

Antoinette Westphal College of Media, Arts & Design / Department of Art & Art History / Drexel University
e-mail: tobia@drexel.edu website: <http://tandm.us>

home: 3719 Lancaster Ave. / Philadelphia PA 19104 phone: 215-387-9706

Blaise Tobia is a visual artist who uses lens-based imagery in a wide variety of ways. His primary body of work documents the urban environment and global material culture and utilizes non-traditional modes of presentation, including image pairing, montage, text/image, and sequenced image/audio works. He teaches digital imaging, design and art theory/history.

EDUCATION

- 1977 MFA, Visual Arts, University of California, San Diego**
primary studies in photography, video, art theory/criticism; graduated summa cum laude
- 1974 BA, Fine Art, Brooklyn College, City University of New York**
major in photography/fine arts, minor in art education; graduated summa cum laude with honors
- 1984-94 continuing studies: Kodak/Apple Center for Creative Imaging, School of Visual Arts, Pratt Institute, University of the Arts, International Center of Photography**
courses in computer graphics, digital imaging, photographic lighting
- 1985-present continuing studies: Drexel University, America-Italy Society of Philadelphia**
language and culture study coursework in Italian

ARTS & TEACHING POSITIONS (selected)

- 1985-present Professor, Department of Art & Art History**
Program Director of Digital Media 7/05 – 6/06
Assistant Program Director of Digital Media 7/04-6/05;
Program Director of Photography 7/92-6/97
- 1981-82 Adjunct Instructor of Photography**
Department of Art and Art History, Wayne State University, Detroit
- 1979 Adjunct Lecturer in Photography**
Department of Visual Arts, University of California, San Diego
- 1978-79 Photographer and Artist in Residence**
Cultural Council Foundation Artists Project, New York City

Exhibitions (selected - since 1996)**2013-2014**

"Blaise Tobia - Binary Codes" (one-person exhibition) Sept.-Oct., O.K. Harris Works of Art, New York City

"Resilient Suspension" (small-group exhibition) January, Amos Eno Gallery, Brooklyn
curated by Alex Wixon

review: "Amos Eno Gallery Presents a Perfect Quad," Oscar A. Laluyan, *Artefuse* (online), January 14

2012-2013

"9" (small-group exhibition) September-October, Museum of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing

"DIY Photographers and Books" (group exhibition), August-December, Cleveland Museum of Art
curated by Barbara Tannenbaum, Curator of Photography

review: "Cleveland Museum of Art's 'DIY' celebrates print-on-demand photobooks," Mark Meszoros, *The News Herald*, August 25

2011-2012

"Queries" (small-group exhibition) October, Art on the Avenue Gallery, Philadelphia
organized and curated by Blaise Tobia

reviews: "Look at These," Edith Newhall, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 16; "On the avenue - Lancaster Avenue that is," Roberta Fallon, *The Artblog*, October 20

"High/Low Density" (small-group exhibition) April, Rowan University Galley
curated by Mary Salvante and Mark Campbell

2010-2011

"Conflation" (two-person exhibition) May, Leonard Pearlstein Gallery, Drexel University
review: "Conflation at Drexel," Victoria Donohoe, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 26

"Battle of the Sexes" (group exhibition) March, Delaware Art Museum

review: "'Battle of the Sexes' challenges gender stereotypes," Tara L. Johnson, *Montgomery Media*, April 24;

"Westphal College Faculty Show" (group exhibition) April-May

2009-2010

"Art in the Open" (group exhibition and project) June, City of Philadelphia

"Seeing Voices" (group exhibition + symposium) March-April, Stedman Gallery, Rutgers University

"Blaise Tobia: Photography" (one-person exhibition) July-January, Philadelphia Airport Exhibitions

"Close Views (from a distance)" (small-group exhibition) November, Amos Eno Gallery, New York City

"From Venice to Sicily in B&W" (one-person exhibition) Sept. - Oct., America-Italy Society of Philadelphia

2008-2009

"Blaise Tobia: Open Studio" (one-person exhibition) November, Silicon Gallery, Philadelphia
review: "Blaise a Trail," Roberta Fallon, *Philadelphia Weekly*, November 26

Annual Juried Exhibition (group exhibition) February-May, Delaware Center for Contemporary Art

