

## **Bennington College's Visual Arts Lecture Series Explores Transvisibilities: Crossings, Counter-narratives, and Collaborations**

**Bennington, VT:** Bennington College's Spring 2019 [Visual Arts Lecture Series \(VALS\)](#) centers on the theme "Transvisibilities: Crossings, Counter-narratives, Collaborations" with lectures from **Chitra Ganesh, Dr. Monica Bravo, Cyle Metzger '08, Vincent Valdez, Candice Hopkins, Clyde Petersen,** and **Lauren Halsey.**

All lectures are free, open to the public, and will take place from **7:00 - 8:30 pm** in **Tishman Lecture Hall** on the College's [campus](#).

Each term, VALS offers lectures by visiting arts professionals: artists, curators, historians and critics, selected to showcase the diversity of contemporary art practices. VALS features artists who have remained pioneering and original for decades, as well as younger makers who are newly gathering international attention.

"This year's VALS theme, Transvisibilities: Crossings, Counter-Narratives, and Collaborations addresses visual art's ongoing need for varied perspectives and brave new forms of border-crossing and representation," said Visual Arts faculty member [Vanessa Lyon](#), professor of Art History and convener of the series. "No doubt this fascinatingly diverse slate of artists, curators, and scholars will excitingly complicate our idea of modern and contemporary art this spring."

For over ten years, the award-winning, Brooklyn-based [Chitra Ganesh](#) has produced provocative and political multidisciplinary art that variously draws on surrealism, expressionism, Hindu and Buddhist iconography, and South-Asian pictorial forms.

On [Tuesday, March 5](#), Ganesh will speak as the 2019 Adams-Tillim Lecturer. The Adams-Tillim Lecture was established in 1992 by alumnus David Beitzel in honor of former visual arts faculty members Pat Adams and the late Sidney Tillim, both of whom David studied with while at Bennington. The annual lecture brings leading visual artists, curators, and critics and art historians to campus.

David Beitzel passed away suddenly in January. He was a well-known gallerist and private art dealer in New York who specialized in international contemporary art, with a focus on new emerging talent. He was actively engaged with the College since receiving his MFA in Painting

in 1983; he served as trustee from 1995 through 1999, a volunteer for a range of other efforts and hosted many alumni events in his SoHo gallery over the years.

On [Tuesday, March 26](#), VALS welcomes [Dr. Monica Bravo](#), assistant professor of history and theory of photographic media at California College of the Arts, who specializes in the history of photography and the modern art of the Americas. Bravo's current book project examines exchanges between US modernist photographers and modern Mexican artists working in painting, poetry, music, and photography, resulting in the development of a Greater American Modernism in the interwar period.

On [Tuesday, April 2](#), alum [Cyle Metzger](#) '08 returns to campus. Now a doctoral student in the art history department at Stanford University studying art and architectural history as it relates to queer history and theory, Metzger is particularly interested in working with the visual materials of transgender history and culture.

On [Tuesday, April 16](#), [Vincent Valdez](#), an artist most recognized for his monumental portrayal of the contemporary figure, will speak. Valdez most recently [garnered national attention](#) over the sale of his *The City I*, a larger-than-life depiction of modern day klansmen purchased by the University of Texas at Austin.

On [Tuesday, April 30](#), VALS welcomes curator and writer [Candice Hopkins](#). Hopkins is co-curator of the Canadian Pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale, opening May 2019, which will feature the media work of Isuma Productions, a collective based in Igloolik and Montreal, Canada. Her recently published essays include "Outlawed Social Life" for *South as a State of Mind* and "The Gilded Gaze: Wealth and Economies on the Colonial Frontier" for the *documenta 14 Reader*.

On [Tuesday, May 14](#), [Clyde Petersen](#), a Seattle-based artist working in film, animation, music, installation, and fabulous spectacle, will speak. Petersen is the director of *Torrey Pines*, an autobiographical stop-motion animated feature film, which premiered in October 2016 and toured the world with a live score. He travels the world with his punk band Your Heart Breaks and hosts the internet film series *Boating with Clyde* in a small handmade boat in the Washington Park Arboretum.

