

Cassie Thornton

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Artist & Feminist Economist

Lives and works between
Thunder Bay Ontario, Berlin, and Oakland, CA.

Over the past decade I have worked primarily in the field of social practice engaging with the way debt affects the imagination. I have worked with large and small groups in the United States and abroad to orchestrate collective rituals and practices for understanding how debt and financial suffering encodes itself in our bodies and our relationships.

Founder of The Feminist Economics Department. www.feministeconomicsdepartment.com
Co-Director of The Re-Imagining Value Action Lab in Thunder Bay, Ontario. <http://rival.lakeheadu.ca>

Education Master of Fine Arts 2012 in Social Practice, California College of the Arts
Bachelor of Fine Arts 2004 in Sculpture and Painting. University of Wisconsin- Madison

RECENT PROJECTS

SECRET CHAKRA/FEMINIST ECONOMICS YOGA

Yoga class becomes a method for disseminating ideas and practices for post-capitalist behavior, exchange, and sociality.
Casa Chocolat, Berlin 2016
Elizabeth Foundation Project Space NYC, 2017
Project Row Houses, Angela House, Montrose Center, Houston TX, 2017
RiVAL, Thunder Bay Canada, 2017
Supermarkt-Berlin, 2017
Abolishing Border Imperialism Conference, Minneapolis 2017

COLLECTIVE PSYCHIC ARCHITECTURE

A wall is built near the gallery's entrance, an obstacle that must be broken through in pursuit of definancialized care.
Sick Time, Sleepy Time, Crip Time, curated by Taraneh Fazeli at EFA Project Space, NYC 2017

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHOENIX

The world's only institution of higher education dedicated to accumulating the human capital of the no-longer-living.
Collaboration with Max Haiven. See <http://universityofthephoenix.com>

MYSTERY HANDS

A children's book and immersive installation for children to learn about and destroy the financialized world of adults.
Gallery 400, University of Illinois, Chicago 2016

WHATEVER IT COSTS TO DEFEND OUR SECURITY...

Series of cursed watercolor paintings to be placed in the offices of bankers who make predatory loans to public schools.
Installation and talk at Flux Factory, NYC 2016

OVERFLOWING AFTERWORK YOGA & PUB

A pub transformed into a yoga studio where yogis are lead to value themselves outside of their economic labor, as dogs.
Mayworks Festival for Working People and the Arts; Anna Leowens Gallery, Halifax NS 2016

NO JUSTICE NO SERVICE

Festival and workshop uniting low wage workers including adjunct faculty, artists, and activists through performance art.
Workshop at CHARGE, Hosted by Houston Art League 2016
Festival hosted by The LAB, 2015

GIVE ME CRED!

Auxiliary credit reporting service as a humane alternative to credit reporting. www.givemecred.com
SPACES, Cleveland 2014
Southern Exposure, 2015

DEBT2SPACE PROGRAM

Attempt to send debt to space using sound and radio waves. www.debt2space.info, 1(707)ENDEBT
Portland State University, Recess Art PDX, KBOO Radio, Portland 2013
Royal Nonesuch Gallery, Oakland 2013
Strike Debt Radio Collective, KPFA, Berkeley 2013-2014
E-flux Gallery, NYC 2012

FEDORA ARCHIVE

Female actors hired to perform articulate emotional breakdowns about financial crises within Academe.
California College of the Arts, 2012
University Gallery at University of California, San Diego, 2014

POETS SECURITY FORCE

Security firm to protect vulnerability itself. www.poetsecurity.net
California College of the Arts, 2012
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2012
Elizabeth Foundation Project Space NYC, 2013 Funded by the Blade of Grass Foundation, NYC.

COMMUNALIZATION OF DEBT THROUGH SOUND

Vocalization of indebtedness as sound for catharsis and non-verbal rebellion.
Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, NYC 2012
Momenta Art, NY 2012
Massachusetts School of Art and Design, MA 2012
Cooper Union Tuition Summit, NYC 2012
Charlotte Street Foundation, Kansas City 2013

FEMINIST ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT BEAUTY SALON

Beauty salon installation with artist-designed services that confront economic suffering.
Ictus Gallery, SF 2012

PHYSICAL AUDIT

Dancers touch every surface on a tour of 20 NYC banks. www.physical-audit.tumblr.com
Flux Factory, NYC 2012

DEBT VISUALIZATIONS

Ongoing psychotherapeutic service to help visualize debt as a material or a space. www.debt-visualizations.tumblr.com
California College of the Arts, SF 2012
Southern Exposure, SF 2012
Elizabeth Foundation, NYC 2012

WHY ISN'T ANYONE CRYING AT THE ART FAIR?

Group-crying performance by art professionals at high end art fair with Joseph Thomas and Byron Peters.
Performed at ArtPad SF, 2012

SOCIAL CRAFT

Intervention into Indian design school; wealthy students learn how to build a house, on campus, and lived in it.
Srishti School for Art and Design, Bangalore, India, funded by IMPACT grant for Social Entrepreneurship, SF 2011

SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE

Free intergenerational outdoor learning operation. www.schoolofthefuture.org
Supported by TrustArt.org, SolarOne, NYC Parks Department 2010

TEMPORARY ART BEAUTY SERVICES/ BARTER SYSTEM BEAUTY SALON

Art history based manicures and traveling art history library. www.temporaryartbeautyservices.biz
Volta Fair, Basel Switzerland 2010
Brooklyn College Community Partnership 2008

FUTURE UNINCORPORATED

NY Consulting Firm in the Woods. www.futureunincorporated.com
Saksala Art Foundation, Haukivuori Finland 2007
3rd Ward, Brooklyn 2008

PERFORMANCES

2017 Cockpit Theatre (UK), Initial Coin Offering Ritual
2017 Signals Exhibition (Berlin, GE), Ghost Machine Ritual
2017 MONEYLAB (Amsterdam, NL), University of the Phoenix Convocation Dinner
2016 Berkeley Art Museum (Berkeley, CA), Heavy Breathing Series presents I.C.E. Performance
2015 Mother Foucault's Bookstore (Portland, OR), ROCK, dramatic reading
2015 Gospel Flats Farmstand (Marin, CA), ROCK, dramatic reading
2015 SOMARTS (San Francisco, CA), Disaster Grand Jury
2013 Eyebeam (NYC), The Very First Year
2012 Cooper Union (NYC), Communitization of Debt through Sound
2012 SF MOMA (San Francisco, CA), Richard Serra Urgent Debt Tour
2012 The Wattis Institute (San Francisco, CA), Sorry the Game
2010 The Kitchen (NYC), Kate Bush Dance Troupe
2010 Dixon Place (NYC), Kate Bush Dance Troupe
2009 Judson Church (NYC), Strataspace

Performances, Cont'd

2009 MoMA (NYC), Temporary Art Beauty Services
2009 Brooklyn Art Museum (NYC), Temporary Art Beauty Services
2009 Project Robot (NYC), Temporary Art Beauty Services
2009 Art Basel-Switzerland, Temporary Art Beauty Services

SELECTED LECTURES AND PANELS

ART AND ACTIVISM VENUES

Artist Lecture, Real Time & Space Art Residency, Oakland 2017
Feminist Economics Seminar, Supermarkt-Berlin 2017
Fugitives of the Creative Economy; MayWorks Festival, Halifax Public Library, Halifax NS, Canada 2016
Poet|Artist|Activist: Let's Make a Plan with Christian Nagler, Chris Higgenbotham, Labor Archives, San Francisco State University, 2015
Queering Credit Reports with Stella Lawless; Queer Astrology Conference, San Francisco, CA 2015
Art and Money, a History with Max Haiven; The OMNI Commons, Oakland CA, 2015
Alternatives to Credit Reporting with Jane Smith; Occupy Forum, 2014
ROCK; Headlands Center for the Arts, Marin CA, 2013
Anthropology and Social Change; California Institute for Integral Studies, 2013
Art, Labor and the Specter of Unsustainability with Leigh Claire LaBerge and Laurel Ptak; Left Forum NYC, 2012
Is Debt Real? Niebel Proctor Marxist Library, 2012

HIGHER EDUCATION VENUES

Artist Talk, Royal College of Art, UK; 2017
Artist Talk with Max Haiven, University of Western Ontario; 2017
Artist Talk, Anthropology Department, University of Chicago; 2017
Panel Discussion, Reclaiming Utopia: Challenging the Financial Imagination; Kings College London; 2016
Panel Discussion, Cultures of Finance Symposium; City College London; 2016
Project and Lecture; Moneylab at Institute of Network Cultures: Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences; 2016
Artist Lecture, Artes y Movimientos Sociales; Universidad Pablo de Olavide; Seville, Spain 2016
Panel Discussion, CASCA Anthropology Conference, Dalhousie University; Halifax NS, Canada 2016
Artist Lecture, Evergreen College; 2014, 2015
Artist Lecture; Portland State University, 2015
Artist as Archivist Lecture; California College of the Arts, 2015
Artist Talk; Sonoma State University, 2013
Artist in Residence Presentation; Massachusetts School of Art and Design, 2012
Student Debt Visualized; SUNY Purchase, 2012
Artist Lecture; SFAI, 2012

MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED BOOKS:

A Field Guide to the Snowden Files, Edited by Berliner Gazette. 2017
ROCK, published by Recess Arts PDX in Portland. 2015
A Soft Spot in a Hard Place, edited by Zach Gough, published by Publication Studio and Portland State University. 2015

RADIO:

Strike Debt Radio Segment on KPFA is a series of 10 segments about debt aired on "Morning Mix", 2014.
Debt2Space Program Segment on KBOO in Portland is a 20 minute segment about my project, aired in 2013.

ONLINE & PRINT JOURNALS:

"Feminist Economics and the People's Apocalypse" in GUTS Canadian Feminist Magazine
"The CASH SURVEY" in GUTS Canadian Feminist Magazine
"A Different Medicine is Possible" for Carenotes, a project of Common Notions Press
"Debts of the American Empire: Real and Imagined" cowritten with Max Haiven in ROAR magazine
"On Exiting Capitalism", co-written with Max Haiven, DANCEHOUSE DIARY, Australia (web)
"Debt Visualizations", BRAND Magazine, Sweden (print and web)
"CRED Reclamation Project", Temporary Art (web)
"Archive of Sinking and Melting", Brooklyn Rail (web)
"Physical Audit, Journal of Aesthetics & Protest" (web and print)
"Invisible Labor Inquiry", ArtLeaks (web)
"Save the System", Temporary Art (web)

SELF PUBLISHED BOOKS:

Our Bundles Our Selves, on Lulu
Application to the London School of Economics, on Lulu
Feminist Reproduction Manual, with Laurel Ptak and Eyebeam Center for Art and Technology

WORKSHOPS

A variety of workshops using art and movement to research, express, and manipulate the stronghold that money has on the imagination.

SUPERMARKT-BERLIN, Berlin, Germany 2017

One day Intensive Feminist Economics Seminar.

EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE, Olympia WA 2015

One semester workshop for students about debt and its effect on the unconscious and social space.

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, Portland OR 2015

Led a day long workshop for Social Practice Masters students about the relationship between economics and the human body.

CORINTHIAN 15 TRAINING, San Francisco CA 2015

Worked with student debt strikers to explore their relationship to debt and to the personal risks of striking.

BERKELEY ART MUSEUM, Berkeley CA 2014

Presented a workshop for artists about contract writing for the Valuing Labor in the Arts Practicum.

SAN FRANCISCO JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

& THE IMAGINE BUS PROJECT (IBP) San Francisco, CA 2012-2014

Led weekly art workshops for 3 units of incarcerated teens with a focus on: literacy; drawing skills; audio recording and editing; self-esteem; and manicures.

EYEBEAM CENTER FOR ART AND TECHNOLOGY 2013

I taught a provocative and critical workshop about 3d printing for women as a part of the first all woman event at this male dominated space.

ELIZABETH FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS PROJECT SPACE 2013

Designed and led workshops for security guards to rethink and perform protective measures for vulnerable elements of NYC and to write poetry.

ELIZABETH FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS PROJECT SPACE 2012

Led workshops to help people with student debt think critically about the meaning and potential tactics for dealing with their debt, as well as performance workshops and rituals to emit the debt through sound.

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN, Boston MA 2012

Taught undergraduate chorus art studio class with a focus on expressing indebtedness through art making and performance.