Forever Young (group exhibition) April-July, Abington Art Center, Jenkintown PA

2007-2008

"Castle of Eufemio" (one-person exhibition) September, America-Italy Society of Philadelphia and Café Hausbrandt, Philadelphia

"digital: space: object" (small-group exhibition) November-December, Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia
curated by Gail Rubini and Conrad Gleber

"Castle of Eufemio" (one-person exhibition) January-February, Italian-American Museum, New York City
curated by Dr. Joseph Scelsa, Museum Director

review: "Italian American Museum: *Santissimo Crocifisso*," Samira Leglib, *America Oggi*, January 27

"Photography Out of the Blue" (group exhibition) March-April, Photo West Gallery, Philadelphia, and June-Aug.,

Peters Valley Arts Center, NJ curated by Randy Dalton

"Castle of Eufemio: Photographs by Blaise Tobia" (one-person exhibition) March-April, Phillips Museum, Franklin & Marshall College
juried exhibition award

"Couples" (small-group exhibition) April-May, Islip Art Museum, New York
curated by Karen Shaw
reviews: "Married to Art and to Each Other," Benjamin Genocchio, *The New York Times*, April 27; "Playing matchmaker with these six couples," Ariella Budick, *Newsday*, April 11

2006-2007

"Filling the Frame" (group exhibition) April, Photo West Gallery, Philadelphia
organized and curated by Blaise Tobia

Open Studio exhibition, June, Vermont Studio Center

Open Studio exhibitions, June and July, Photo West Gallery, Philadelphia

2005-2006

"Blaise Tobia: Direct Objects" (one-person exhibition) November, Delaware Center for Contemporary Art
juried exhibition award

"Photography Plus" (group exhibition) November, Galleries of Allegheny College
curated by Robert Raczka

"Powelton Photographs" (group exhibition) April, Photo West Gallery, Philadelphia
curated by Laurence Salzmann

"Conversation at the Table" (group exhibition), June-July Fabric Workshop Museum, Philadelphia
curated by Lonnie Graham

2004-2005

"Black & White" (small-group exhibition) October, Silicon Gallery, Philadelphia

"Sheltered" (group exhibition) January, Lafayette College Art Gallery, Easton, PA
juried by Paul Felder, AIA

"Inkjet II" (group exhibition) March-April, Artists Image Resource, Pittsburgh
curated by Robert Raczka
review: "Mixing Ink with Creativity," Kurt Shaw, *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, March 17

"Art Full Text" (small group exhibition) March-April, Art in City Hall, Philadelphia
juried by Cavin Jones
review: "Art Full Text Exhibition at City Hall," *City Suburban News*, March 23

"Western Sicily" (one-person exhibition) April, America-Italy Society of Philadelphia

"Man & Beast" (group exhibition) April, Emily Davis Gallery, University of Akron
curated by Mark Soppeland

2003-2004

"Not Just Another Reality Show" (mobile group exhibition) September 2003 to June 2005, Bucks County Community College/Artnobile
curated by Stephen Perloff, *The Photo Review*
exhibition review: "Museum on Wheels," *Time Off - Bucks County*

2002-2003

"Blaise Tobia" (one-person exhibition) April, Oskar Friedl Gallery, Chicago
review: Art "Tip of the Week," *New City*, April 17, Chicago

"Not So Pretty" (group exhibition; joint work with Virginia Maksymowicz) October, Stedman Gallery, Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts

2001-2002

"Celebration of Community," (group exhibition) September, Medical College of Philadelphia

"New Directions in Digital Printing," (small-group exhibition) November, Design Arts Gallery, Drexel University
curated by Dr. Joseph Gregory

2000-2001

"Cultural Syntax: Recent Work by Blaise Tobia" (one-person exhibition) March-April, Tulane University School
of Architecture, New Orleans curated by Dr. Joseph Gregory

"A Change of Scenery" (small-group exhibition) March, Silicon Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
organized and curated by Blaise Tobia

"Photography: Contemporary Prospect 2001" (small-group exhibition) March, Historic Yellow Springs, PA
curated by Stephen Perloff, *The Photo Review*

"Members Annual Juried Exhibition" (group exhibition) March, Delaware Center for Contemporary Art
juried by Judd Tully
review: "Talented membership," Edward Sozanski, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 30