VALS concludes on [Tuesday, May 21](#) with a lecture from [Lauren Halsey](#), winner of Hammer Museum 2018 biennial's \$100,000 [Mohn Award](#). Halsey works at the intersection of art, architecture, fantasy and community engagement to pay homage to the people and places that are important to her and address the social justice issues with which people of color, the queer community, and the working class are particularly concerned.

### **About the Lecturers**

[Dr. Monica Bravo](#), assistant professor of history and theory of photographic media at California College of the Arts, specializes in the history of photography and the modern art of the Americas. Her current book project examines exchanges between US modernist photographers and modern Mexican artists working in painting, poetry, music, and photography, resulting in the development of a Greater American Modernism in the interwar period. Her research has been supported by fellowships from the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA), the Center for Creative Photography, the Georgia O'Keeffe Research Center, the Harry Ransom Center, the Huntington Library and Art Collections, and the Terra Foundation for American Art. Her writing has appeared in *History of Photography*, *The History of Illustration*, *caa.reviews*, and *Art Criticism*.

[Chitra Ganesh](#)'s drawing-based practice engages historical and mythic texts in order to visually complicate received ideas of iconic female forms. Her wide-ranging, often theoretically inspired work—which includes installations, comics, animation, and mixed media works on paper—draws on surrealism, expressionism, Hindu and Buddhist iconography, and South-Asian pictorial forms. A graduate of Brown University in Comparative Literature and Semiotics, Ganesh received an MFA from Columbia University. She has exhibited internationally and nationally, with solo shows at the Rubin Museum of Art, PS 1/MOMA, the Andy Warhol Museum, and the Brooklyn Museum. Her numerous grants and fellowships include a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and awards from the Joan Mitchell Foundation and New York Foundation for the Arts, and she has held a prestigious residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, San Jose Museum of Art, Baltimore Museum, the Whitney Museum, and Museum of Modern Art. For the 2017-18 academic year, Ganesh was a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University's Lewis Center for the Arts.

[Lauren Halsey](#) works at the intersection of art, architecture, fantasy and community engagement. Her artworks, immersive installations, and site-specific projects pay homage to the people and places that are important to her and address the social justice issues with which

people of color, the queer community, and the working class are particularly concerned. Recent projects include a site-specific installation at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA) and participation in Made in L.A. 2018 at the Hammer Museum, where she also won the biennial's \$100,000 Mohn Award. She earned her BFA from the California Institute of the Arts in 2012 and completed her MFA at Yale University (2014). She was an artist-in-residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem (2014-15) and won The William H. Johnson Prize in 2017. Halsey lives and works in Los Angeles, where she was born and raised and has found support and recognition for her work.

[Candice Hopkins](#) is a curator and writer originally from Whitehorse, Yukon, and based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is co-curator of the SITE Santa Fe biennial, Casa Tomada, as well as co-curator of the Canadian Pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale, opening May 2019, which will feature the media work of Isuma Productions, a collective based in Igloolik and Montreal, Canada. She was a curator for documenta 14 in Athens, Greece and Kassel, Germany. Her recently published essays include "Outlawed Social Life" for *South as a State of Mind* and "The Gilded Gaze: Wealth and Economies on the Colonial Frontier" for the *documenta 14 Reader*. She has lectured on contemporary art, sound, indigeneity, native economies, and vernacular architecture at such venues as Witte de With, WIELS, Tate Modern, Dak'Art Biennale, Artists Space, Tate Britain and the National Gallery of Canada. She is the recipient of the Hnatyshyn Foundation Award for Curatorial Excellence in Contemporary Art and the 2016 the Prix pour un essai critique sur l'art contemporain by the Fondation Prince Pierre de Monaco. Hopkins is a citizen of Carcross/Tagish First Nation.

[Cyle Metzger '08](#) is a doctoral student in the Art History department at Stanford University, studying art and architectural history as it relates to queer history and theory. He is particularly interested in working with the visual materials of transgender history and culture. Mining medical archives, self-published literature and the archives of well known photographers and artists, he investigates how visual materials have shaped current attitudes about transgender people and contemporary trans\* identities. Metzger holds an MA in art history from the University of California - Riverside, where he wrote his masters thesis on the work *W-120301* by artist Sarah Oppenheimer that is permanently installed at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Metzger is also a practicing artist. He received an MFA in interdisciplinary studio art from the Mount Royal School of art at the Maryland Institute College of Art, and he has taught studio art and design courses at Towson and George Mason Universities.

