

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- MFA *Visual Arts*—Lesley University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2017
Thesis: *The Tautology of Jäger: Expanding the Definition of Concrete Photography*
Lecture: "Abstract, Concrete, and Non-Mimetic Photography"
- BFA *Studio Art*—University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, 1994

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Teaching across multiple California institutions serving historically underrepresented, first-generation, and transfer student populations.

- 2017–Present *Instructor, Photography*
Cuesta College, San Luis Obispo, California
- 2025–Present *Instructor, Photography*
Cosumnes River College, Sacramento, California
- 2022–2024 *Instructor, Photography*
College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita, California
- 2018–2023 *Instructor, Photography*
West Valley College, Saratoga, California

CREATIVE RESEARCH & EXPANDED IMAGE PRACTICE

Interdisciplinary research spanning lens-based, cameraless, projected, and computational image systems.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2020 *Syl Arena: Projected Voids*—Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN

Selected Juried Exhibitions

Museum, University, & College Exhibitions

- 2025 *Ephemeral*—Woody Gaddis Gallery, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK
- 2025 *High Tide*—Harold J Miossi Art Gallery, Cuesta College, San Luis Obispo, CA
- 2021 *Digital Art Salon*—San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, San Luis Obispo, CA
- 2019 *Magic Silver Show*—Murray State University, Murray, KY
- 2017 *New Visions*—San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, San Luis Obispo, CA
- 2016 *Photography Is Magic*—Aperture Foundation, New York City

International Exhibitions

- 2024 *Form 2024*—CICA Museum, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea
- 2024 *Contemporary Landscape*—Gallery Omnibus, Dresden, Germany
- 2024 *Black & White*—Independent & Image Art Space, Chongqing, China
- 2023 *New Artist 2023*—Boomer Gallery, London, England
- 2022 *Perspectives 2022*—CICA Museum, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea
- 2022 *Emergence*—Glasgow Gallery of Photography, Scotland

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- 2021 *Mnemosphere Project*—Milan, Italy
- 2021 *Rewrite Reality*—Independent & Image Art Space, Chongqing, China
- 2018 *Contemporary Photography 2018*—CICA Museum, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea
- 2017 *Visions of Cuba*—Fototeca de Cuba, Havana, Cuba

Experimental Images

- 2023 *By Hand: Alternative Processes*—Texas Photographic Society, Abilene, TX
- 2023 *International Alternative Processes 2023*—Soho Photo Gallery, New York City
- 2023 *World Anthotype Day 2023*—Alternative Photography, London
- 2021 *Layered Light: Contemporary Pinhole Photography*—Light Art Space, Silver City, NM
- 2021 *Light Sensitive 2021*—Art Intersection, Gilbert, AZ

Other Juried Exhibitions

- 2024 *Beyond the Photograph*—Rhode Island Center for Photographic Arts, Providence, RI
- 2024 *Conceptual and Abstract Photography*—Atlanta Photography Group, Atlanta, GA
- 2023 *Abstract 2023*—New York Center for Photography, New York City
- 2023 *International Open Call*—Colorado Photographic Arts Center, Denver, CO
- 2022 *Faber Birren National Color Exhibition*—Stamford Art Assoc, Stamford, CT
- 2021 *30 Over 50* — Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, CO
- 2020 *Transformations 2020*—Pennsylvania Center for Photography, Doylestown, PA
- 2019 *Abstract 2019*—Southeast Center for Photography, Greenville, SC
- 2019 *Magnum Opus 30*—Sacramento Fine Arts Center, Sacramento, CA
- 2017 *Photowork*—Barrett Art Center, Poughkeepsie, NY

BOOKS AUTHORED

- 2015 *Speedliter's Handbook (2nd Ed.)*—Peachpit Press
Translations: Chinese, Spanish
- 2012 *Lighting For Digital Photography*—Peachpit Press
Translations: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese
- 2010 *Speedliter's Handbook*—Peachpit Press
Translations: Chinese, French, German, Korean, Polish, Portuguese

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

- 2017 *Todd Walker Research Fellowship*
Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona
Research into Todd Walker's proto-digital practice and post-industrial print processes, including collotype, screen printing, and offset lithography.

CURATORIAL PROJECT

- 2025 *Charles Berger Estate*
Curated and archived a significant collection of historic books, papers, and prints focused on traditional and experimental uses of the carbon printing process.

INVITED LECTURES

- 2020 *"Constructed and Projected Voids"*
Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana
- 2018 *"Todd Walker and the Photo Silkscreen"*
Historic Photo Process Forum, Santa Cruz Museum of Art, Santa Cruz, California

SELECTED HONORS

- 2017 *Penumbra Workspace A-I-R Program*
Penumbra Foundation, New York City

COURSES TAUGHT

Foundational through Advanced Photography, Lighting, Color, Video, and Expanded Image Practice.

Cuesta College

- Art 244: Photography I (Darkroom)*
Art 249A: Digital Photography I
Art 249B: Digital Photography II

Cosumnes River College

- Photo 272: Lightroom*
Photo 390: Studio Lighting Techniques I
Photo 360: Color Photography
Photo 392: Studio Lighting Techniques II

College of the Canyons

- Photo 150: Cameras & Composition*
Photo 155: Photography I
Photo 156: Photography II
Photo 157: Digital Imaging
Photo 177: Video For Still Photographers
Photo 191: Photographic Studio Fundamentals I
Photo 192: Photographic Studio Fundamentals II
Photo 195: Color Photography
Photo 201: Independent Projects

West Valley College

- Arts 62A: Basic Photography*
Arts 62C: Color Photography

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CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT & PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