"Cultural Syntax: Recent Work by Blaise Tobia" (one-person exhibition) September-October, Design Arts
Gallery, Drexel University curated by Dr. Joseph Gregory
review: "Global Communication," Roberta Fallon, *Philadelphia Weekly*, October 4, 2000

1999-2000

"A Change of Scenery" (small-group exhibition) March, Silicon Gallery, Philadelphia
organized and curated by Blaise Tobia
reviews: "Validating a new technology," Edward Sozanski, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 12;
"Scene Change," John Grant, *Philadelphia City Paper*, April 20-27

"Relativities" 4th British International Miniature Print Exhibition (juried group exhibition) January, Bankside
Gallery, London, January 2000 (traveling to eight other venues in Britain, through January 2002)

"Seventh New York Digital Salon" (juried group exhibition) November, Visual Arts Museum, NYC
(traveling to venues in Europe through March 2001)

Philadelphia Fringe Festival: Visual Fringe Installation (collaboration with Virginia Maksymowicz) September,
Old City, Philadelphia
reviews: "Visual Fringe: Better organized but still out there," Edward Sozanski, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*,
Sept. 10; "Tasting the Fringe," Robin Rice, *Philadelphia City Paper*, Sept. 10-16; "They're Everywhere! Visual
Fringe: a view from the inside out," Ellen Rosenholtz, *Philadelphia Weekly*, Sept. 15

1998-1999

Three Rivers Arts Festival Juried Visual Arts Exhibition (group exhibition) June, Festival Gallery, Pittsburgh
juried by Esther Parada and Lonnie Graham
review: "Arts Festival's Juried Section Harbors Surprises," Mary Thomas, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, June 16

"Smoke" (juried small-group exhibition) January-February, College of Visual Arts Gallery, Minneapolis
review: "Where There's Smoke There's Art," Kristen A. Meinzer, *University of Minnesota Daily*, February 4

"Artscape 2000 minus one" (juried group exhibition) July, Decker Gallery, Maryland Institute College of Art &
Design

"Contempo-Italianate" (small-group exhibition) October-November, Laband Gallery, Loyola University, Los
Angeles
curated by Mary-Kay Lombino, Asst. Curator, UCLA-Hammer Museum
reviews: "Show Offers Modern Perspective into Italy's Art-History Past," William Wilson,
Los Angeles Times, Nov. 12; "Art Pick of the Week," Peter Frank, *L.A. Weekly*, Nov. 13

1997-1998

"Reprocessed Legacies" (small-group exhibition) January-February, Rowan University, NJ
curated by Cameron McMillan, Gallery Director

"Silver, Silicon & Light" (small-group exhibition) March, Silicon Gallery, Philadelphia
curated by Blaise Tobia & Michal Smith, Director, Silicon Gallery

"Through the Heart of the City" (small-group exhibition) May-July, Philadelphia Art Alliance
exhibition juried by Henry Dean with Alan Greenburg, Ann Hitchins and Stuart Fineman

reviews: "Through the Heart of the City; Art Alliance Exhibition Celebrates River," Linda Dormant, *Art Matters*, May; "49 Ways of Looking at a River," Robin Rice, *Philadelphia City Paper*, May 22; "Take Me to the River," Gerard Brown, *Philadelphia Weekly*, May 20

1996-1997

"Beyond the Silver Print" (juried small-group exhibition) May-September, Art in City Hall, Philadelphia juried by Kathy Edwards, Director of the Print Center; Martha Mock, curator of Photography, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Richard Weisgrau, President, ASMP

review: "Photographic experimentation welcomed at City Hall," Helene Ryesky, *Art Matters*, July

"Surveillance: 6 Days" (juried one-person exhibition) March-April, Narrow Gallery, University of Dayton

"New Means" (small-group exhibition) September, Silicon Gallery, Philadelphia

organized and curated by Blaise Tobia in conjunction with the Drexel visiting digital artists program

review: "Silicon Gallery," Edward Sozanski, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Sept. 27

Publication (selected - since 1996)

Book-length works by Blaise Tobia

Confronti: Comparisons - images of Italy 1990 - 2010, photographs by Blaise Tobia, TandM Arts/Achilles Press, 2010, limited-edition fine-art book

Poor Mao: Shopping in China, photographs by Blaise Tobia, TandM Arts/Achilles Press, 2010, limited-edition fine-art book

