

BARBARA M. POLSTER

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. student, Northwestern University. Comparative Literary Studies.** 2028
Department of Spanish & Portuguese. (anticipated)
Graduate Certificate, Program in Critical Theory.
- Certificate. Harvard University Institute for World Literature Program.** 2024
Hosted by the University of Cyprus, Nicosia Cyprus.
- M.F.A. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Studio.** 2018
Sculpture Department.
Concentration in Visual & Critical Studies.
- B.F.A. Cleveland Institute of Art. Studio.** 2010
Certificate in Visual Culture Emphasis.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Lecturer.** Department of Contemporary Practices. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. 2021-
- Lecturer.** Academic Spine (Core Curriculum) Program. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. 2019-
- Lecturer.** School of Music, Art, Theatre. North Park University. 2021-2023

RESEARCH

- Specialization:** Modernist and Postmodernist Caribbean Literature and Visual Culture, Aesthetics and Politics, Critical Theory, Art History, Latin American Literature.
- Competence:** Semiotics, Structuralist and Poststructuralist thought, Enlightenment philosophy, philosophy of Modernism, Postcolonial studies.

PUBLICATIONS

Criticism

1. "Critics' Picks: Cally Spooner," *Artforum*. 2024
2. "Critics' Picks: Gelitin," *Artforum*. 2023
3. "Dianna Frid: pre-knowing / un-knowing and Lucas Simões: Luscofusco at PATRON" in Chicago, *Art Spiel*. 2023
4. "Michael Madrigali: Big City Nights," *Brooklyn Rail*. 2023
5. "EXITS EXIST: Barbara Stauffacher Solomon." *The Brooklyn Rail*. 2022
6. "Setting Up the Set-Up: Nyeema Morgan at PATRON." *Wrong Life Review*. 2022
7. "Jinn Bronwen Lee at Regards." *Wrong Life Review*. 2022

Essays, Book and Film Reviews, Interviews

1. Exhibition Catalogue Contribution, Secrist | Beach Gallery, Chicago. 2025
2. "Double Empathy: Brecht and the Temporality of Waiting and Protest." *Shifter Journal*. 2022
3. "Art by Design." *Critic's Union Journal*. 2018

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures and Featured Workshops

1. "Art & Research." Mini-Symposium. Nova Scotia College of Art & Design. 2021
2. "Art Now." Guest Lecturer. Nova Scotia College of Art & Design. 2020
3. "Proxy Installation Workshops I & II," co-taught w/ Prof. Danny Floyd, Low Residency MFA Program. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. 2021
4. "Sculpture Dialogues: Barbara Polster & Caroline Dahlberg." Graduate Lecturer. Guest Scholar: Lane Relyea (Northwestern University). School of the Art Institute of Chicago. 2017
5. "Sculpture Dialogues: Barbara Polster & Ryan Compton." Graduate Lecturer. Guest Scholar: Karsten Lund (University of Chicago). School of the Art Institute of Chicago. 2016

AWARDS

External ▲

Research Fellowships and Grants

1. Institute for World Literature Program Fellowship. Northwestern University. 2023
2. Faculty Enrichment Grant. School of Music Art & Theatre. North Park University. 2022
3. Faculty Enrichment Grant. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. 2022
4. ▲City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Public Events (DCASE) Individual Artist Project Grant, Professional Development. 2019

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| 5. ▲Illinois Arts Council Agency Professional Development Grant. | 2019 |
| 6. Odyssey Travel Grant. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2018 |
| 7. Writing Fellowship. Writing Across Curriculum. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2016-2018 |

Academic Prizes

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| 1. Dean's List (x4). The Cleveland Institute of Art. | 2005-2009 |
| 2. David and Ann Deming President's Award. Cleveland Institute of Art. | 2008 |

Tuition Scholarships

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| 1. Dean's Graduate Scholarship (near full tuition). School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2016-2018 |
| 2. Graduate Enrichment Grant. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2016-2018 |
| 3. Cleveland Institute of Art Portfolio Scholarship (near full tuition). Cleveland Institute of Art. | 2005-2010 |
| 4. Ralph W. Woehrman '66 Scholarship. Cleveland Institute of Art. | 2008 |

Honorable Mentions

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| 1. Student Leadership Award Honorable Mention, School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2018 |
| 2. Graduate Fellowship Nominee, School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2017 |

TEACHING

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| Northwestern University | 2024- |
| 1. Intro to Latinx Literature. Teaching Assistant to Maria José Rodríguez-Pliego. | |

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| School of the Art Institute of Chicago | 2019- |
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1. Senior Exhibition Capstone: Exhibition Studies (400 level) (x5).
2. Senior Critique Seminar (400 level) (x3).
3. Contemporary Practices: Core Studio (100 level).
4. Career & Professional Experience Internship Course (400 level).
5. Career & Professional Experience Internship Course (Graduate Seminar).
6. Graduate Projects, Low Residency MFA Program (Graduate Advising).
7. Contemporary Practices: Research Studio I (100 level) (x2).
8. Spine (Core Curriculum) Intensive (400 level) (x2).
9. Independent Study (400 level) (x1)