2026	<i>Color Photography, Cosumnes River College</i>
2022–23	<i>Commercial Photography AA, College of the Canyons</i>
2021	<i>Color Photography, West Valley College</i>
2021	<i>Digital Photography II, Cuesta College</i>
2018	<i>Basic Photography, West Valley College</i>
2017	<i>Digital Photography I, Cuesta College</i>

MENTORING & ACADEMIC SERVICE

BIPOC Photo Mentoring Group

2026	<i>International peer-mentorship initiative supporting underrepresented photographers through critique, professional development, and community exchange.</i>
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Cuesta College

2025	<i>Mentor to new adjunct faculty</i>
2020–21	<i>Volunteer on-campus darkroom instructor during Covid</i>
2020–21	<i>Mentor to art faculty pivoting studio courses online during Covid</i>
2020	<i>Distance Education Committee</i>

College of the Canyons

2022–2024	<i>Student mentoring through advanced studio coursework and directed independent projects (portfolio development, critique-based guidance, project planning, and completion).</i>
2022–23	<i>Curricular & Assessment Coordinator, Photography Department</i>
2022–23	<i>Liaison to American Society of Media Photographers, Los Angeles</i>

West Valley College

2021–22	<i>Peer Online Course Review Team, instructor & mentor</i>
2020–21	<i>West Valley Online Academy, co-facilitator & mentor</i>

Mission College Preparatory

2013–2022	<i>Chair, Visual & Performing Arts, department leadership, curriculum oversight, faculty mentoring, and program development.</i>
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PHOTOGRAPHY, EXPANDED IMAGE, & STUDIO SYSTEMS

Projected Image Environments

Large-scale projected photographic works investigating light, color, spatial perception, and embodied viewing; integration of photographic source material, projection systems, and installation-based image experience within expanded photographic contexts.

Digital Capture, Scanning, & Output Systems

DSLR, Phase One, and Betterlight 4×5 capture systems; flatbed scanning, inkjet printing, Piezography, and RGB output processes, including LightJet printing.

Computational & Generative Image Systems

Use of text-to-image and hybrid generative platforms (including Midjourney and Nano Banana) within photographic workflows; investigation of authorship, prompt structures, iterative human mediation, and translation of algorithmically generated images into material photographic form.

Emerging Computational & Real-Time Visual Systems

Exploratory work with node-based and real-time visual environments (including TouchDesigner), focused on image flow, projection, and time-based image behavior within expanded photographic practice.

Software & Digital Imaging

Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom, InDesign, and Premiere Pro; instruction emphasizing workflow design, color accuracy, image ethics, and translation from digital files to physical photographic outputs.

Studio & Location Lighting

Instruction and operation of hot-shoe through multi-head studio systems and continuous lighting; modifier selection, contrast control, environmental and location lighting, and experimental lighting strategies.

Analog Cameras

35mm, medium format, and large-format view cameras (4×5, 5×7, 8×10, 11×14); use of vintage formats (127, 620, 828) and construction of experimental cameras, including pinhole and free-lens systems.

Black & White Processes

Film processing and silver-gelatin printing across formats; use of vintage and non-traditional films (including x-ray and litho); hybrid analog–digital workflows; historical and contemporary applications of wet-plate collodion.

Color Processes

Color film processing (C-41, E-6); chromogenic printing (RA-4); color management across analog and digital environments.

Alternative & Non-Silver Processes

Non-toxic approaches to carbon printing, cyanotype, gum, Van Dyke, photogravure, emulsion transfer, screen printing, and related hybrid techniques emphasizing material experimentation and historical context.

Cameraless Practices

Anthotypes, photograms, cliché verre, luminographs, manipulated emulsions, and hand-applied photographic chemistry; emphasizing hands-on experimentation, chance operations, and material agency in image formation.

TEACHING & PEDAGOGY (SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

- 2026 *Grading for Growth*—Cuesta College
Transparent grading as pathway to increased equity and effectiveness.
- 2025 *Project-Based Learning*—Cuesta College
Experiential course design emphasizing applied learning and reflection.
- 2025 *Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (JEDI) Academy*—Cuesta College
Faculty development in inclusive teaching practices.
- 2024 *Navigating the Future: Open Education and Generative AI*—Fresno Pacific Univ.
Pedagogical approaches to emerging technologies in undergraduate education.
- 2023–24 *Culturally Responsive Pedagogy*—College of the Canyons
Student-centered instructional strategies supporting diverse learning backgrounds and experiences.
- 2023–24 *Academic Chair Leadership Training*—College of the Canyons
Curriculum oversight, faculty mentorship, and program coordination.
- 2023 *Universal Design for Learning*—West Valley College
Accessible course design, flexible instructional methods, and inclusive assessment practices.
- 2022–23 *Equitable Grading Strategies Community of Practice*—CVC @ONE
Collegial engagement with other Equitable Grading practitioners.
- 2022 *Equitable Grading Strategies*—CVC @ONE / Fresno Pacific University
Transparent, standards-based assessment aligned with learning outcomes.

DIGITAL MEDIA & CANVAS LMS CERTIFICATIONS

- 2024 *Adobe Certified Professional* — Adobe Corp.
 - *Visual Design Using Adobe Photoshop*
 - *Graphic Design & Illustration Using Adobe Illustrator*
 - *Print & Digital Media Publication Using Adobe InDesign*
- 2020 *Canvas / WebCampus* — Online Network of Educators (CVC @ONE)
 - *Online Teaching & Design*
 - *Advanced Online Teaching Principles*

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PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP FACULTY

2014–2019 *Rocky Mountain School of Photography*, Missoula, Montana

2012–2015 *Santa Fe Workshops*, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2011–2014 *Maine Media Workshops*, Rockport, Maine

PORTFOLIOS

Artist Site: SylArena.com