

Thom Donovan, Ph.D.

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Education

State University of New York, University at Buffalo, Ph.D. in English, 2009.
State University of New York, University at Buffalo, MA in English, 2003.
Oberlin College, BA in English, 1999.

Archival Management

Mary Miss/City as Living Laboratory (CALL) Since July of 2016, I have consulted for Mary Miss/CALL.

WORK PERFORMED

- Research for website/database design (Collective Access);
- Research and production of metadata fields;
- Supervision of ongoing archivists and interns;
- Consultation for Mellon Grant (received and renewed since 2016)
- Consultation for long-term preservation of physical and digital archival assets.

Byrd Hoffman Watermill Foundation/Robert Wilson. From 2011-2013 I acted as the archivist for the internationally renowned theatre director and artist, Robert Wilson. As Archive Manager I oversee 750 linear feet of materials related to Robert Wilson and the Watermill Center, an arts center located in Southampton, NY, as well as all digital assets of the Byrd Hoffman Watermill Foundation. The following is a thorough description of the duties, responsibilities, and skills I perform:

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

Collection Development

- Monitoring the work of Robert Wilson and his associates and all projects and updating all biographical records;
- Curating evidence of Wilson's artistic activities (primarily audiovisual recordings and photographic records), print materials, program books, poster and other material;
- Acquiring and filing non-circulating copies of all critical writing, theater reviews, relevant journalism, and ephemera associated with Wilson;
- Processing, cataloging, and filing Wilson's extensive production notes, sketches, reference materials, and personal correspondence;
- Executing regular audits and acquiring missing material in the archives from past productions and collaborators of Wilson's;
- Arranging and maintaining the physical filing system at the New York Office as well as an off-site storage location in Bohemia, New York;
- Collaborating with the Webmaster and/or outside consultants to establish a finding aid and database for use by Archive staff, interns, general staff, and the general public;
- Continuing to establish the physical archive of the NYC office;
- Managing archive interns.

Website

- Managing the content of the Robert Wilson website, www.robertwilson.com;
- Working in collaboration with the Foundation's Webmaster and the Managing Director or RW Work, Ltd. to ensure that the website calendar and downloadable press materials are up-to-date with the most current information;
- Further developing the website as a robust interpretive, interactive resource.

Reference and Staff Assistance

- Providing reference assistance to Robert Wilson, the directors and staff of the Byrd Hoffman Watermill Center, press, media, and publicity agencies, authors of books or articles related to the Watermill Center and Robert Wilson, academic researchers, and the general public;
- Ensuring proper loan agreements and the adhering to copyright and trademark agreements;
- Working with the Grants Writer to identify archive funding opportunities and appropriate projects.

Legacy

- Digitization of key productions and exhibitions;
- Identifying key productions and associated key assets;
- Identifying outstanding inventory items;
- Developing with the Executive Director a package for key productions that can be used to recreate or restage them.

Skills Employed

- Excellent organizational skills (neat, ordered and simple systems);
- Good communication skills (in person, phone, letter, email);
- Proactive, self-management style;
- Experience with all Windows packages (high level of proficiency with Word and Excel);
- File transference using FTP, Dropbox, Flickr, Vimeo Pro;
- Internet research and use of search engines;
- Descriptive and critical writing;
- Familiarity with metadata standards;
- Knowledge of Robert Wilson's work and milieu;
- Knowledge of contemporary and historic live performance practices;
- Experience with photo digitization technology and standards;
- Experience with Photoshop and Final Cut Pro;
- Database content management (Drupal, Library Thing);

92Y Unterberg Poetry Center—“Metadata/Literacy Specialist” From the spring of 2006 through the summer of 2011 I worked on a project to digitize and catalogue the audio holdings of the 92Y's internationally renowned Unterberg Poetry Center. The Unterberg Poetry Center's series of literary events dates back to 1939 and began being recorded in the early 50s during Dylan Thomas' debut performance of his play, "Under Milk Wood." As "Metadatist/Literary Specialist" I catalogued the holdings nearly in its entirety. For its first two years the project was funded by Save America's Treasures.