OPEN ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE, Portland OR 2012

Led workshop for art educators to consider the way they face debt within institutions.

SRISHTI SCHOOL OF ART, DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY, Bangalore IN 2011

Instructor for one trimester sculpture/social practice undergraduate workshop titled 'Social Craft'.

CENTER FOR URBAN PEDAGOGY, NYC 2007-2010

Designed three youth workshops in collaboration with neighborhood advocacy groups with a design based curriculum focused on the way the city works.

BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL, Brooklyn NY 2007-2010

Led fine art and performance workshops in collaboration with core subject teachers in five Brooklyn public schools in underserved neighborhoods.

ESCUELA SUPERIOR DE ARTES DE YUCATAN, Yucatan MX 2007

Led one semester studio class for undergraduates about the history of artist designed pedagogy.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (interviews, reviews, academic writing about my work)

Kopatzki, Julia. "DIY: This Yoga Seminar Deals with Capitalism." Business Punk, 22 May 2017, www.business-punk.com/2017/05/finanzyoga/.

Anania, Katie. "'Sick Time, Sleepy Time, Crip Time: Against Capitalism's Temporal Bullying' at EFA Project Space." Artforum.com, Artforum International Magazine, 1 May 2017, www.artforum.com/picks/id=68096.

Lorusso, Silvio. "Precarity Feels." THE ENTREPRECARIAT, Institute for Network Cultures, 10 Dec. 2016, networkcultures.org/entreprecariat/precarity-feels/.

Molenda, Ania. "Play and Imagination Against Debt." Amateur Cities, Stimuleringsfonds Voor Creative Industrie, 22 Dec. 2016, amateurcities.com/play-imagination-debt/.

Thornton, Cassie, and Annie McClanahan. "Politicizing Debt." Stanford University Press Blog, Stanford Press, 19 Dec. 2016, stanfordpress.typepad.com/blog/2016/12/politicizing-debt.html.

Soong, C.S. the, and Cassie Thornton. "Art About Debt." Against the Grain, Pacifica, Berkeley, CA, 28 Sept. 2016.

Trimmier, Miranda. "DARK POOLS." THE NEW INQUIRY, 30 Mar. 2016, www.thenewinquiry.com.

McClanahan, Annie. *Dead Pledges: Debt, Crisis, and Twenty-first -century Culture*. S.I.: Stanford UP, 2016. Print.

McClanahan, Annie. "Debt and Personification," Invited Lecture at the Society for Critical Exchange, University of Houston, February 2015.

McClanahan, Annie. "Credit, Debt, and Social Personhood," Invited Lecture at the Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, June 2014.

"Tech Sass (with Cassie Thornton)." Interview by Kate Rhodes, Maysoun Wazwaz. Audio blog post. Congratulations, Pine Tree!

Peters, Byron J. "Misperforming Scripts." *Art in the Age of Real Abstraction*. University of London, London. 10 May 2014. Lecture.

Torres, Carla. "Smash Your Debt Like a Piñata, Literally, With Artist Cassie Thornton." Review. Web log post. Miami New Times Blog. Miami New Times, 12 June 2014.

Barrett, Douglas G. "The Debt of Philosophy—Cassie Thornton's Debt 2 Space Program and the New Materialism." Tuning Speculation Conference. Arraymusic Studio, Toronto. 1 Nov. 2013. Lecture.

La Berge, Leigh Claire, and Dehlia Hannah. "Debt Aesthetics: Medium Specificity and Social Practice in the Work of Cassie Thornton." *Postmodern Culture* (2014): n. pag. Print. Forthcoming, print date TBD.

La Berge, Leigh Claire. "Debt in an Expanded Field, Work on the Artist Cassie Thornton." University of Alberta, Alberta, Canada. 26 Mar. 2013. Lecture.

Smith, David B. "\$ // Abigail Satinsky , Destineez Child , Sal Randolph , and Cassie Thornton // A Curated Selection of Artwork from Culturehall with Text by David B. Smith." \$ // Abigail Satinsky , Destineez Child , Sal Randolph , and Cassie Thornton

Singer, Reid. "Occupy Art School - The New Yorker." *The New Yorker*.