Castle of Eufemio (a small Sicilian town and its extraordinary festival), photographs and texts by Blaise Tobia, Achilles Press and the America-Italy Society of Philadelphia, 2007

reviews: "An Interview with Blaise Tobia," Colette Copeland, *exposure* (Journal of the Society for Photographic Education), Fall, 2008; "Images & Text," Justin Vitiello, *Sicilia Parra*, Fall 2007; "Calatafimi, Sicily: Little Town, Big Credentials with Brooklyn Connection," *The Annotico Report*, January 8, 2008; untitled book review, *The Italian Tribune*, January 10, 2008;

Appearances in Print

"Eastern State Penitentiary 1827/1997" (image) featured in *The Photo Review Newsletter*, April 2012

"Tarred and Feathered - Harold Olejarz Performance," (image) included in *The Eye, the Hand, the Mind: 100 Years of the College Art Association*, Rutgers Press, 2011

"Digital Photography" article by Blaise Tobia for *Encyclopedia of 20th Century Photography*, Routledge, 2006

"Pillar of the Community" (image) included in "Around the Corner" by Lucy Lippard, in *Site Matters*, Burns & Kahn ed., Routledge, 2005

"Dangerous Curves: Politics and Poetry in the Work of Blaise Tobia" essay by Dr. Joseph Gregory with images by Blaise Tobia, in *Afterimage*, November/December 2003

"Digital Printmaking" article by Blaise Tobia in *pLUK* (Photography London and U.K.), September and November 2001

"Bringing the Cost to Light" article co-authored with Virginia Maksymowicz, in *Social Problems of the Modern World* by Frances V. Moulder, Wadsworth, January 2000

"The Model of Models" (image) included in *Photographic Possibilities: The Expressive Use Ideas, Materials and Processes*, Robert Hirsch and John Valentino, Focal Press, Boston, 2nd edition, May 2001

Images and essay by Blaise Tobia included in *Cultural Syntax, Recent Work of Blaise Tobia*, exhibition catalog, Design Arts Gallery, Drexel University, September 2000

Images included in "The Atelier Revisited," article by Virginia Maksymowicz, *Sculpture* magazine, July/Aug. 2001

Images included in "High, Low and In-Between," article by Virginia Maksymowicz, *Sculpture* magazine, March 2001

Image included in *S.P.E. Member's Newsletter*, Summer 2000

Images and essay included in *Change of Scenery*, exhibition catalog, Silicon Gallery, Philadelphia and Brooklyn, NY, March 2000

Images included in *Relativities*, exhibition catalog for the 4th British International Miniature Print Exhibition, Loughborough University, Leicestershire, U.K., January 2000

Images included in "7th New York Digital Salon," exhibition catalog/special section of *Leonardo* magazine (v.32 n.5), November 1999

Images included in "Visual Fringe: Better organized but still out there," review by Edward Sozanski in *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Sept. 10, 1999 and "Tasting the Fringe," review by Robin Rice in *Philadelphia City Paper*, Sept. 15, 1999

Images included in *Contempo-Italianate: Contemporary Artists Reflect on Italy*, exhibition catalog, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, October 1998

Images included in "Art & Ecology," article by Virginia Maksymowicz, *Sculpture* magazine, April 1999

Images included in *Through the Heart of the City*, exhibition catalog, Philadelphia Art Alliance, May 1998

Images included in *The Lure of the Local*, book by Lucy Lippard, published by New Press, October 1997

Images included in "Art Renews Life," article by Virginia Maksymowicz, *Sculpture* magazine, Washington DC, February 1997

Image included in "Photographic experimentation welcomed at City Hall," review in *Art Matters*, Philadelphia, July 1997

Presentations/Invited Activities/Grants (since 1996, selected)

2012-2013

Visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome, November

Professional workshop taught: "Digital imaging basics for Arts Professionals," College Art Association annual conference, New York, February

2011-2012

Paper given: "PhD for Artists: Sense or Non-Sense?" co-presented with Virginia Maksymowicz, College Art Association annual conference, Los Angeles, February.