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| North Park University | 2021-2023 |
| 1. Photography 1: Discourses and Techniques (200 level) (x4). | |
| 2. Ethics of Creative Practice (200 level). | |

OTHER PARTICIPATION

Panel Participation

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| 1. Guest Critique Faculty, English for International Students. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2024 |
| 2. Guest Critique Faculty, English for International Students. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2023 |
| 3 Graduate Critique Week Faculty Panel. Fibers Department. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2022 |
| 4. Guest Critique Faculty, English for International Students. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2022 |
| 5. Graduate Critique Week Faculty Panel. Interdisciplinary. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2022 |
| 6. Graduate Critique Week Faculty Panel. Interdisciplinary. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2022 |
| 7. Undergraduate Independent Study Program Supervisor. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2021 |
| 8. Guest Critique Faculty, English for International Students. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. | 2021 |

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conferences and Multi-Events, Main Organizer

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| 1. Host Organizer. Senior Exhibition Visiting Artist & Curator Lectures. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- James English Leary, artist (November 2022)- Tizziana Baldenebro, curator (September 2022)- Alina Tenser, artist (April 2022)- Jared Quinton, curator and critic (March 2022)- Robyn Farrell, curator (March 2022)- Devin T. Mays, artist (February 2022)- Nyeema Morgan, artist (October 2021)- Emily Zimmerman, curator (September 2021)- H. Scott Westover, curator (April 2021)- Joshi Radin, Adrian Wong, Robert Davis, artists (April 2021)- Robert Yoder, curator (March 2021)- Andrew Rafacz, curator (March 2021)- Tim Mann, curator (October 2020)- Tony Lewis, artist (September 2020)- Britton Bertran, curator (April 2020) | 2020- |
| 2. Chair. Interlink Visiting Artist & Curator Program. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Michael Rakowitz, artist & Lori Waxman, critic (April 2018) | 2017-2018 |

- Geoffrey Todd Smith, artist (April 2018)
- Alexandria Eregbu, artist (March 2018)
- Dieter Roelstraete, curator (March 2018)
- Balas & Wax, artists (December 2017)
- Huong Ngo, artist (November 2017)
- Alejandro Cesarco, artist (November 2017)
- Alice Tippit, artist (October 2017)
- Iris Bernblum, artist (September 2017)

SERVICE

Northwestern University

Department:

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| 1. Graduate Representative. Comparative Literary Studies Program. | 2024- |
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School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Department:

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| 1. Member. Curriculum Planning Committee (Academic Spine: Core Curriculum). | 2019- |
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LANGUAGES

1. English: fluent.
2. Spanish: advanced.
3. Portuguese: reading.
4. French: reading.

REPRESENTATIVE COURSEWORK

Graduate-level course*

Audited †

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Exile, Forced Migration, and Refuge in World Lit * Diaspora, Multilingualism, Translation * Benjamin on Goethe * The Uncanny (Unheimlich) * From Biopolitics to Necropolitics * Heidegger: Introduction to Philosophy (audit) * Ecologies of the Global South * Postcolonial/Decolonial Thought * Translation in Theory and Praxis * Reading the 19th c. Brazilian Novel * Theories of Literature: Worlds of Comparison | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Venkat Mani (UW Madison) Karen Van Dyck (Columbia) Peter Fenves Samuel Weber Alessia Ricciardi William McNeill (DePaul) † Evan Mwangi Doris Garraway Laura Brueck Cesar Braga-Pinto Corey Byrnes |
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* Studies in Romantic Literature: Lyric Environments	Tristram Wolff
* Archive Poetics: Subaltern Knowledges	Alejandra Uslenghi
* Benjamin and History: Future of the Subject	Christopher Cutrone
* Architecture: Experimental Urban Practices	Frances Whitehead
* Creative Criticism	Shawn Michelle Smith
* Contemporary Art Criticism	Lori Waxman
* Topics in Visual & Critical Studies: Affect Theory	Mary Patten
* Topics in Visual & Critical Studies: Psychoacoustics	Kamau Patton
* Contemporary Art Criticism in New York City	David Getsy/Michelle Grabner
* Graduate Survey: Modern/Contemporary Art History	Daniel Quiles
* Graduate Seminar: Discourses of Sculpture	Lan Tuazon
History of Philosophy: Hegel to 20th Century	Guy Elgat
Philosophy of Modernism	Christopher Cutrone
Topics in Visual & Critical Studies: Gilles Deleuze	Patrick Durgin
Art History and Philosophy	Saul Ostrow
Building Models: Artist and Art in Theory	Saul Ostrow
Race & Representation in Contemporary Art	David Hart
Art History: Avant-Garde Film	Charles Bergengren
John Cage: His Life, Work, & Practice	Christopher Auerbach-Brown
History of Visual Culture: 20th Century	Gary Sampson
History of Visual Culture: 1840-1900, Critical Issues	Charles Bergengren

REFERENCES

Available upon request.