

DEBORAH PRATT CURTISS

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## CURRICULUM VITAE, WRITING

### Current

- *IMPOSTER, a memoir of Seduction by Love and Art*, nears completion
- Focused on writing, primarily memoir; *and* getting published.
- Moved to Seattle from Philadelphia in 2017 to be with a beloved cousin coping with Alzheimer's Disease. He died in October 2022.
- Emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic and its restrictions

**Writer**, intermittently active 1959–present.

**Statement:** *In my career as a writer, I focused primarily on 'informational' writing as a source of income. Since 2014, and in my seniority, memoir, and creative non-fiction have become my primary foci.*

**Online Presence** (selected):

Multiple articles: <https://independent.academia.edu/DeborahCurtiss>

<https://www.DeborahCurtiss.com> includes a video (less than six minutes) of my life as a painter plus available paintings. ABOUT includes commentary and this writing résumé.

Founding member of Greene Street Artists Cooperative, 1989, where I lived, 1992–2017, and authored its online history: <http://www.greenestreetartists.org>.

Member, International Visual Literacy Association, 1987–2020, <https://www.ivla.org>; Online article: <https://visualliteracytoday.org/the-role-of-visual-literacy-in-the-birth-of-observational-science/>

### Recent employment

**DEEP SEE (DPC), Visual Literacy Consultant:** The analysis of presentations and written documents based on ongoing research and writing in art, visual literacy, visual education, and related issues and concerns, 1987–2008.

#### Clients

**Non-stop Liberal Arts Institute** (the interim stand-in for Antioch College as it separated from Antioch University and reconstituted itself), Yellow Springs OH, October 2008

**Smithsonian American Art Museum**, Washington DC, 2003

**Kling** (Lindquist/Stubbins): brochures, proposals, boilerplate, presentation materials, and publications, 1991 through 2003

**Community Design Collaborative** of the American Institute of Architects, Philadelphia, 2000

**Greene Street Artists Cooperative**, Philadelphia: publicity materials, website, 1990–2000

(Recent employment, cont.)

**Writer/Editor**, Kling (Lindquist / Stubbins), Philadelphia's largest architectural/engineering/interior design firm, 1991 through 2003

**Adjunct Associate Professor for graduate seminars**, University of the Arts, Philadelphia College of Art and Design, 1993-1998.

### **Professional Editorial and Writing Experience**

**Editorial Board**, *Journal of Visual Literacy*, Maria Avgerinou, Editor; 2015-2021, Taylor and Francis Online; Routledge, publisher

**Charter member, Editorial Advisory and Policy Board**, *Journal of Visual Literacy*, 1991-2009 encompassing the tenure of four Editors.

**Founder and Executive Editor** of Monthly in-house newsletter, *Information & Update* for Kling, 1993 through 2003. Full responsibility for the content (multiple contributors), layout, and production:

- Initiated an editing program for professional staff to write articles for publication: publications tripled within one year.
- Editor/producer of the Firm's Quality Manual, 1997
- Wrote project histories, descriptions, and proposals for complex A/E/I design projects, and copy for informational and promotional brochures, 1991-1998.

#### **As a freelance writer/editor**

Edited proposals, correspondence, and résumés for out-placement as staff of 800 down-sized to 200, GE Aerospace, Philadelphia 1991.

Wrote copy for press releases, edited technical papers and grant proposals for Environex, Inc., Wayne, PA, 1990.

Wrote copy for radio and print advertising, and program for Swarthmore College Music and Dance Festival, 1983.

Wrote copy for press releases and music exhibits; wrote commentary and analyses for Patterns, Mathematics and the Arts exhibit: Franklin Institute Museum, 1980-1981.

Co-edited monthly newsletter for peer counseling community, Philadelphia, 1975-1977: edited content, performed layout, wrote articles & filler, created illustrations, and produced publication.

Drafted speeches and articles for development administrators (Edward J. Logue, Thomas Appleby) and mayor (Richard C. Lee), and published under their names, including in the *New York Times* Magazine section, 1961-1963

Wrote press releases, handled correspondence and inquiries, and prepared verbal/visual annual Progress Report: New Haven Redevelopment Agency and New Haven City Plan Department, 1959-1963.

