

Falaks Vasa | CV

Artist | Writer | Educator

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Education

- 2023 MFA, Literary Arts, Digital & Cross-Disciplinary Writing with a Thesis in Fiction, Brown University
- 2018 BFA, Interdisciplinary Studio Art with a Thesis in Visual & Critical Studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2016 Apprenticeship, Defibrillator Performance Art Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2011 Photography Diploma, Studio Pomegranate, Kolkata, India

Residencies

- 2025 Pollinator, Virtual
- 2018 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Madison, ME
- 2017 ACRE, Steuben, WI
- 2016 Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan, Ireland

Awards

- 2022 Reginald D. Archambault Award for Teaching Excellence, Brown University
Community-Based Learning and Research Grant, Swearer Center for Equity & Inclusion
- 2018 Fellowship & SAIC Matching Scholarship, Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture
- 2017 Leroy Neiman Scholarship & Steketee Scholarship, Ox-Bow School of Art
- 2016 Scholars' Program & Dean's List, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Travel Scholarship, Ballyvaughan, Ireland, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2014 Principal's Award for All-Round Excellence, St. Thomas' School, Kolkata, India

Publications

- 2025 'New Course Positions Pedagogy as Source of Limitless Innovation', RISD Website
- 2024 Queer Chess Poems from the Deep Sea, GUTS, a queer publication, Kolkata, India
"Grad Students at RISD Repurpose Creative Camouflage Strategies", RISD Website
"Steering Into Humor: MFA Summer Lecture Series with Falaks Vasa", MassArt Website
- 2023 Shor, a Novel, MFA Thesis, Brown University
- 2022 For Homes, Raza: A Queer Poetry Anthology, One Future Collective
On being actively invisible, It's Not Easy Being Green: Exhibition Catalog
- 2021 Double-Diamond Decolonizer, Stellium Literary Magazine, Vol1 Issue 3: Home
- 2020 Nordic Summer University, Logos Verlag Berlin
- 2019 Daily Stress, in collaboration with Esther Sibiude
Eat Me Out, Poetry Chapbook, unnamed zine project
- 2018 Heliantheae Scalesia, in collaboration with Patricia Rose
Bearded Flamingos: on Passing, Migration, and Camouflage, John M. Flaxman Library
Dear Kuzu, Botanical Speculations, Cambridge Scholars
Pigeon: A Radical Animal Reader, Sybil Press
Anthropocentric Acts Against the Idea of Nature, Journal of Nature in Visual Culture
- 2017 Performing Fictions: Volume Two, Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection
- 2016 Cymera: An Augmented Reality Zine, Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection
- 2015 First, School of the Art Institute of Chicago First Years' Magazine

Teaching Experience
Courses Taught as Instructor of Record

Course Title	Institution	Level & Term(s)	Areas of Study
Collegiate Teaching: Preparation & Reflection	Rhode Island School of Design	Graduate Spring '26	Art Education
Pedagogical Playgrounds: Classroom as Studio ¹	Rhode Island School of Design	Graduate Fall '25	Art Education, Interdisciplinary Art
Collegiate Studio: Discipline-Centered Learning	Rhode Island School of Design	Graduate Spring '25	Art Education
Crochet, Gifts, Friends: The Politics of Softness	Ox-Bow School of Art	Undergraduate Summer '24	Fiber Arts, Humanities
Critical Introduction to the Theory & History of Architecture & Design	Rhode Island School of Design	First-Year UG Spring '26	Art History, Design Studies
		Spring '25	
		Spring '24	
Camouflage as Praxis: Now You See Me Now You ²	Rhode Island School of Design	Graduate Fall '25	Video, New Media, Interdisciplinary Art
		Fall '24	
Global Modernisms	Rhode Island School of Design	First-Year UG Fall '24	Art History
Queer Strategies of Resistance: Fools, Tricksters, Shapeshifters ³	Brown University	Pre-College Summer '24	Queer Studies, Humanities, Interdisciplinary Art
		Summer '23	
		Summer '22	
Juicy Carcasses, Abundant Futures: Detritus as Nourishment	MassArt	Graduate Fall '25	Video, New Media, Interdisciplinary Art
	Rhode Island School of Design	Spring '24	

¹ publication: “New Course Positions Pedagogy as Source of Limitless Innovation”, RISD website, '25

² publication: “Grad Students at RISD Repurpose Creative Camouflage Strategies”, RISD Website, '24

³ recipient of the Reginald D. Archambault Award for Teaching Excellence

	Brown University	Undergraduate Spring '23	Creative Writing
Relearning Failure ⁴	Brown University	Undergraduate Fall '22	Interdisciplinary Art

Additional Teaching Experience

- 2024 Lead Faculty
 Impostors Only: Fake It Till You Break It
 Colloquium for the Interdisciplinary MFA Low-Residency Program, Massachusetts College of Art & Design
 Details: Developed colloquium theme & led the curation of keynote and guest speakers; organized and facilitated graduate student critiques and panel discussions during a 5-day event hosting 200+ artists, students, and faculty from MassArt and beyond.
- 2023 Faculty
 Visual and Performing Arts, Roxbury Prep High School
 Details: Created and executed a school-wide visual and performing arts syllabus for 350+ high school students, including ordering and keeping track of school-wide art supplies.
- 2021 Workshop Facilitator
 Imagining Utopias: Queer Pasts, Presents, and Futures, Cutie.BIPOC Festival
 Details: Designed and taught a 12-week workshop exploring queer utopias through collage and mural-making.
- 2021 Workshop Facilitator
 Pillows for the Pandemic, Queer Arts Festival, Vancouver, Canada
 Details: Conceptualized and facilitated a workshop about imagining comfort in the pandemic and making pillows with queer and trans participants.
- 2020 Faculty
 Photography: A Practice in Looking, Openhouse, Kolkata
 Details: Instructed 3 sections of a 6-week introduction to photography course to middle and high school students.
- 2019 Museum Educator
 School & Public Programs, Brooklyn Children's Museum, NY
 Details: Taught school and public programs in the visual arts, including collage and painting, to pre-K through 5th grade students.
- 2018 Teaching Assistant
 Core Studio I, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

