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(*often exhibits/works under the name Erik Ruin)

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2014-

Artists of the R-Line, City Hall, Providence, RI

An Other World, World's Fair/Machines With Magnets, Pawtucket, RI (solo installation)

Manif d'Art 7: Québec Biennale, Atelier Engramme, Quebec City, QC, Canada

Braddock Tiles Benefit Exhibition, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York, NY

Uprisings: Images of Labor & Migration, SKETCH, Toronto, ON, Canada

2013-

Agora: the 4th Annual Athens Biennale, Former Athens Stock Exchange, Athens, Greece (as part of the Never the Same archive)

The Message is the Medium: Prints, Propaganda, and Persuasion, Zeitgeist Gallery, Lowell, MA

Locally Made, RISD Museum, Providence, RI (as part of the One Room series)

Unsocial Sociability, Kunstraum Lakeside, Klagenfurt, Austria

Uprisings, Union Art Gallery, University Of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

2012-

Agit-Prop and Interventions, Neurotitan Gallery, Berlin, Germany

Celebrate People's History, Irregular Rhythm Asylum, Tokyo, Japan

Undocunation 2012, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

ART IN/EN ACTION, Concordia University, Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Witches & Mad Prophets, Machines With Magnets, Pawtucket, RI (curated & produced this exhibit)

2011-

Refuge, Galerija Alkatraz, Ljubljana, Slovenia (prize-winner's exhibition, 29th Slovenian Biennial of the Graphic Arts)

Pittsburgh Biennial 2011, Miller Gallery at Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA

Staring at the Cracks, 4212 Chestnut, Philadelphia PA (collaborative installation w/ Brett Story & Daniel Blacksberg)

For the Sake of Future Days, 40th street AIR Project, Philadelphia PA (solo installation)

War Is Trauma, Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY

2010-

New Prints, Satellite Café, Philadelphia PA (solo show)

Bring Down the Walls!-A Month of Radical Art and Educational Events, A-Space and Studio 34,

Philadelphia PA (an Independent Project of Philagrafika)

JUST SEEDS Cooperativa de Resistencia Visual, Z.A.M., Mexico City, Mexico

Operation Exposure, Mess Hall, Chicago, IL

2009-

Art as Action, Printmaking Council of New Jersey, Somerville NJ

Liberation!, Dirt Palace, Providence RI (solo installation)

28th Biennial of Graphic Arts, International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC), Ljubljana, Slovenia

Confronting the Capitalist Crisis, Joseph Gross Gallery of the School of Art, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ

Which Side Are You On?, Union Art Gallery, University Of Wisconsin, Milwaukee WI

2008-

Out Of the Shell of the Old, Space 1026, Philadelphia PA

Ides of March, Biennial building-wide installation, ABC No Rio, NYC

Great Small Works' Temporary Toy Theater Museum, St. Ann's Warehouse, NYC

Sustainable, AS220, Providence RI

A Change is Gonna Come: Justseeds Collective Print Show, Reading Frenzy, Portland OR

2007-

New Prints & Paintings by Erik Ruin, Satellite Café, Philadelphia PA (solo show)
Changing Landscapes: A Group Show of Politically Engaged Art, City Club, Portland OR
Our Eyes Need Art, A-Space, Philadelphia PA
Dew Point, the Rotunda, Philadelphia PA
I Think Therefore I Am, the Goodfoot, Portland, OR

2006-

The Earth from Above, Soap Factory, Minneapolis MN
If They Come For You In the Morning, ABC No Rio, New York NY
Guerilla Art, Altered Aesthetics Gallery, Minneapolis
The Sleeping Habits of Strangers, CELLspace Crucible Gallery, San Francisco CA
Paper Politics- Portland, Food For Thought Cafe, Portland OR
The Stencil Show, Stevens Square Center for the Arts, Minneapolis MN
The Art Shanty Projects, (created interactive shadow installation in collaboration with Soozin Hirschmugl) on Medicine Lake, Plymouth MN
Rude Awakenings: New Work by Erik Ruin & Meredith Stern, Art of This Gallery, Minneapolis MN

2005-

Prints & Paintings by Erik Ruin, (solo show), Seward Cafe, Minneapolis MN
Paper Politics- Seattle, Phinney Community Center, Seattle WA

2004-

The Interventionists- Art In The Social Sphere, (as part of God Bless Graffiti Coalition installation), MASS MoCA, North Adams MA
Peace Signs: Posters Of The Anti-War Movement. Chisholm Gallery, New York NY
Stencils by Erik Ruin, (solo show), Vestibule Gallery, Detroit MI
Paper Politics- Chicago, In These Times, Chicago IL

2003-

All Stencil Art Show, travelling exhibition.