Editor for scholars, graduate students, writers, and publishers. Subjects included:

**Humanities:** Architecture, History, Music, Performing Arts, Visual Arts;

**Physical Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine, Physics;

**Social Sciences:** Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology, 1959-2003.

## Publications, Author

*Making Art Safely: Alternatives in Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Graphic Design and Photography*, with artist Merle Spandorfer, and toxicologist Jack Snyder, MD (1993) New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold; acquired by John Wiley & Sons, 1998.

*Introduction to Visual Literacy, A Guide to the Visual Arts and Communication* (1987) Englewood Cliffs, NJ, Prentice-Hall; acquired by Pearson, 1996.

**Articles, Reviews, and Abstracts** selected from more than 300 published pieces, arranged by topic.

### Creative Non-Fiction

"April 14, 1950" in *The Quill Times*, (2022): <https://www.thequilltimes.com/post/april-14-1950>

"Going Nude" (2014). Toteson, H., ed. *Creativity & Constraint*, Universal Table / Wising Up Press, Decatur GA

Multiple articles at <https://independent.academia.edu/DeborahCurtiss>

"Bringing Beauty to Life while Optimizing Conditions for Creativity," (2011) a chapter in *Perspectives on Creativity II*, L. DellaPietra, ed. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

"Some Dreams Come True: Greene Street Artists Corporation/Cooperative," (1997/1998) *Art Matters*, December/January

"Book for Every Artist," (1997) *Art Matters*, May

"Small Scale Sculpture" (1984) *New Art Examiner*, Chicago, IL, March

"Third Annual Franklin Town Sculpture Show" (1984) *New Art Examiner*, Chicago, IL, February

Reviews (50+) of exhibits in crafts, drawing, installation, multi-media, painting, printmaking, and sculpture, *Art Matters*, a monthly newsletter (Philadelphia, 1982-86).

### Visual Literacy

"Celebrating 50 years of IVLA's visual literacy: reflecting on the past, present, and future," coauthored with Maria Avgerinou, ed.; Ann DeVaney, Rune Pettersson, Rhonda Robinson. *Journal of Visual Literacy*, Routledge, DOI: 10.1080/1051144X.2018.1562012, pp. 238-240. (2018)

"Meditations on a Post-Human Earth, an evocation of an Artist's Sensory Experience," (2016)

"The Role of Visual Literacy in the Development of Observational Science...;" (2014-15) <https://visualliteracytoday.org> Selected Readings, IVLA

"Eye Talk Happy Talk" Selected Readings, IVLA

"Educating Vision" (2005) in *Visual Literacy and Development*, Robert E. Griffin, Scott B. Chandler and Bell Doyle Cowden, editors, International Visual Literacy Association

"The Oldest Literacy" (2004) in *Journal of Visual Literacy*, Vol. 24, No. 2, Autumn

"The Oldest Literacy: toward a definition of visual literacy" (2001) University of Iowa, Lida M. Cochran private distribution

"Art as an Essential Component of Visual Literacy," *Exploring the Visual Future: Art Design, Science & Technology* (2001), Robert E. Griffin, ed., IVLA

(published articles cont.)