[Clyde Petersen](#) is a Seattle-based artist working in film, animation, music, installation, and fabulous spectacle. He is a proud member of the transgender and queer communities in Seattle. Petersen is the director of *Torrey Pines*, an autobiographical stop-motion animated feature film, which premiered in October 2016 and toured the world with a live score. He travels the world with his punk band Your Heart Breaks and hosts the internet film series *Boating with Clyde* in a small handmade boat in the Washington Park Arboretum. His work has been featured around the world in museums, galleries, and DIY venues. Petersen is currently working on two new feature films and has a solo exhibition at the Bellevue Arts Museum through April 2019.

[Vincent Valdez](#) is most recognized for his monumental portrayal of the contemporary figure. His drawn and painted subjects remark on a universal struggle within various socio-political arenas and eras. Exhibitions and collections include Ford Foundation; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Blanton Museum of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and Smithsonian Museum of American Art and National Portrait Gallery. Valdez received a full scholarship to the Rhode Island School of Design, earning his BFA in 2000. A recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant for Painters and Sculptors (2016), as well as residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting (2005), the Vermont Studio Center (2011), the Künstlerhaus Bethanien Berlin Residency (2014), and Joan Mitchell Center (2018), Valdez currently lives and works in Houston.

### **VALS Spring 2019**

*Dates and times are subject to change. Please check [www.bennington.edu/events](http://www.bennington.edu/events) for the most up-to-date information. These events are free, open to the public, and take place on Bennington College's [campus](#).*

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Tues. March 5 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM

[Chitra Ganesh](#)

Adams-Tillim Lecturer

Tishman Lecture Hall

Chitra Ganesh's drawing-based practice engages historical and mythic texts in order to visually complicate received ideas of iconic female forms. Her wide-ranging, often theoretically inspired work draws on surrealism, expressionism, Hindu and Buddhist iconography, and South-Asian pictorial forms.

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[Dr. Monica Bravo](#)

Tishman Lecture Hall

Dr. Monica Bravo, assistant professor of history and theory of photographic media at California College of the Arts, specializes in the history of photography and the modern art of the Americas.

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Tues. April 2 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM

[Cyle Metzger '08](#)

Tishman Lecture Hall

Cyle Metzger '08 is a doctoral student in the art history department at Stanford University, studying art and architectural history as it relates to queer history and theory. He is particularly interested in working with the visual materials of transgender history and culture.

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Tues. April 16 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM

[Vincent Valdez](#)

Tishman Lecture Hall

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[Candice Hopkins](#)

Tishman Lecture Hall

Candice Hopkins is a curator and writer based in Albuquerque, NM. She is co-curator of the SITE Santa Fe biennial, Casa Tomada, as well as co-curator of the Canadian Pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale, opening May 2019, which will feature the media work of Isuma Productions, a collective based in Igloolik and Montreal, Canada.

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Clyde Petersen is a Seattle-based artist working in film, animation, music, installation, and fabulous spectacle. He is a proud member of the transgender and queer communities in Seattle.

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[Lauren Halsey](#)

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### **BENNINGTON COLLEGE**

Bennington College is a liberal arts college in southwestern Vermont that distinguished itself early as a vanguard institution within American higher education. It was the first to include the visual and performing arts in a liberal arts education, and to integrate work in the classroom with work in the field. The College aims to educate students towards self-fulfillment and constructive social purposes in an increasingly complex global society. Bennington believes that equity, diversity, and inclusivity—in community and in curriculum—are vital to achieving those aims. Bennington's distinguished visual arts alumni have shaped the field in every way, as artists, curators, dealers, critics, and gallerists. Some of its notable alumni include Helen Frankenthaler '49, Kathy Halbreich '71, Sally Mann '73, Dan Cameron '79, Holly Block '80, Carrie Moyer '82, Matthew Marks '85, Andrea Fiuczynski '85, Tom Sachs '89, Odili Donald Odita MFA '90, and Anna Gaskell '92.