Professional workshop taught: "Digital imaging basics for Arts Professionals," College Art Association annual conference, Los Angeles, February

2010-2011

Exhibition juror: Lehigh Art Alliance - Open Juried Photography Exhibition, August, 2010

Faculty Research Grant, Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, Drexel University

2009-2010

Exhibition co-curator and panel co-organizer, with Stephen Perloff: "Documentary PIX: Philadelphia, a century of change," for the 12th Annual R.F. Looney Event, Free Library of Philadelphia, March-April, 2010

review: "Philly History in Photos," Victoria Donohoe, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 1, 2010

Presentation: "Documentary Art in the Postmodern Context," Great Conversations series, Free Library of Philadelphia, June, 2010

2008-2009

Paper given: "Observing Contemporary Italy as a semi-insider," conference: "The Land of Our Return: Diasporic Encounters with Italy," Calandra Institute, New York City, April, 2009

2007-2008

Lectures and presentations in connection with the publication of *Castle of Eufemio*:

America-Italy Society, Philadelphia, September 19, 2007; The Photographic Society of Philadelphia, November 20, 2007; Italian-American Museum/Calandra Center, NYC, January 31, 2008; Philadelphia Alumni Writers House, Franklin & Marshall College, March 25, 2008.

Faculty Research Grant, Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, Drexel University

Continued inclusion in Marquis *Who's Who in American Art* print edition since 2000; Web edition since 2006

2006-2007

Sabbatical leave granted by Drexel University

Visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome, September-October

Visiting artist at the Vermont Studio Center, May-June

2005-2006

Paper given, "One-Upmanship and the Northwestern Sicilian Feast of the Santissimo Crocifisso," Italian Art Society-sponsored panel, College Art Association annual conference, Boston, February

2004-2005

Panel chaired, "Photo Education in a Digital Age," College Art Association annual conference, Atlanta, February

2002-2003

Paper given, "Reinventing the Intro Photo Course in a Post-Darkroom Context," Society for Photographic Education annual conference, Austin, March

Recipient of a "Special Opportunity Grant" from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, in support of exhibition "Blaise Tobia" at the Oskar Friedl Gallery, Chicago, April

Finalist, Center for Documentary Studies/Honickman First Book Prize in Photography, December

One-of-a-kind book, *Cadillac Ranch Sequences*, accepted into Antfarm Archive, San Francisco

2001-2002

Organization and moderation of panel "Digital Challenges in Photographic Education," MidAtlantic regional conference of the Society for Photographic Education, Baltimore, October

2000-2001

Paper given, "La Scuola Alfamediale," joint with Virginia Maksymowicz, SCAN (Small Computers in the Arts Network) annual conference, Philadelphia, November

Paper given, "A Model for Multimedia Education," joint with Virginia Maksymowicz, CADE (Computers in Art and Design Education) biennial conference, Glasgow, April

Co-organized exhibition "Our Town" at the non-profit exhibition space Photo Gallery West, Philadelphia, Oct.

1999-2000

Recipient of a full-year Drexel University sabbatical research leave for development of digital technology skills, creation of a Website, continued photographic and cultural research in Sicily

Recipient of a "Special Opportunity Grant" from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, in support of exhibition "Change of Scenery," Oct./Nov.

1998-1999

Winner, Best in Show in Photography (for the series "Direct Objects"), Three Rivers Arts Festival, June 1999

Selected for studio visit by Patricia Phillips, Dean of the School of Art, SUNY New Paltz, through the Visiting Critics Program of the Delaware Center for Contemporary Art, November

"Image-Maker" presentation at the annual conference of the MidAtlantic region of the Society for Photographic Education, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, October

1997-1998

Panel organizer and moderator, "Artistic Experimentation in Two Eras of Technological Innovation," Society for Photographic Education annual conference, Philadelphia, March 1998

Panel participant, "Urban Fictions: Artists Re-Presenting the City," College Art Association annual conference, Toronto, February 1998

Panel participant, "Digitizing Tradition," joint conference of the MidAtlantic and Northeast regions of the Society for Photographic Education, New York City, November 1997

1996-1997

Organized visiting artists series for Drexel University: three artists of national reputation were brought in for one-week demonstration residencies and public presentations. Supported by a \$4500 D.U. Teaching-Learning Committee Grant.

Collections

Delaware Art Museum, Free Library of Philadelphia, Archives of the City of New York, Ant Farm, Becky & Gil Kerlin, Marsha Moss, Visual Studies Workshop