- "Digitization & Deconstruction...What Role Esthetics?" (1999, Spring) *Journal of Visual Literacy*, Nancy Nelson Knupfer, Editor, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI
- "Animated Computer-Aided Design: Video Presentations Prepared By Kling," (1999) in *Visual Literacy in an Information Age: Aspects of Vision in an Increasingly Global Community*, Robert E. Griffin, ed Pennsylvania State University.
- "The Communication of 3-Dimensional Spaces and Objects," (1998) *Connecting with the Community: Exploring Direct Visual Learning & Expression*, Robert Griffin, editor, Pennsylvania State University
- "Digitization and Deconstruction, Can Esthetics Survive?" (1996) in Velders, Teun, editor *Beeldenstorm in Deventer*. Rijkshogeschool IJselland, Deventer, The Netherlands
- "A Solution Suggested" (1995) *Art Matters*, 15:2
- Book review (1995): *Visual Literacy: A Spectrum of Visual Learning*, D. M. Moore and F. M. Dwyer, Eds., (1994) *Journal of Visual Literacy*, John Belland, Ed., Columbus, OH, Ohio State University, Fall
- "Visual Literacy, A College Course" (1995) *Conference Abstracts*, New York, College Art Association
- "From Iconic to Lingual" (1995) *Imagery and Visual Literacy*, Darrell G. Beauchamp, Roberts A. Braden and Robert E. Griffin, editors, Blacksburg, VA, IVLA; ERIC: ED380058
- "An Eclectic Approach to the Interpretation of Visual Statements" (1994) *Visual Literacy in the Digital Age*, Judy Clark-Baca, Darrell G. Beauchamp & Roberts A. Braden, editors; Blacksburg, VA, IVLA; ERIC: ED370584
- "The Rewards of Visual Literacy, an Artist's Perspective" (1994) contribution to the International Symposium on Verbal Visual Literacy, Delphi, Greece, 1993; published in *VerboVisual Literacy: Understanding and Applying New Educational Communication Media Technologies*, Nikos, Metallinos, ed. Montreal, Concordia University; ERIC: ED393412
- "Affinity Caucus: Multicultural Encounters in the Classroom" (1992) *The Visual Literacy Review*, 22:3, Richard Couch, editor, Clarion, PA, Clarion University
- "Visual Literacy: Esthetics of the Technological Age" (1992) *Visual Communications: Bridging Across Cultures*, Judy Clark-Baca, Darrell G. Beauchamp & Roberts A. Braden, editors Blacksburg, VA, IVLA
- "Yes, New York Times, there is Visual Literacy!" (1991) *The Visual Literacy Review*, Darrell Beauchamp, editor, (1991) Corsicana, TX, Navarro College, 20:2
- "Visual Thinking, How Do We Define, Identify and Facilitate It?" (1991) *Investigating Visual Literacy*, Beauchamp, Baca & Braden editors Blacksburg, VA, Virginia Tech University
- "Visual Literacy Outreach" (1990) *Perceptions of Visual Literacy*, Braden, Beauchamp, & Baca, editors, Blacksburg, VA, Virginia Tech University
- "Deconstructing Visual Statements to Improve Written and Oral Expression" (1989) *Journal of Reading Psychology*, 9:4, Richard Sinatra, editor; New York, Hemisphere
- "A Visual Evolution" (1989) *About Visuals: Research, Teaching and Applications*, Braden, Beauchamp, Miller, & Moore, editors Blacksburg, VA, Virginia Tech University
- "Visual Literacy: A Liberal Art" (1989) *Perspectives*, Journal of the Association of General and Liberal Studies, 19:2; Bruce Busby, editor, Columbus, OH, Ohio Dominican

(published articles cont.)

"Visual Literacy: Its Centrality for All Learning" (1989) *What If the University Took Teaching Seriously*, Sally J. Reithlingshoefer, editor, Fairfax, VA, George Mason University; [Recipient of Eloquence Award, George Mason University](#)

"Evolution of a Vision"(1988) *Journal of Visual Literacy*, 8:2; Ann De Vaney, editor, Madison WI, University of Wisconsin

"Visual Literacy as Foundation and Goal for All Visual Arts Education" (1988) abstract, *In Review*, Spring V. 11, journal of Foundations in Art: Theory and Education, Richard Flint, editor, Richmond, VA, Virginia Commonwealth University

"The Verbal-Visual Connection: How Deconstruction of Visual Statements Improves Oral and Written Expression" (1988) abstract, *In Review*, Spring V. 11, journal of Foundations in Art: Theory and Education, Richard Flint, editor, Richmond, VA, Virginia Commonwealth University

"An Artist's View of Visual Literacy for the Non-Artist" (1988) in *Visual Literacy in Life and Learning*, Braden, Beauchamp & Miller, editors; Blacksburg, VA, Virginia Tech University

"Visual Literacy: What Is It and Who Has It?" (1986) *Art Matters* Philadelphia, November

"Public School and the Visual Arts" (1983) *Art Matters* Philadelphia, April

### Community Design

"A Firm Policy," (2003) *Collaborative Calls*, the newsletter of the Community Design Collaborative of AIA Philadelphia, Spring

"A Fine Joy: The Collaborative helps Books Through Bars Reach More Readers," (2002) *Collaborative Calls*, Fall

"A Place of Honor and Peace," (2002) *Collaborative Calls*, Spring

"City Splash, the North Light Community Center Enlivens its Play Area," (2001) *Collaborative Calls*, Summer

"Fisher Park, Tranquility amid Diverse City Neighborhoods," (2001) *Collaborative Calls*, Winter

