

# Aay Preston-Myint: *Curriculum vitae*

b. 1981, New York

Living and working in the San Francisco Bay Area

## *Currently:*

Independent Curator, Designer, and Artist.

Studio Manager, Real Time and Space. 2019-present.

Curatorial Council, Southern Exposure. 2021-present.

Board of Directors, Small Press Traffic. 2021-present.

## *Sometimes:*

Adjunct Faculty, California College of the Arts. 2021-present.

## *Formerly:*

Executive Director, SF Camerawork. 2023-2024.

Senior Manager, Public Programs and Fellowships, Headlands Center for the Arts.  
2018-2022.

Founder & Co-Director, the Chicago Art Book Fair. 2016-2019.

Staff/Faculty/Visiting Artist, Ox-Bow School of Art, 2015-2020.

Adjunct Associate Professor, Depts. of Fiber and Material Studies and Printmedia,  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago. 2012-2018.

Staff/Faculty/Visiting Artist, ACRE Residency. 2010-2017.

Organizer, Chances Dances. 2005-2018.

Co-Founder, No Coast / No Coast Editions. 2008-2017.

Editor-in-Chief, Monsters and Dust. 2009-2014.

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## **Selected exhibitions, engagements, awards, and education.**

*Solo exhibitions, project leads, etc featured in bold.*

2025

**Curator, *Black Life* series, Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, Calif.**

Exhibition author, *A Strange Vibration*, SF Camerawork, San Francisco

2024

**Co-Curator, *High Five* art festival, Edge on the Square, San Francisco**

**Curator, *FORECAST 2024***. SF Camerawork, San Francisco

**Curator, *Ebti: Ma-kan* / مکان**. SF Camerawork, San Francisco

Curatorial Counsel, *Bay Area Now 9*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco

2023

**Curator, Charles Lee: sweat + dirt. SF Camerawork, San Francisco**

*New Moon Figure Eight*, 120710, Berkeley, Calif.

**Curator, Weep to Water the Trees. slash, San Francisco**

**Co-Curator, We've Been Among You. Southern Exposure, San Francisco**

**Curator, FORECAST 2023. SF Camerawork, San Francisco**

2022

**Curator, Dewdrops in the Garden. Southern Exposure, San Francisco**

*All that glows in the dark of democracy.* Weinberg Newton, Chicago

2021

Participant, Black Embodiments Studio, Seattle.

**Artist in Residence, In Cahoots, Petaluma, Calif.**

**Artist in Residence, Facebook Open Arts, Menlo Park, Calif.**

**Artist in Residence, Google, Mountain View, Calif.**

2020

*Residency Projects In Flux*, Kala Art Center, Berkeley.

**Organizer & Moderator, COVID Keywords series, Headlands Center for the Arts**

**Curator, Tomorrow Is Already Here, Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, Calif.**

2019

**Director, the Chicago Art Book Fair. Multiple venues, Chicago. (since 2017)**

*contraposto.* Victoria Arts Council, Victoria, B.C.

**Recipient, Diversity and Leadership Fellowship. Alliance of Artist Communities, Providence.**

**X O. Royal Nonesuch, Oakland. (solo exhibition)**

*Slant Step Forward.* Verge Center for the Arts, Sacramento.

**Kala Fellowship Award. Kala Art Institute, Berkeley.**

**Wormhole. Adler & Floyd, Chicago. (solo exhibition)**

*Love, Aswang.* Southern Exposure, San Francisco.

*Ruffles, Ritual and Repair.* Wedding Cake House, Providence.

2018

*Artists + Archives: Pilots.* Leather Archives & Museum/Chicago Archives + Artists Project, Chicago.

Moderator, *For Freedoms* Town Hall with AfriCOBRA. Sweetwater Foundation, Chicago.

*Welcome to Your Body.* Zakaib, Chicago.

**Trinity [Project #11]. 'sindikit], Baltimore. (solo exhibition)**

*An Image for A Vessel.* Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Chicago.

2017

*Raw Night.* Condo Association, Chicago.

**Invitational residency, Radiant Hall/The Residence, Pittsburgh.**

*Summer Sessions.* Heaven Gallery, Chicago

Speaker, *Open Engagement*. University of Illinois at Chicago.  
*One day this kid will get larger*. DePaul Art Museum, Chicago.  
*a sudden and peculiar pleasure, a feeling of protection*. Lovey Town, Madison,  
and Mana Contemporary, Chicago.

2016

*Gist and Gesture*. Kavi Gupta, Chicago.

**Aay Preston-Myint for Trunk Show. Trunk Show, Chicago.**

*Printed Matter's LA Art Book Fair*. Geffen Contemporary, Los Angeles. (as No Coast, also 2015)

2015

**Recipient, Art Matters Discretionary Grant.** (as Chances Dances)

*Intersite Visual Arts Festival*. Various locations, Calgary. (as Chances Dances)

*Frontier*. Sometimes Art Space, Havana.

*The Vancouver Art Book Fair*. Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver. (as No Coast)

*The London Art Book Fair*. Whitechapel Gallery, London. (as No Coast)

**Organizer and Curator, Platforms: Ten Years of Chances Dances. Multiple venues, Chicago.**

*Making Chances*. Gallery400, Chicago.

*Tertiary Dimensions*. Sector 2337, Chicago.

*Terrain Biennial*. Various locations, Oak Park, Ill.

*Autoptic: A Festival of Independent Culture*. Aria, Minneapolis. (as No Coast)

Speaker/Performer, *ArtPresent: Mapping A Space That Could Return to Earth Again*. Fábrica de Arte  
Cubano, Havana. (as Chances Dances)

2014

**Curator, Boundaries, Collapse. Lula, Chicago.**

Speaker, *Charge practicum*. Art League, Houston.

*The [New] New Corpse*. Sector 2337, Chicago.

**Moderator, Modes of Address: Intersections of Queerness and Feminism. Black Artists Retreat,  
Chicago.**

Artist in residence, Summer Forum for Inquiry and Exchange. Joshua Tree, Calif.

2013

**Organizer, Summoning a New Queer Reality. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.**

**(At Night, I Think Of You). Threewalls, Chicago** (solo exhibition)

*How Do I Look?* Roots and Culture, Chicago.

2012

*Epic Something*. Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago.

*All Good Things are Born Wild and Free*. Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisc.

*Bowling Alone*. Andrew Rafacz, Chicago.

*The Dragon is the Frame*. Gallery 400, Chicago.

*Lifestyle Plus Form*. Madame, Minneapolis.

*Joan Mitchell 2011 MFA Grant Exhibition*. CUE Art Foundation, New York.

**I'm Here to Make Friends. Happy Collaborationists, Chicago.** (solo exhibition)

2011

*31st Century Museum of Contemporary Spirit*. SAIC Sullivan Galleries, Chicago. (as Chances Dances)

**Recipient, Propeller Fund** (a Warhol Regional Regranting Program).

**Lecturer, Art Appreciation. Chicago State University.**

*Tokyo Art Book Fair*. Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo (as No Coast)

**Master of Fine Arts, Studio. University of Illinois at Chicago.**

**Recipient, Joan Mitchell MFA Grant.**

2010

Artist in residence, ACRE. Steuben, Wisc.

*A Unicorn Basking in the Light of Three Glowing Suns*. DeVos Art Mus., Marquette, Mich. (as Chances Dances)

*Suggestions of a Life Being Lived*. SF Camerawork, San Francisco.

2009

*Printed Matter's New York Art Book Fair*. MoMA PS1, New York. (as No Coast)

**Recipient, University of Illinois at Chicago Lincoln Fellowship.**

*Celebrate! Celebrate? The Politics and Tactics of Visualizing a People's History*. Mess Hall, Chicago.

**SMILE. Heaven Gallery, Chicago.** (solo exhibition)

*Channeling: An Invocation of Queer Spirits and Spectral Bodies*. London Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

*All Aboard Future*. Secret Project Robot, Brooklyn.

2008

*Chicago Short Film Brigade: Best of 2007*. Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago.

**Keyholder, Mess Hall, Chicago** (through 2011).

2007

*Positive Space/Negative Feelings*. Brown Triangle, Chicago.

*Art Shanty Projects* Exhibition and Residency. Medicine Lake, Plymouth, Minn.

2006

**Bachelor of Fine Arts, Studio, School of the Art Institute of Chicago.**

*Displaced Occupation*. Harold Washington College, Chicago.

2005

*Open Source/Open Ear*. Mess Hall, Chicago.

*Urban Gardening and Exterior Decoration*. Open End, Chicago.