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

2014-

Boundless: A Collaborative Work of Epic Theater, Summer St. Theater, Providence, RI. I initiated, produced, designed sets and projections for and co-directed (with Sarah Lowry of the Missoula Oblongata) this ambitious production with a cast of over 40 performers. Boundless combined projections, dance, puppetry, theater and music on the theme of dissolving borderlines (between people, nations, life and death, etc.).
Summer Street Dinner Theater, I curate this ongoing series of artisanal dinners and programs of original interdisciplinary performances at my home/studio Summer Street Theater.

2013-

One Touch of Nature Makes the Whole World Kin, a silk-screened toy-theater show based on Rebecca Solnit's *A Paradise Built In Hell*, co-created and performed with Maryann Colella (Bread & Puppet). Regional tour with featured stop at Great Small Works' Tenth International Toy Theater Festival, St. Ann's Warehouse, NYC.

2012-

Numerous projection performances with various musicians/ensembles including the Assembly Of Light Choir.

2011-

Capital I & the Royal Waltzing We, co-directed and designed sets for this "theatrical puzzle in waltz time". Performed at the Rotunda, Philadelphia PA.

2009-

King Lear, co-directed and created projection sequences for an act of Shakespeare's King Lear, in a 5 company production, alongside Bedlam Theater (Minneapolis MN), the Nonsense Company (Madison WI), Trueteater Theater (Providence RI), and Insurgent Theater (Milwaukee WI). Performances in Philadelphia and Minneapolis.

The Slideshow Experiments, an ongoing series of collaborations involving sequences of found and hand-altered slides set to narrations by various authors, notably so far poets Ish Klein and Emily Abendroth, and scored by various musicians including to date Dan Blacksberg, Reid Books and members of the What Cheer? Brigade brass ensemble. Performances in Minneapolis, Providence and Philadelphia.

2008-

Cardboard, Shadows, Sheets & Suitcases, shadow performance with live musical accompaniment, Institute for Contemporary Art, Philadelphia PA.

Flight: The Mythic Journey of a Person Displaced, touring projection-based shadow performance, with live improvised score by violinist Katt Hernandez, toured throughout the eastern U.S., with over 15 performances.

2007-

The Nothing Factory: A Musical Shadow Theater Extravaganza, co-directed, created sets & shadow imagery for this feature-length avant-punk musical. Debuted September 28th at the Rotunda, Philadelphia PA. Productions in Baltimore and NYC.

Going Nowhere, collaborative shadow theater work with Morgan Andrews (Shoddy Puppet co.), a shadow-puppet show partially based on the works of John Cage and Bertholdt Brecht, incorporating local musical improvisers & exploring issues of perception, subjectivity & sudden change. Performed 14 shows across the East Coast from North Carolina to Maine.

Mad Dogs & Fighting Men, created & performed shadow sequences for this St. Patrick's Day event based on the writing of James Stephens at the Fitzgerald Theater, St. Paul, MN. Event sponsored by Minnesota Public Radio.

2006-

The Uninvited Guest: Barebones Productions' 13th annual Halloween Extravaganza, designed, created & directed shadow sequences for this large outdoor Halloween theatrical production, Hidden Falls Park, St. Paul MN.

SeamsLike, shadow theater piece exploring "revelation as rupture" with original music by Minneapolis accordion/saw duo Dreamland Faces, featured performance at annual Black Sheep Puppet Festival, Pittsburgh PA.

2005-

Foretold: Barebones Productions' 12th annual Halloween Extravaganza, designed and created giant shadow sequences, trained and directed crew of 8 shadow-puppeteers, Hidden Falls Park, St. Paul MN.

How Can You Own?, solo shadow theater piece concerning private property, with original electronic soundtrack by Tony Biele. Featured performer at Puppet Uprising's Year End Cabaret, Philadelphia. Toured Northern Europe, with performances throughout Holland, Germany, Denmark & England.

2004-

Olive on the Seder Plate- created scenes for projection in this performance by the Liberty Cabbage Theater concerning issues around Judaism and the Israel-Palestine conflict. Toured nationally.

2003-

The Other 9/11- wrote, directed and created this puppet show retelling the story of the 1971 coup in Chile. Toured the Midwest, featured performances at La Cucaracha Cabaret in Chicago, Black Sheep Puppet Festival in Pittsburgh and the Bumpin' Big Top as part of the Fringe Festival in Philadelphia.