"Inspiration! Michael Pyatok, FAIA, Offers an Inspiring Model for Designing with Community Participation," (2000) *Collaborative Calls*, Summer

"Child's Play, Betsy Caesar Shares Ideas for Safe-and Fun-Playgrounds," (1999) *Collaborative Calls*, Summer

"First Collaborative Design Charette Looks at the Urban Front Yard," (1999) *Collaborative Calls*, Winter

**Kling** (-Lindquist; -Stubbins): Authored an average of three articles monthly from September 1993 through December 2003

*Kling Lindquist, The Realm of Shadows* (2001), unattributed author of all project descriptions, l'Arcaedizioni, Milan, Italy

"Window on Architecture, SAP America," (1999) *The Philadelphia Architect*, AIA Philadelphia, February.

"Kling Lindquist" (1998), unattributed author in *Philadelphia World Class*, Community Communications, Montgomery, AL.

"Window on Architects: Kling Lindquist," (1996) with Rosemary Rys, coauthor; *The Philadelphia Architect*, October.

## Other published articles

"ICHB Writing Group," (2018) *Culver Club News*, December, p. 6.

Book review (2017) "*When I Need Your Help, I'll Let You Know*" And Other Senior Myths That Can Lead to Disaster, by Barbara A. West, J.D. and Stephen F. Adler, Ph.D., Prominence Publishing in *The Positive Aging Newsletter* issue 103, sponsored by The Taos Institute: <https://www.taosinstitute.net/Websites/taos/images/2017-10%20to%2012%20PAN%20-%20Fall%20Issue%20103.pdf>

"Health Hazards in the Arts – Can They Affect Singing?" (2004) *The Journal of Singing*, V. 61, no. 1 (September/October): 55-61

"Radiant and Grateful Smile," (2002) *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Community Voices, Sunday, March 17

"Health Hazards in Drawing and Painting" (2001 Vol. 16 No. 4) in *Occupational Medicine State of the Art Reviews, Health Hazards in the Arts*, Katherine Duvall, David Hinkamp, editors; Philadelphia, Hanley & Belfus

"Contemporary Research in Brain Hemispheric Specialization for Artists and Art Educators, An Annotated Bibliography" (1987) Bethesda, MD; Educational Resources Information Center (ED 288768) Masters' Thesis, University of the Arts

## Honors

Creative Achievement Award, International Visual Literacy Association, 2018, 1997

Cambridge Who's Who Registry of Professionals, 2007-2011

Competent Toastmaster, 2001

In a Pinch Award for writing articles, Community Design Collaborative of AIA, Philadelphia, 2000

Venture Fund Grant, University of the Arts, 1996

President's Award for distinctive contribution as Editor of the in-house newsletter, from Kling Lindquist, 1995

Director's Award, Wallingford Community Arts Center, 1990

PA Council on the Arts Technical Assistance Grant, 1989

Eloquence Award, George Mason University, 1987

Nominee, Pennsylvania Governor's Award, 1983

Rexnord Corporation Grant for a multimedia exhibit, Philadelphia Art Alliance, 1980

## Teaching Experience

**Academy of Florence**, Italy—Guest Lecturer, 2002

**University of the Arts**, Philadelphia College of Art and Design, adjunct associate professor for graduate seminars, 1993-1998

**Structure and Metaphor** explore the topics in the context of perception, cognition, and visual arts and design. Texts from the perspectives of modernism/structuralism to postmodernism/post-structuralism are considered and integrated with written and visual expression.

**Art and Design in Society** explore the role of art and design in today's society from multiple and challenging perspectives. Particular emphasis is placed on engendering critical thinking and

assessment of one's own role as both artist/designer and educator of vision in multiple disciplines.

**MFA Thesis Advisor.** Served on committees for multiple Master of Fine Arts candidates majoring in painting, book arts, sculpture, ceramics, museum exhibition design, and art education. Each thesis entailed written, oral presentation, and exhibit components.

**Community College of Philadelphia,** Art Department, 1984.

**Visual Communication:** an opportunity to use my own text, *Introduction to Visual Literacy*, in manuscript, to provide an integrated art history/art appreciation/studio introduction to the vast and varied world of visual communications.

**Bezalel College of Art,** Jerusalem, Israel, guest critic, 1981.

**Community Arts Center,** Wallingford, PA, 1980–1985.

**Figure Drawing and Painting:** An integrated, multimedia approach to drawing and painting the figure based upon my considerable experience teaching these subjects.

