rehearsals and working process leading up to productions of "Since I Can Remember" and Brecht's "The Mother".

Performa 17 (NYC)

Administrative Intern

Oct '17 – Dec '17

- ✓ In charge of liaising with curators, producers, marketing team and printing company on production and delivery of print programs for all shows of the 2017 Performa Biennial. Commissioned artists in 2017 included Barbara Kruger, Jason Moran, Julie Mehretu, Teju Cole, Wangechi Mutu, William Kentridge, Yto Barrada and Zanele Muholi among others.
- ✓ Volunteer manager in charge of recruiting, scheduling and briefing volunteers.
- ✓ Assisted ticketing manager with sales and front-of-house operations.

New York City Players (NYC)

Administrative Intern

May '17 – Aug '17

- ✓ Organized company archive for experimental theatre company, New York City Players.
- ✓ Facilitated the day-to-day administrative management of the company office and assisted on-site during the New York City Players Summer School workshop at Abrons Arts Center,

education project at the Performing Garage and rehearsals for *Paradiso* at Greene Naftali Gallery.

American Realness (NYC)

Administrative Intern

Dec '16 – Jan '17

- ✓ Assisted core team in organization and execution of American Realness 2017, an annual festival of new dance and contemporary performance spanning dance, theatre, music theatre, performance and hybrid performance works.
- ✓ In charge of festival bookshop including operation, sales and inventory.

Field Day (Singapore)

Organizer and Curator

May '16 – Jul '16

- ✓ Organized and curated *Field Day*, a public art festival of artistic experiments featuring 15 artists over two weekends in Singapore. Featured local artists included Aki Hassan, Daniel Chong, Eng Kai Er, Nhawfal Juma'at, Pat Toh, Ryan Ben Lee, Zulkhairi Zulkiflee and others.

National Arts Council (Singapore)

Project Officer

Oct '15 – Mar '16

- ✓ Assisted core team in organization and execution of Singapore Art Week 2016.
- ✓ Liaised with over 80 different stakeholders on the compilation and copywriting of event information for Singapore Art Week print guide and website.
- ✓ Manning of Singapore Art Week website including uploading, updating and refreshing event information.
- ✓ Assisted in research and conceptualization of public art walking tours for launch of Public Art Trust, including research into preexisting artworks and monuments in Esplanade Park vicinity.
- ✓ Distribution of *Singapore's Visual Artists* publication to over 300 artists, galleries, schools, libraries, non-profit institutions, foreign missions and local embassies.

Logue (Singapore)

Intern

Jun '15 – Aug '15

- ✓ Singapore Night Festival set-up of *And So They Say* video installations at National Museum, SAM at 8Q, National Design Centre and School of the Arts.
- ✓ Assisted core team in execution of Superhero Me Festival including event set-up and daily operations of festival.
- ✓ Volunteer Manager and Front of House IC.

Project 50/100 (Singapore)

Research Intern

Dec '14 – Jun '15

- ✓ Preliminary research for project development.
- ✓ Maintaining and updating project blog and social media channels.
- ✓ Other administrative tasks including minute-taking and acting as aide to members of steering committee.

OH! Open House (Singapore)

Research and Curatorial Intern

Dec '14 - May '15

- ✓ Part of planning, conceptualization and execution core team for OH Joo Chiat neighbourhood art walkabout.
- ✓ Researched into history and cultural zeitgeist of heritage neighbourhood Joo Chiat for tour content.
- ✓ Part of editorial team for OH Joo Chiat audience journal.

- ✓ Artist liaison duties and other administrative duties in absence of general manager.
- ✓ Volunteer manager in charge of recruitment, training, rostering and supervision of over 120 volunteers.
- ✓ Post-event evaluation and survey data compilation.
- ✓ Co-curator of *Back Talk – Part I: Death of the Artist*, an experiential showcase of Basim Magdy's film *The Dent* at Platform Projects. Also featured works by Robert Mapplethorpe, Zhang Xiaogang and others drawn from a private collection.