2002-

What Is to Be Done Circus & Where Are We Going Pageant- as an intern at Bread & Puppet Theater in Glover, Vermont, performed in and helped to construct their annual circus and pageant.

The Insect Play- Created & performed a version of Karel & Josef Capek's 1922 satire. Puppetropolis Festival, Chicago.

SELECTED COLLABORATIONS

Neighbor Ballads- Collaborated with poet Frank Sherlock & the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program to create a series of seven illustrated broadsides celebrating immigrant elders/ancestors in South Philadelphia. The broadsides were distributed on the street via decorated honor boxes. April-June 2011.

Justseeds Visual Resistance Artist's Cooperative- Founding member of this national cooperative of politically- and socially-engaged printmakers. 2006- present. www.justseeds.org. Lead coordinator of following collective projects-

- SEIU Social Justice Calendar 2008- Coordinating artists and work on the theme of universal healthcare for the Service Employees International Union.
- Out Of the Shell of the Old- Organized and participated as installation/print artist for this collective show at Space 1026. Coordinated and promoted a successful event series throughout the month of June 2008.
- Donations Coordinator- Budget and administrate the collective's donations of artwork and funds to activist campaigns and non-profit organizations.

Street Art Workers- Organizer and artist with this collective that produces, disseminates, and places political art throughout the world. 2003-present. www.streetartworkers.org

Barebones Productions- Worked as director of shadow puppetry for this theatrical collective producing large community-based outdoor Halloween events, with nightly attendance upwards of 2000. from 2005-2006.

Prison Poster Project- Worked as organizer & designer with this collective of artists & activists working in collaboration with prisoners across the U.S to create a large-scale portable mural as a public education tool to discuss how the prison industrial complex affects communities. 2002- 2007.

Upsidedownculture Collective- This Detroit collective created publications & a diverse variety of events, often with a creative/interactive component, and worked to creatively support local & national causes, performers and community groups. 2000- 2003.

Rust & Riot Puppet Troupe- A group of puppeteers and musicians created a series of shows portraying incidents in Detroit history. 2000- 2003.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Author-

Paths Toward Utopia, co-author with Cindy Milstein, PM Press, November 2012

Editor-

Realizing The Impossible: Art Vs. Authority, co-editor with Josh MacPhee, AK Press, February 2007

All The Days After: Critical Voices in Poetry & Artwork, as a member of the Upsidedown Culture Collective, pub.2002

Trouble In Mind (issues 1-6), edited, designed and published this zine concerning the intersections of art, politics and everyday life from 2000 -2006.

Artist Books

The Nothing Factory, designed, illustrated, hand-printed and assembled this publication version of the theatrical performance, featuring hand-printed covers and centerfold, fold-out sections and accompanying CD.

Flight, designed, illustrated and hand-printed this elaborate 44-page narrative in images, with accompanying CD.

Cover Artwork-

Defenestrator # 39, Philadelphia, Nov. 2007.

Rapid 31: A Journal of Radical Puppetry #1, summer 2007.

Critical Moment #6, Detroit, Sept.-Oct. 2004.

Featured Artwork-

Paper Politics, Josh MacPhee, PM Press 2009.

Reproduce & Revolt!, ed. Favianna Rodriguez & Josh MacPhee, SoftSkull Press 2008.

Cut and Paint # 1, ed. Lampert/MacPhee/Matthes, fall 2004.

Stencil Pirates: A Global Study of the Street Stencil, Josh MacPhee, Soft Skull Press 2004.

Peace Signs: The Anti-war Movement Illustrated, ed. James Mann, Georg Olms Verlag AG 2004.

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2014-

Project Grant for Individual Artist, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

2013-

Runner-up, 1st Annual Members Print Competition, AS220

2012-

Artist-in-Residence, Climate of Change Focus Residency, Blue Mountain Center

2010-

Artist-in-Residence, 40th street AIR, Philadelphia PA

2009-

Grand Prix (awarded to Justseeds Cooperative), 28th Biennial of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia
AS220 Artist-in-Residence, Providence RI

2008-

Puffin Foundation artists' grant

Visiting artist at RUST youth print program, a joint project of Artists' Imaging Resources and the Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh PA

REFERENCES-

Josh MacPhee, designer, printmaker, curator- (773) 209-1941- josh@justseeds.org

Nicolas Lampert, artist, author, lecturer, Peck School of the Arts, University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee- (414)-750-8773, animaltrap@yahoo.com

Tracy Broyles, director, Spiral Q Puppet Theater- (215)779-1147, tbroyles@spiralq.org