

## OUR DEFINITION OF DIY

Though there are many ideas of what DIY might mean in the art world, for the purpose of this dialogue we would like to define the DIY Movement as: Any grassroots project that promotes the social and cultural aspect of art from an active community of participants to allow for an ongoing and evolving conversation for the community at large.

## PANELISTS

### Ellie Balk

Ellie Balk was born 1976 in St. Louis, MO. After earning her BFA in 2002 at Bowling Green State University in Ohio she moved to Clinton Hill, Brooklyn to get her Masters in painting from Pratt institute. Since then, the furthest she has moved is 20 feet. She is the President of SONYA (South of the Navy Yard Artists) where she works to connect local artists and the community. Ellie is a teaching artist for BRIC Arts I Media I Bklyn where she focuses her work on curriculum integrated school beautification projects. She also teaches painting and drawing at the 92nd Y and pursues independent public art projects through grants and partnerships with community organizations.

elliebalk.com  
sonyaonline.org

### Laurie Cumbo

Laurie Angela Cumbo was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and graduated from the Berkeley Carroll Day School in Park Slope and Brooklyn Technical High School in Fort Greene before going on to attend Spelman College in Atlanta, GA, where she graduated with a degree in Fine Art. She returned to Brooklyn and received her Master's Degree in Visual Arts Administration from New York University in 1999. As a cultural leader, entrepreneur, activist, college professor, educator, lecturer and small business owner working in the not-for-profit sector, Ms. Cumbo has dedicated her life to community development and preserving the dynamic elements of diversity that have made Brooklyn, New York what it is today.

lauriecumbo2013.com

### Siebren Versteeg

Siebren is an artist and the co-director at Regina Rex, an artist-run exhibition space located on the border of Ridgewood, Queens and Bushwick, Brooklyn. Through an inclusive collaborative structure, Regina Rex aims to build an exhibition context that is rigorous, cogent and driven by our engagement and dialogue with other artists. There are currently thirteen participating curators at Regina Rex.

siebrenversteeg.com  
reginarex.org

### Antonino D'Ambrosio

Antonino D'Ambrosio is an author, filmmaker and visual artist. His critically acclaimed books include, *A Heartbeat and A Guitar: Johnny Cash and the Making of Bitter Tears*, and *Let Fury Have the Hour: Joe Strummer, Punk and the Movement that Shook the World*. D'Ambrosio's essays from the latter inspired his documentary feature film, *Let Fury Have The Hour*, which had its world premiere in the Spotlight section of the 2012 Tribeca Film Festival. D'Ambrosio's writing appears in The Nation, The Progressive, The Believer, Salon.com, and many others. A frequent guest on TV and radio, D'Ambrosio has hosted radio shows on WBAI and East Village Radio. D'Ambrosio is also the founder of La Lutta NMC, a nonprofit production group. In January 2013, D'Ambrosio served as guest editor on a special issue of The Nation focused on creative-response where he also contributed the cover story "We Own the Future: How Creative-Response Transforms Our World."

letfuryhavethehour.com  
thenation.com/article/172120/how-creative-response-artists-and-activists-can-transform-world

### Sara Reisman

Sara Reisman is the Director of New York City's Percent for Art program which commissions permanent public artworks for newly constructed and renovated city-owned spaces, indoors and out. As an independent curator, Reisman has organized more than fifty exhibitions and artist projects focused on the politics of public space, globalization and site-specific practice, social practice, collaboration, sustainability, and cultural identity and transformation. She has curated exhibitions in venues including The Cooper Union School of Art, New York; Smack Mellon, New York; Queens Museum of Art, New York; Socrates Sculpture Park, New York; Philadelphia ICA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Banjaluka, Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna, Austria, among others. Reisman has organized numerous solo projects, most recently Christopher K. Ho: Privileged White People (2013), Claudia Jaskowicz: Sympathy for the Devil (2012), and Leslie Johnson: Days to Go (2012) (all for Forever & Today, Inc., where she was the 2012-2013 guest curator), and Peter Rostovsky: Still (2011) at the Hillwood Art Museum. She was the 2011 critic-in-residence at Art Omi.

### Ed Woodham

For more than twenty-five years, Ed Woodham (Art in Odd Places Founder and Director) has been active in community art, education and civic interventions in a variety of media and cultural contexts. An accomplished visual and performance artist, puppeteer, curator and lecturer, he employs humor, irony and subtle détournement to encourage and provoke a deeper consideration of the urban environment. As founder and director of 800 East in Atlanta Georgia (1990-98), he turned a derelict post-industrial space into a community arts center, reviving and sustaining both an artistic collective and the local neighborhood in the process. Since moving to Brooklyn in the late 1990s, Woodham has continued his practice, creating a network of artists, curators and sponsors to make Art in Odd Places a signature annual cultural event of the city.

artinoddplaces.org

## M O D E R A T O R

Hailey Ferber

As an associate at the boutique law firm Levine Plotkin & Menin, LLP, Hailey Ferber's practice deals largely with the performing arts. Hailey completed her legal studies at the Northeastern University School of Law, focusing on intellectual property and entertainment law. A graduate of Duke University where she majored in Art History, Hailey's senior thesis, entitled *Re-imagining Che Guevara: Guerillero Heroico and the Transformation from Image to Icon* analyzed the public appropriation of private artistic images.

## O R G A N I Z E R

John Ros

John Ros is a current MFA candidate at Brooklyn College. He received a BFA in painting from SUNY Binghamton in May 2000. John has spent much of his energy outside the studio bringing communities together. He has served on the board at various art organizations including Spool MFG. and Perspectives International. He has taught at SUNY Binghamton as an adjunct lecturer and Brooklyn College as a Graduate Teaching Fellow. John has also founded two alternative art spaces. *pocket*, his first gallery venture in Binghamton, NY, opened in 2001 and served as an alternative hub for the community discussion of art. In 2008 he created galleryELL as a response to a growing need for an alternative to the established discourse prominent throughout New York.

[johnros.com](http://johnros.com)

galleryELL

galleryELL is artist-run, artist-funded, and artist-minded.

galleryELL is a transient, Brooklyn-based gallery comprised of active artists who look beyond daily practice by reaching out to members of their communities and to the community at large, sharing resources, ideas, and creativity through camaraderie. Our transient model allows us to exhibit through virtual, roving, and site-specific exhibitions in unclaimed spaces and in collaboration with existing traditional and non-traditional spaces.

[galleryELL.com](http://galleryELL.com)

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# ARTIST-RUN INITIATIVES & THE DIY MOVEMENT

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## PANEL DISCUSSION

Thursday, 25 APRIL 2013, 7-9p

galleryELL  
@ SHOW ROOM