⁴ recipient of the Community-Based Research & Learning Grant, Swearer Center

Details: Supported the instructor-of-record with lesson planning, mentoring students, and conducting workshops for a first-year undergraduate course.

- 2017 Teaching Assistant
Research Studio I, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Details: Supported the instructor-of-record with lesson planning, mentoring students, and conducting workshops for a first-year undergraduate course.

Administrative & Other Work Experience

- 2024 Mentor for Low-Res MFA graduate student, Massachusetts College of Art & Design
2022 Lead Organizer for International Grads, Graduate Labor Organization, Brown University
Graduate Assistant, International Orientation, Brown University
2021 Creative Director, Amra Odbhuth Queer Artists' Collective, Kolkata, India
2020 Branding & Marketing Manager, Openhouse, Kolkata, India
2019 Product Photographer, namaysamay, Kolkata, India
2018 Art Handler, 47 Canal Gallery, Manhattan, NY
2017 Media Center Equipment Trainer, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
2016 Technical Assistant, Impact Performance Festival, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Exhibitions, Performances & Screenings

- 2026 Pre-Drinks for the Revolution, Queen's House, London, UK
Glitch Ecology, MassArt x SoWa Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2025 Reading, 'Impostors Only: Fake It Till You Break It', MassArt, Boston, MA
The Teacher is Absent, SOLO SHOW, House of Khajur, Providence, RI
- 2024 Performances at Erase the Strata: Disguise as Surprise, ODD-KIN gallery, Providence, RI
Visiting Artist Lecture-Performance, MFA Low-Res Program, MassArt, Boston, MA
- 2023 We are the ones we've been waiting for, in collaboration with Asad, Karachi, Pakistan
Nourish Me Balcony, Parmossa, Pianeta Fresco, Parma, Italy
Hindutva & Zionism: Parallels & Departures, Fathi Ghaben Place, Providence, RI
Trees, Rushdies, and Wild Transformations, McCormack Theater, Brown University
- 2022 Where She Comes From, NEIU Fine Arts Center, Chicago, IL
Graduate Students' Reading, McCormack Theater, Brown University
- 2021 It's Not Easy Being Green, Queer Arts Festival, Vancouver, Canada
Eat Me Out, Trans Futures Archive, ISCP, New York City, NY
fwd: One Minute Press Reading Series, Online
Eternal Network, Terrain Biennial, Chicago, IL
Phool/Fool, Abr Circle, Online
- 2020 Small World, Fifth Salonathon, Online
Written on the Body, with D Rosen, Nordic Summer University, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2019 A Shadow as A Stain, ACRE Projects, Chicago, IL
Quantum Gossip: Performances, Motel Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Eat Me Out: Screening, Reading & Workshop, Amra Odbhuth, Kolkata, India

- 2018 Diasphoria Bazaar, Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, Manhattan, NY
 BARTALK #11: The Living Archive, Dankafe Sowieso, The Hague, Netherlands
 Night Bazaar, New Women Space, New York City, NY
 In/habit roving art series: Plants and Animals, The Learning Machine, Chicago, IL
 In Motion: Performance & Unsettling Borders, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
 nevernotmusic: performances, Roman Susan Gallery, Chicago, IL
 Open Engagement, Queens Museum, Queens, NY
 Falaks Vasa: lecture-performances, Tante Nino, Rotterdam, Netherlands
 Underground Performance, Hume/Dogleach, Chicago, IL
 SSSSHHHH #3, Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection, Chicago, IL
- 2017 BFA Thesis Show, Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL
 Young Global Artists' Collective Screening, Los Angeles, CA
 Roger That, Roger Brown Study Collection, Chicago, IL
 Shifting the Center, Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL
 Annual Drag & Burlesque Show, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
 What's My Job?! Gallery X, Chicago, IL
 On Kalaf Asav on Jainism, Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection, Chicago, IL
 THAWALLS, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL
 New Blood XI, Links Hall, Chicago, IL
- 2016 Turtles All The Way Down, The Bridge, Chicago, IL
 Real(good)time, Elastic Arts, Chicago, IL
 New Blood TEN, Links Hall, Chicago, IL
 Human Non-Human Networks, Screening, MacLean Ballroom, Chicago, IL
 Xenophilia, Eye on India, Fulton Street Collective, Chicago, IL
 Place Interminable, with Potluck Salon, 2nd Floor Rear Festival, Chicago, IL
 Video! Video! Zine, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL
- 2015 At the Headwaters, Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts, Gary, IN
 Because we are here for the walls that say maybe, Fat City Gallery, Chicago, IL
 Creature Comforts, LeRoy Neiman Center, Chicago, IL
 New Blood IX, Links Hall, Chicago, IL
 Telegraphic Fields: First Transmissions, LeRoy Neiman Center, Chicago, IL
 Intersections, Siragusa Gallery, Chicago, IL
 Artbash, LeRoy Neiman Center, Chicago, IL