

KOTA EZAWA

Born in 1969, Cologne, Germany

Lives and works in Oakland

EDUCATION

2003

MFA, Stanford University, CA

1995

BFA, San Francisco Art Institute, CA

1990-1994

Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany

AWARDS

2026

Guggenheim Fellowship, Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY

2025

Rubenstein Guest Artist, Sidwell Friends School, Washington DC

2024

Manetti Shrem Artist in Residence, University of California, Davis

2023

Audain Visual Artist in Residence, School for the Contemporary Arts, Simon Fraser University,
Vancouver, BC, Canada

2022

Resident Artist Faculty, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME

2017

DAAD Guest Artist, Braunschweig, Germany

2016

Artist in Residence, Villa Waldberta, Munich, Germany

2014

Spring 2014 Dodd Chair, Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

2013

Artist in Residence, The Workshop Residence, San Francisco, CA

Artist in Residence, Goethe Institut, Villa Kamogawa, Japan

2012

Artist in Residence, San Francisco Center for the Book, San Francisco, CA

2011

Artist in Residence, Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA

2010

Eureka Fellowship, Fleishhacker Foundation, San Francisco, CA

2006

SECA Art Award, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, Germany

2005

Artadia Jury Award

2003

Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award, New York, NY

Film Arts Foundation Personal Work Grant

Mediamaker Award, Bay Area Video Coalition, San Francisco, CA

2002

Murphy Cadogan Award, The San Francisco Foundation, CA

1995

Meisterschuler, Kunstakademie Dusseldorf, Germany

SELECTED INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

2025

Here and There—Now and Then, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA

The Simpson Verdict, The Crime of Art, Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA

2024

Kota Ezawa: National Anthem, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

Alcatraz is an Idea, SF Planning Department, 49 South Van Ness Video Art Program, San Francisco, CA

Peace Piece, UCSF, San Francisco, CA (Permanent Installation)

Kota Ezawa, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2022

National Anthem, Memorial Art Gallery, University of Rochester, NY; Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA

Mobilizing Conscience: Art + Protest, Goether-Institut Toronto/Scotia Bank Contact Photography Festival, Toronto, Canada

2021

Kota Ezawa: The Crime of Art, Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Opus III, 68projects, Berlin, Germany

Opus II, Galerie Anita Beckers, Frankfurt a.M., Germany

Opus I, Ryan Lee Gallery, New York, NY

City of Nature, Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI; traveling to Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Kota Ezawa: The Simpson Verdict, Landmarks Video, University of Texas, Austin, TX

2020

Kota Ezawa: National Anthem, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD

Detail: Kota Ezawa, George Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY

Taking A Knee, Deborah Ronnen Fine Arts, Rochester, NY

Whitney Screens: Kota Ezawa: National Anthem, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
(online exhibition)

2019

Kota Ezawa: National Anthem, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Kota Ezawa / Sean Raspet: /, San Francisco, CA

Kota Ezawa: Two Views, Hilliard University Art Museum; traveling to University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Paint, Unpaint, John Hartell Gallery at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Tonya, The Galleries at Heron School of Art and Design, Indiana University – Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN

2018

The Crime of Art (Hollywood Edition), Christopher Grimes Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

The Crime of Art (Cadavre Exquis), Galerie der Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Braunschweig, Germany

2017

The Crime of Art, SITE Santa Fe, NM; traveling to Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, CA; Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Jacksonville, FL; Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Rotherwas Project 2: Kota Ezawa, Gardner Museum Revisited, Mead Art Museum, Amherst, MA

2016

The Crime of Art, Galerie Anita Beckers, Frankfurt, Germany

In That Case: Havruta in Contemporary Art - Kota Ezawa and James Kirby Rogers, Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA

Gardner Museum Revisited, Christopher Grimes Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2015

Thirteen Stolen Works of Art and a Videotape, Murray Guy, New York, NY

The Thingness of an Object, Feldbusch Wiesner Galerie, Berlin, Germany

In the Box: Kota Ezawa, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA

2014

The Aesthetics of Silence, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Panorama, Christopher Grimes Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2013