2004

*Pilot TV*, a transfeminist media convergence. Texas Ballroom, Chicago.

**Resident/Organizer, Texas Ballroom, Chicago** (through 2005).

## Selected Bibliography & Design Work

As writer/editor/publisher/designer, in bold. As subject, in roman.

**Catalogue Design, *ReSOURCE: Art and Resourcefulness in Black Chicago*.** Publisher: South Side Community Art Center, 2024.

**Designer, *2022-23 Program Series*.** 500 Capp Street, San Francisco.

**Catalogue essay for *Dewdrops in the Garden*,** Publisher: Southern Exposure, 2022

**Catalogue Design, *EMERGENCE: Intersections at the Center*.** Publisher: South Side Community Art Center, 2020.

**Catalogue essay for *MFA Revisited 2021*,** Publisher: Root Division, 2021

**Catalogue and Exhibition Design, *Tomorrow Is Already Here*.** Publisher: Headlands Center for the Arts, 2020.

Micah Salkind, *Do You Remember House? Chicago's Queer of Color Undergrounds*. Oxford Univ. Press, 2019.

S. Nicole Lane, "Chicago Archives + Artists Project: Artist Profile - Aay Preston-Myint." [Sixtyinchesfromcenter.org](https://sixtyinchesfromcenter.org), December 2018 ↗

**Catalogue and Exhibition Design, *The Time is Now! Art Worlds of Chicago's South Side 1960-1980*.** Rebecca Zorach and Marissa H. Baker, eds. Publisher: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2018

*Trunk Show: Mobile Exhibition Space; Artist Bumper Stickers 2013-2016*. 2018

"Artist of the Week: Aay Preston-Myint." LVL3, January 2018 ↗

**Publisher/Curator, *No Coast Editions, 2013-2017*.**

**Editor, *An Uncanny Valley*.** Publisher: Radiant Hall/The Residence, May 2017.

Daniel Quiles, "Critics' Picks: Chicago." [Arforum.com](https://arforum.com), February 2017 ↗

**"Fire Signs." *Dilettante Vol. 2: Joshua Tree*.** 2016

Ariel Goldberg, *The Estrangement Principle*. Nightboat Books, 2016.

**Editor, *Platforms: Ten Years of Chances Dances*.** Publisher: Chances, December 2015.

**Editor, *Body Doubles*.** Publisher: Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, November 2014

**Editor-in-chief, *Monsters and Dust*.** Self-published. Four issues, 2009-2014

**Editor, *How Do I Look? exhibition catalogue*.** Self-published, May 2013

Alicia Eler, "A Space Where Identity Politics Give Way to Queer Minimalism." [Hyperallergic.com](https://hyperallergic.com), May 2013 ↗

Jason Foumberg, ed., "Art 50: Chicago's Artist's Artists." *NewCity*, Sept. 2012 ↗

**Designer and printer, Green Lantern Press.** Multiple publications, 2011

Caroline Picard, "Alchemical Processes." Bad At Sports blog, June 2011 [↗](#)

**"Bless This Mess," exhibition essay/interview with Edie Fake, Jail Flanagan, Robin Hustle, and Lee Relvas.** For Gallery400, Chicago, Jan. 2011

Interview of curator Adrienne Skye Roberts, "Suggestions of a Life Being Lived." SFAC Culture Wire, Oct. 2010

Katie Zien, "Prestidigitation." *No Commercial Value*, May 2010 [↗](#)

**"Nothing Great Gets Done Alone," co-written with Young Joon Kwak and Liz McCarthy.** *AREA*, Oct. 2010

Conversation with Andrea Fritsch, Aay Preston-Myint and Alex Valentine, "Space Profile: No Coast." *Proximity*, Dec. 2008

Abby Satinsky & Daniel Tucker, eds., "Five Questions about Art In Chicago." *AREA*, Nov. 2008

Bert Stabler, "Critic's Choice: *Smile.*" *Chicago Reader*, Jan. 2008

Aleks Tomaszewska, "Hidden Light." *Mule Magazine*, March 2007

Jennifer Brandel, "Soft Shop on the Crackling Ice." 848 (Chicago Public Radio WBEZ), Feb. 2007 [↗](#)

Jessica Hopper, "Never Mind Lime Wire." *Chicago Reader*, Aug. 2005