

## 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

# SYL ARENA

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.

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## 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      *Color Photography*, Cosumnes River College
- 2022–23    *Commercial Photography AA*, College of the Canyons
- 2021      *Color Photography*, West Valley College
- 2021      *Digital Photography II*, Cuesta College
- 2018      *Basic Photography*, West Valley College
- 2017      *Digital Photography I*, Cuesta College

## MENTORING & ACADEMIC SERVICE

### ***BIPOC Photo Mentoring Group***

- 2026      *International peer-mentorship initiative supporting underrepresented photographers through critique, professional development, and community exchange.*

### ***Cuesta College***

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

### ***College of the Canyons***

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

### ***West Valley College***

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

### ***Mission College Preparatory***

- 2013–2022 *Chair, Visual & Performing Arts, department leadership, curriculum oversight, faculty mentoring, and program development.*

# SYL ARENA

## 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.

# SYL ARENA

## Cameraless Practices

Anthotypes, photographs, 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](http://SylArena.com)