Kota Ezawa: Boardwalk, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

Kota Ezawa: Redrawn, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY

2012

Offsite: Kota Ezawa, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

The Curse of Dimensionality, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2011

Paper or Plastic, Mendes Wood, Sao Paulo, Brazil

City of Nature, Murray Guy, New York, NY and Madison Square Park, New York, NY

2010

Beatles Über California, Galerie Anita Beckers, Frankfurt, Germany

2009

Odessa Staircase Redux, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Group Show, Galerie Anita Beckers, Frankfurt, Germany

The Box, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH

2008

Multiplex, Murray Guy, New York, NY

New Media Series: Kota Ezawa, St. Louis Art Museum, MO

Brawl, Luckman Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles, CA

Dietmar Lutz & Kota Ezawa: Documenta, Arquebuse Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland

2007

Project Space: Hotel California, The Hayward Gallery, London, UK

The History of History, Charles H. Scott Gallery, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada

Last Year at Marienbad, Gandy Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia

Re-Animating History, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA

2006

Hudson (Show)Room: Kota Ezawa, Artpace, San Antonio, TX

The History of Photography Remix, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2005

Matrix 154, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT

Lennon Sontag Beuys, Murray Guy, New York, NY

Project Room, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, BICA

2004

Version (with Michele O'Marah), New Langton Arts, San Francisco, CA

2003

Who's Afraid of Black, White and Grey, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**2026**

Backstory: Digitizing the Museum Collection, Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, Davis, CA

People Make This Place: SFAI Stories, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

2025

Count Me In, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

(Re) Constructing History, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

2024

Fraenkenstein, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Diorama, H BOX, Centro de Arte Moderna Gulbenkian, Lisboa, Portugal

2023

Resistance Training: Arts, Sports, and Civil Rights, MSU Broad Art Museum, East Lansing, MI

Hoop Dreams: Basketball and Contemporary Art, Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY

Crafting Radicality: Bay Area Artists from the Svane Gift, de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA

The Voice of the People: Freedom of Speech, Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park, FL

2022

Unmasking Masculinity for the 21st Century, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, MI

From Moment to Movement: Picturing Protest in the Kramlich Collection, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti
Shrem Museum of Art, University of California, Davis, CA

2021

The Sum of Unity, Herron Galleries, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN

Chromotherapy, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Art of Sport, Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark

Exchange the Experience, Round Weather Gallery, Oakland, CA

2020

Winter Light, Southbank Centre, London, UK

New Exhibitions, The Marguiles Collection at the WAREhOUSE, Miami, FL

This We Believe, 21c Museum Hotel, Chicago, IL

In the Beginning: Media Art and History from the Hirshhorn's Collection, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture
Garden, Washington, D.C (online exhibition)

Threshold: Art in Times of Crisis, Performa, New York, NY (online exhibition)

Run On, Locust Projects, Miami, FL

Art Encounters: Community or Chaos, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

This is America/Art USA Today, Kunsthal Kade, Amersfoort, The Netherlands

Kassel...mit allen Wassern gewaschen, Kunstmuseum Neue Galerie, Kassel, Germany

2019

Whitney Biennial 2019, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

Long Story Short, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

A Cure for Everything, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Beyond the Cape! Comic and Contemporary Art, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL

Copycat, San Francisco State University Fine Arts Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Likenesses, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

The Empathy Lab, Jessica Silverman Gallery, San Francisco, CA

What is an edition, anyway?, McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

Now Playing: Video 1999-2019, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ

2018

Nature Unleashed: The Image of Catastrophe since 1600, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Germany

Quintessence: 6 Perspectives on Abstraction, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Light Box, Kunstmuseum Celle, Celle, Germany

Way Bay 2, Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive, University of California, Berkeley, CA

2017

Leonard Cohen: Une brèche en toute chose/A Crack in Everything, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, Quebec, Canada, travelling to The Jewish Museum, New York, NY; Nikolaj Kunstahl, Copenhagen, Denmark; Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA

Art Lesson, Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, Spain

Limitless Horizon: Vertical Perspective, Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia

Detritus, Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA

The January Show, Murray Guy, New York, NY

2016

California and the West: Photography from the Campaign for Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

The Human Spirit, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA

A Second Exhibition by Other Masters Around the Same Subject, New Date, Hotel Maria Kapel, Hoorn, The Netherlands

The Stand-Ins, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

In That Case: Havruta in Contemporary Art, Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA

Zur Sache Schätzchen, Pasinger Fabrik, Munich, Germany

2015

Last Year in Marienbad: A Film as Art, Kunsthalle Bremen, Germany

Watch This! Revelations in Media Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC

Screen Play: Life in an Animated World, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY

No Place Like Home: Selection from the John Wieland Collection of Contemporary Art, Brigham Young University Museum of Art, Provo, UT

2014

Convergences: Selected Photographs from the Permanent Collection, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA

Out of Site, PEER Gallery, London, UK

The Plot Thickens, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Political Fictions, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Between Critique and Absorption, Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

2013

The Unphotographable, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Out of the Ordinary, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, DC

Ed Ruscha: Books & Company, Gagosian Gallery, New York, NY, travelling to Museum Brandhorst, Munich, Germany

Proximities 2: Knowing Me, Knowing You, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA

Conflict Resolution, Pierre-François Ouellette Art Contemporain, Montreal, Canada

This is Not America: Resistance, Protest and Poetics, Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ

SLOW: Marking Time in Photography and Film, Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville, FL

2012

After Photoshop, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

The Sports Show, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, MN

Occupy Bay Area, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

The End, Vogt Gallery, New York, NY

Fax, San Francisco Art Commission Gallery, San Francisco, CA

The Dwelling Life of Man, Photographs from the Martin Z. Margulies Collection, Foto Colectania Foundation, Barcelona, Spain

2011

HERE. Survey Exhibition on Contemporary and Historical Photography from the Bay Area, Pilara Foundation, Pier 24 Photography, San Francisco, CA

Watch This! New Directions in the Art of the Moving Image, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC

Fifty Years of Bay Area Art: The SECA Art Awards, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

The More Things Change, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

Blink, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO

H-Box, Artsonje Museum, Seoul, South Korea

Serious Games: War-Media-Art, Mathlidenhohe, Darmstadt, Germany

Super 8, Christopher Grimes Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2010

21st Century: Art in the First Decade, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia

Pervasive Influence: The Mechanical Bride, Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Toronto, Canada

The Tell-Tale Heart, James Cohan Gallery, New York, NY

New York Now, Murray Guy, New York, NY

Splicing Life, Contemporary Art Galleries, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Project 35, Saint Joseph College Art Gallery, West Hartford, CT

CUE: Artists' Videos, Vancouver Art Gallery, British Columbia, Canada

Video Art: Replay, Part 2, Everyday Imaginary, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Remise Animation, Städtische Galerie, Delmenhorst, Germany

Bruce Conner: Long Play and the Singles Collection, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

Until Now: Collecting the New (1960 – 2010), Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN

3 + 3, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

New Art for a New Century: Contemporary Acquisitions 2000 – 2010, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA

The Image in Question: War-Media-Art, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Project 35, Independent Curators International, touring exhibition

2009

Talking Pictures, SITE Santa Fe, NM

Dress Codes: The Third ICP Triennial of Photography and Video, International Center of Photography, New York, NY

Grau Zero, Paco das Artes, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Suddenly This Summer, Sikkema, Jenkins & Co., New York, NY

Material Witness, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA

Untitled (History of Painting): Painting and Public Life in the 21st Century, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI

The Moving Image: Scan to Screen, Pixel to Projection, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA

H Box: Matthew Buckingham, Cliff Evans, Kota Ezawa, Cao Fei, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA

Between Grass And Sky: Rhythms of a Cowboy, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV

2008

01SJ Biennial: Superlight, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA

5th Seoul International Media Art Biennale, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea

Photography on Photography: Reflections on the Medium Since 1960, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

The Cinema Effect: Illusion, Reality, and the Moving Image, Part II: Realisms, The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC

Ours: Democracy in the Age of Branding, Vera List Center for Art and Politics at The New School, New York, NY

The Object is the Mirror (Part II), Wilkinson Gallery, London, UK

Two-Fold Faction, PKM Gallery, Beijing, China

The New Normal, Artists Space, New York, NY

Recent Acquisitions, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL

Southern Exposure, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia

2007

SECA Art Award, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

Geopolitics of Animation, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Seville, Spain

Reality Reloaded, 14-1 Galerie, Stuttgart, Germany

Animated Painting, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA; travelling to El Cubo at Centro Cultural, Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico; Falconer Gallery, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA

Four Thursday Nights: Minus, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO

The Temporal Moving Image: Nam June Paik, Alan Rath, Kota Ezawa, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

On the Scene: Kota Ezawa, Sarah Hobbs, Angela Strassheim, The Art Institute of Chicago, IL

Image Processor, Lombard-Freid Projects, New York, NY

Videology, Gandy Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia SECA Art Award Exhibition, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

On Paper, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2006

Out of Time: Contemporary Art from the Collection, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

Down by Law, The Wrong Gallery at the Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

Suburban Escape: The Art of California Sprawl, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA

NextNew2006: Art and Technology, Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA

Regarding Truth: An Exhibition of Work by Artadia Winners, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco, CA

Històries Animades, Caixa Forum, Barcelona, Spain, travelling to Sala Rekalde, Bilbao, Spain; Le Fresnoy, France

Metro Pictures, The Moore Space/Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, FL

Joint Venture, Richard L. Nelson Gallery, University of California, Davis, CA

2005

The Last Generation, Apex Art, New York, NY and Jousse Entreprise, Paris, France

I Still Believe in Miracles, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris / ARC au Couvent des Cordeliers, Paris, France

Seeing Double: Encounters with Warhol, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA

In Words and Pictures, Murray Guy, New York City, NY

Bay Area Bazaar, Pulliam Deffenbaugh Gallery, Portland, OR

2004

2004 California Biennial, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA

Shanghai Biennale 2004: Techniques of the Visible, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China

Temporalscape, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Simple.tech, Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery, University of Nevada, Reno, NV

2003

Baja to Vancouver: The West Coast and Contemporary Art, Seattle Art Museum, WA, travelling to Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; Vancouver Art Gallery, BC, Canada; CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA

2002

Bay Area Now 3, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

1999

Spiel des Lebens, Hauptpost, Dusseldorf, Germany

1997

Better, San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, San Francisco, CA

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2025

Here and There – Now and Then, Fort Mason Center for Arts and Culture

2021

Opus, Galerie Anita Beckers

2017

The Crime of Art, Radius Books

2010

Odessa Staircase Redux, ECU Press & JRP Ringier

2007

The History of Photography Remix, Nazraeli Press

SELECTED INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS

21C Museum, Louisville, KY
The Alford Collection of Contemporary Art, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Rollins College, FL
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
The Bass Museum of Art, Miami, FL
Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive, University of California, Berkeley, CA
Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX
Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, NY
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA
Collection Neuflyze Vie, Paris, France
De Young, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CA
Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, MI
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth University, Hanover, NH
Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA
Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco, CA and Paris, France
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI
Kramlich Collection, Napa Valley, CA
Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Germany
Kunsthalle Bremen, Germany
Manetti Shrem Museum at the University of California, Davis, CA
Margulies Collection, Miami, FL
Mead Art Museum, Amherst, MA
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN
Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Canada
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville, FL
Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, CA
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
Netherlands Media Arts Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
New York Public Library, New York, NY
Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA
The Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA
Palm Springs Museum of Art, Palm Springs, CA
Pilara Foundation Collection, Pier 24 Photography, San Francisco, CA
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
Richard L. Nelson Gallery & Fine Arts Collection, University of California, Davis, CA

The Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, Providence, RI
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
San Francisco Arts Commission, 49 South Van Ness, San Francisco, CA
San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC
Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Städtische Galerie Wolfsburg, Germany
Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT
The Wieland Collection, Atlanta, GA
Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Wichita Falls Museum of Art at Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, TX
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT