

**Erik Benjamins** is avoiding the seductiveness of perpetual bummersness.

b. 1986, Newport Beach, CA

Lives & works in Los Angeles, CA

### Education

MFA Studio Art, School of the Museum of Fine Arts/Tufts University, Boston, MA, 2012

BA Communication Studies & Studio Arts, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, 2008

Fall Semester, Florence, Italy, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, 2006

Summer Semester, Florence, Italy, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, 2006

### Exhibitions

*Doing Easy*, Outpost Projects, Yucca Valley, CA, 2017

*Erik Benjamins and Stef Halmos are Under Pressure*, 1052 S. Olive., Los Angeles, CA, 2017

*Who Gets to Look*, Curator Virginia Arce, University Art Gallery, University of California, Irvine, CA, 2017

*Free Smells*, Institute for Art & Olfaction, Los Angeles, CA, 2016

*Free Smells*, Open Mind Art Space, Los Angeles, 2016

*Mall No. 2 w/ Draw Down Books*, Curators 7D8 & V. Project, Utah MOCA, Salt Lake City, UT, 2015

*Slow Smoke, Slow Soap Pt. 3*, Institute for Art & Olfaction, Los Angeles, CA, 2015

*“Art in Restaurants is on the Same Level as Food in Museums”* – Niles Crane, Curator Lauren Godfrey,

Turf Projects, Croydon, UK, 2015

*Art Book Weekend*, Demons Mouth, Oslo, Norway, 2014

*Five Contemporary Photography Collectives*, Brighton Photo Biennial, Brighton, UK, 2014

*LA Heat*, Curator Steve Wong, Chinese American Museum, Los Angeles, CA, 2014

*Originally from Australia*, E-12 Olvera St., Los Angeles, CA, 2013

*Past Tense, Future Imperfect*, Curator KJ Baysa, MD., ArtShare LA, Los Angeles, CA, 2013

*Ed Ruscha: Books & Co.*, Museum Brandhorst, Munich, Germany, 2013

*Serious Double Acts*, Marcus Campbell ArtBooks, London, UK, 2013

*Ed Ruscha: Books & Co.*, Gagosian Gallery, New York, NY, 2013

*Time Body Space Objects 2*, Curators Alice Vogel & Vela Phelan, Anthony Greaney, Boston, MA, 2012

*Capital T*, Anthony Greaney, Boston, MA, 2011

### Residencies

Spring Workshop, Hong Kong, 2017

The Drive of Walking Master Class, Jan Van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, Netherlands, 2016

Food & Justice Thematic Residency, Sante Fe Art Institute, Sante Fe, NM, 2015

Mildred's Lane, Beach Lake, PA, 2010

### Awards

Nominee, CES Gallery Residency II, Los Angeles, CA 2017

Traveling Fellowship, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Boston MA, 2015

Special Projects Sponsorship, The Institute for Art & Olfaction, Los Angeles, CA, 2013

Full Tuition Merit Scholarship, SMFA, Boston, MA, 2009–'12

### Talks

Speaker, KPCC In Person, Unheard LA, Whittier College, CA, 2017

Visiting Artist, Digital Photography, California State University – Long Beach, CA, 2015

Visiting Artist, Alt. Lecture KC, University of Kansas City – Missouri, Kansas City, MO, 2015

Panel Participant, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual BABEL Conference, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA, 2014

Panel Participant w/ Wes Avila, I Like Your Work v 2.0, *VIA Publication*, Los Angeles, CA, 2014

Panel Participant w/ Matthew Biancaniello, I Like Your Work, *VIA Publication*, Los Angeles, CA, 2014

Visiting Artist, *Housing Projects*, Otis College of Art & Design, Los Angeles, CA, 2013  
Visiting Artist, KaledioLA, Dept. of Art & Art History, LMU, Los Angeles, CA, 2013  
Visiting Artist, “Publication & Distribution,” Yardwork, Portland, OR, 2013

### Writing

“Good Hugging”, Exhibition Catalog Essay for *In Support of Books* organized by Norma Studio, 2017  
“Whirring down the Capuijnenstraat”, Exhibition Catalog Essay, *Gut Feelings*, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA, 2017  
“Thanksgiving Panino, 2006”, Essay, *Upper Crust Vol. 2*, Sandwich Club, New York, NY, 2016  
“The Magic of Chai Huo Ji”, Essay, Lucky Peach, 2016  
“Hard Optimism”, Essay for Norma Studio, 2016  
“Home Work”, Exhibition Review for Alex Reed, 2016  
“Pupsie Cola...”, Essay, Art 21 Magazine Happiness Issue, Alicia Eler Ed., 2015  
*Butts of Florence*, Travel Memoir, Self-published, Los Angeles, CA, 2014  
“Omer Fast’s Godville”, Review, The Art Book Review, Andrew Berardini & Sarah Williams, Eds., 2014  
*Just...*, Experimental Dissertation, Self-published, Los Angeles, CA, 2012  
“How to Start a Fire...”, Exhibition Catalog Essay, Tufts University Art Gallery, Medford, MA, 2010

### Features & Interviews

KUCI News, *The Pulp*, Interview, 2017  
Virginia Arce, “Who Gets to Look”, Exhibition Essay, 2017  
Kimberly Ruth, “Art Unconvered”, Podcast Interview, BTR Today, 2016  
Anastasiia Federova, “The Florence Travel Book Told Entirely Through Butts”, Amuse, 2016  
Niko Munz, “Art in restaurants...”, This is Tomorrow, 2015  
Billie Muraben, “Eyeball the butts of Florence...”, It’s Nice That, 2015  
Hrag Vartanian, “Rethinking what an Art Book Fair Can Be”, Hyperallergic, 2015  
“The Art of Taste”, Ovation TV, 2014  
Sam Dean, “Hot Sauce Art: LA Museum Honors Sriracha and Tapatio”, NPR’s The Salt, 2014  
Searing Red Dust... in *VIA Issue 03: Ritual*, Los Angeles, CA, 2014  
Jennifer Swann, “7 Secret Sriracha Recipes...”, LA Weekly’s Squid Ink, 2014  
Carren Jao, “Hot Stuff: LA’s Cross-cultural Condiments”, KCET Artbound, 2014  
Thirty-five Years... in *Emergency Index*, Vol. 2, Y. Gluzman & S. Cleary, Eds., Ugly Duckling Presse, 2012  
Mayra Roland, “Local Histories in Chapel Hill”, Temporary Art Review, 2011  
Joachim Schmid, “President on Demand”, Fotokritik, 2009

### Collections

Fonds Régional d’Art Contemporain (FRAC) Poitou-Charentes  
Franklin Furnace Artists’ Books Collection  
SFMOMA Special Collections Research Library

### Teaching & Professional

Clinical Assistant Professor, Depts. of Communication Studies & Studio Arts, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, 2013–‘15  
Study Abroad Faculty, Tuscany, Italy, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, 2014  
Adjunct Faculty, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, 2013 & ‘15  
Adjunct Faculty, Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MA, 2012  
Adjunct Faculty, SMFA, Boston, MA, 2011 & ‘12  
Co-Founder, Howard Art Project, Shared Studio/Project Space, Dorchester, MA, 2011–‘12  
Member, ABC [Artists’ Books Cooperative], 2009–‘16