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

- Implemented appropriate metadata standards for all audio and video recordings;
- Created detailed descriptive, structural, and administrative metadata for recordings;
- Researched and input descriptive metadata using a SQL database;
- Digitized recordings as necessary, according to project standards;
- Assisted in the production of access copies of audio and video files for 92Y staff;
- Participated in the development and implementation of a SQL database.

SKILLS EMPLOYED

- Extensive knowledge of modern and contemporary World literature;
- Knowledge of Pro Tools software;
- Knowledge of the recommended practices and standards for the digitization and cataloging of archival audio and video recordings;
- Experience with Microsoft Office Suite and SQL;
- Familiarity with a wide variety of analog and digital audio and video formats;
- Communication with archive and legal department staff about copyright permissions;
- Researching and implementing copyright waivers with writers and estates;
- Extensive Internet research and use of search engines;
- Extensive research of the 92Y Unterberg Poetry Center archives.

Teaching

Assistant Professor, **Eugene Lang College** The New School for Liberal Arts, Literary Studies department, summer 2016-present.

Courses:

- “Advanced Poetry” workshop, fall 2016-fall 2017; spring 2019.
- “Intermediate Poetry” workshop, fall 2017 and spring 2018.
- “Introduction to Poetry” workshop, spring 2018-spring 2019.
- “Invisible Man” seminar, fall 2017.
- “Language as Art” seminar, fall 2018.
- “Modern Poetry” seminar, spring 2018.
- “New Narrative: a Queer Genealogy” seminar, spring 2017.
- “Poet’s Prose” seminar, spring 2019.

Adjunct Assistant Professor, **Columbia University**, School of the Arts, Graduate Writing Program, spring 2019 and Visual Arts Program, spring 2017.

Courses:

- “Critical Issues,” spring 2017.
- “Special Projects,” spring 2019.

Visiting Assistant Professor, **Pratt Institute**, Department of Humanities and Media Studies, spring 2013-spring 2016.

Courses:

- “Creative Writing for Art and Design Practices,” fall 2013 and 2014, and spring 2015 and 2016.
- “Literature/Critical Theory,” spring 2013-spring 2016.
- “Transdisciplinary Writing,” spring 2013-spring 2016.

Part-time Assistant Professor, **Parsons** The New School for Design, MFA Fine Arts, fall 2012-fall 2016.

Courses:

- “Language as Art” studio, fall 2016.
- “Thesis Research and Writing I and II,” fall 2012-spring 2016.
- “Withdrawals: Occult Poetics & Sociopolitical Practice” seminar, fall 2015.

Adjunct Assistant Professor, **School of Visual Arts**, Visual and Critical Studies Department,

Course: “Visual Poetics,” spring 2009-spring 2016.

Course topics:

- “Poetics of the Black Object.” (2016)
- “The Poetics of Disability.” (2015)
- “Meta/discourse.” (2014)
- “Intense Autobiography.” (2013)
- “Creative Speaking: Composition Through Orality.” (2012)
- “Appropriations: 1915-Present.” (2011)
- “The Withdrawal of the Image in 20th Century Poetry and Art.” (2010)

Visiting Professor, **Virginia Commonwealth University**, Department of Painting & Printmaking, fall 2014.

Course:

- “Withdrawals: Occult Poetics & Sociopolitical Practice” (MFA seminar).

Visiting Professor, **Wesleyan University**, Department of English, spring 2014.

Course:

- “Advanced Poetry Workshop.”

Visiting Professor, **New Jersey Institute of Technology**, English Department, spring 2011.

Course:

“Cybertext.”

Adjunct Professor, **Baruch College**, English Department, fall 2008-spring 2011.

Course:

“Writing I.”

“Writing II.”

Adjunct Professor, **Bard College, Language & Thinking Institute**, summer 2007-2010.

Lecturer, **NYU Paul McGhee College**, fall 2006-2007.

Courses:

“Critical Thinking”

“Modernism: Literature of Alienation.”

Adjunct Professor, **Bard College, Bard Prison Initiative**, fall 2008.

Course:

“Critical Writing” tutorial.

Instructor, State University of New York, **University at Buffalo**, English Department, fall 2000-spring 2005,

Courses:

“Writing I.”

“Writing II.”

“Film as Literature” (fall 2003).