**Philadelphia Museum of Art**

**Museum Collections,** 1978–1980:

**Sources of Abstraction:** Talks in the Philadelphia Museum of Art on three or four specific works of art that exemplify a particular idea, were followed by two-hour studio investigations in which students—using oil pastels on paper—would visually and kinesthetically respond to the works' imagery, techniques, concepts, and visions while incorporating the students' own iconography, methods, ideas, and revelations.

**Drawing sculpture,** like performing great works of music, is a way to intimately contact, and be touched by, genius.

**Interpreting a Painting:** Each student would select a painting for a thorough analysis of its history, context, content, and form

**Studio Program,** 1972–1976: Introductory Drawing, Figure Drawing, Advanced Painting, Color; See Philadelphia College of Art descriptions

**Temple University,** Center for Contemporary Studies, 1977–1982.

**Visual Literacy:** Acknowledges and addresses the importance and centrality of visual communication in this iconic age. The approach was foundational: presupposed no previous art experience; basic verbal and visual vocabularies were identified and used to enhance thinking and communication skills relevant to all areas of inquiry: arts, humanities, social and natural sciences. At more advanced levels, theoretical, social, ethical, and philosophical implications of the transition from aural/oral, to visual modes of communication were explored, evaluated, and personally expressed.

**Philadelphia College of Art** (now University of the Arts) summer and continuing education programs, 1976–1984: taught Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Drawing; Figure Drawing and Painting; Advanced Painting; The Interaction of Color, Basic Design, and Mixed and alternative media.

**Drexel University** Nesbitt College of Design: First year drawing sequence, leave replacement, 1974–1975.

## Professional Memberships

International Visual Literacy Association, 1987–2018; Board member, 1988–1994.  
Association for General and Liberal Studies, 1987–1990  
Form Forum, Graduate School of Fine Arts, University of Pennsylvania, 1975–1982  
Foundations in Art: Theory and Education, 1987–1991  
College Art Association, 1973–2001  
Artists Equity, 1972–1980, 2008–2010

## Musician

Professional singer/soloist, 1965–1990, classical music from the middle ages to yesterday. Sang most recently with Orchestra 2001 in June 1995 and April 1997; private recital, December 2005. Courses in music history, theory, composition, and performance at Antioch College, Yale University, Hartt College of Music, Stanford University, McGill University, Swarthmore College, and the University of Pennsylvania.  
Voice study with Roberta Alexander (senior, Antioch), Blanche Porto (New Haven), Jean Hakes (New York Pro Musica), Martial Singher (Curtis Institute of Music), Norman Notley (NYC), Wayne Conner (Peabody Conservatory, Curtis).  
Studied piano and clarinet pre-college; played clarinet in both band and orchestra, 8th grade through high school.

**Modern Dance** Participated in classes of Martha Graham, Humphreys, Limon, Nikolai/Louis, Weidman, improvisational techniques, 1957–1997. Practiced Yoga, 1995–2017; and now.

## Education

**Antioch College**, Yellow Springs, Ohio: Liberal Arts, 1955–1958. Studied art, art history, literature, mathematics, music, and philosophy. Transferred to...

**Yale University School of Art and Architecture**, New Haven, CT: **BFA painting, 1961.**

**University of the Arts**, Philadelphia, PA: **MA art education, 1983.**

## Independent / Subsequent Study

The Writing Pod (ongoing since 2020)

Yale Women Writers (ongoing since 2021), 2022

**Hugo House**, Seattle, WA, <https://hugohouse.org>, classes:

2022: Metaphor in Theory and Practice

2021: •Writing the Complicated Self, •How to Hook Your Reader, •Wounded Little Liars, •Journal Writing, •Making Meaning in Memoir, Essays, •Metaphor Dice, •Modern Love, •Writing Sex Scenes Without Shame

2020: •Alchemy of Memoir, •Bringing Lives to Life, •Memoir Workshop

**Creative Nonfiction**, online: <https://creativenonfiction.org>:

2021: •The Vaguer of Memory; 2020: •Write Your Memoir Month; 2019: •Strategies for Writing about Death, Loss & Grief; •2017: Risk; 2015: •Writing the Personal Essay; 2014: •Experimental Structures, •Writing the Tough Stuff

**Writing Workshop** with Janet Falon, 2014–2016