Singapore Armed Forces

Operations Specialist

2013 – 2014

- ✓ Conscript service in Singapore military.
- ✓ Planned and organized unit events (e.g. Family Day 2013, Safety Day 2014, National Day Observance Ceremony 2014, Base Commander Engagement and Barbeque).
- ✓ Authored 1st edition of unit manual in collaboration with unit commanders.
- ✓ Authored Occupational Health and Safety manual and worked with external consultant as intermediary to compile documentation from all departments for OHSAS 18001 certification.
- ✓ Routine administrative tasks such as recording minutes, indenting office supplies, arranging meetings, managing conference room bookings, acting as personal aide to supervising officer.

ARTS VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

Drama Box

Volunteer for SCENES: FORUM THEATRE FESTIVAL

2015

- ✓ Front of house duties – event set-up, interaction with guests, conducting surveys, ushering.

Volunteer for Chng Seok Tin, Cultural Medallion Recipient and Printmaker with Vision Impairment 2014 - 2016

- ✓ Sighted guide and printmaking student.

Checkpoint Theatre

Front-of-house Volunteer

2014 - 2016

- ✓ Front of house duties – event set-up, interaction with guests, conducting surveys, ushering.

Singapore International Festival of Arts

Festival Ambassador

2014

- ✓ Front of house duties – event set-up, interaction with guests, conducting surveys, ushering.

Affordable Art Fair

Fair Assistant

2014

- ✓ Front of house duties: event set-up, interaction with guests, conducting surveys, ushering.
- ✓ Artwork storage.

Both Sides, Now: An Immersive Arts Experience

Volunteer Facilitator

2014

- ✓ Facilitation of public participation in arts installations.
- ✓ Interaction with members of the public on end-of-life issues.

ARTISTIC AND PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

TITLE	YEAR	ARTIST/DIRECTOR	ORGANISATION
<i>CONQUEST</i> (GROUP CRAWL THROUGH DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN)	2019	POPE.L	PUBLIC ART FUND
//: "SONGS OF SORROW" / "SOCKS OF SWALLOWS" / "SOS" / "///\ \\" :// (...FOR MY MOTHER)	2018	BJORN LEE VARELLA	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
<i>MILLENNIAL NOSTALGIA</i>	2017	BJORN LEE VARELLA	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
<i>THE SECOND WEDDING OF YASMIN BLESSING TO JEFF JACKMAN JR.</i>	2017	TORY VAZQUEZ	NEW YORK CITY PLAYERS
<i>NATIONALISM FOR A GREAT AMERICA</i>	2016	BJORN LEE VARELLA	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
<i>THE TRIBE</i>	2016	SPEAK CRYPTIC	THE O.P.E.N., SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS
<i>MERDEKA AND RECOUNT</i>	2016	BJORN LEE VARELLA	PART OF FIELD DAY, AN ASSEMBLY OF ARTISTIC EXPERIMENTS AT HONG LIM PARK
<i>GHOSTWRITING</i>	2016	COLLABORATION WITH EVIL EMPIRE, BERNY TAN, CALLY TAN AND CHELSEA CHENG	OH! OPEN HOUSE, POTONG PASIR EDITION
<i>RUNNING WITH STRIPPERS: MY GRANDFATHER'S ROAD</i>	2015	NEO KIM SENG	CAKE THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS
<i>INCARNATION OF THE BEAST</i>	2015	JOAVIEN NG	THEATREWORKS
<i>WAYS OF WANDERING</i>	2014	NOORLINAH MOHAMED	THE O.P.E.N., SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS
<i>LORD OF THE FLIES</i>	2012	DANIEL JENKINS	SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE
<i>SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK: MACBETH</i>	2011	NIKOLAI FOSTER	SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE

SKILLS

- ✓ Mandarin (Speak/Read/Write, Intermediate)
- ✓ Microsoft Word/Excel/PowerPoint (Advanced)
- ✓ Adobe Photoshop/InDesign (Intermediate)
- ✓ Video editing in Final Cut Pro and iMovie (Basic)
- ✓ Woodworking/Metalworking (Basic)
- ✓ Public Speaking and Performance
- ✓ Social Media