

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

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 Museum of Contemporary Art, 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

Writing

“Good Hugging”, Exhibition Catalog Essay for *In Support of Books* organized by Norma Studio, 2017

“Whirring down the Capuijnenstraat”, (Sub-)Textual Footnote Intervention, *Gut Feelings* Exhibition Catalog, 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 and One Hundred Thousand Other Glowing Beacons”, 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, or A Work-in-Progress Meditation on the Hoosh”, Exhibition Catalog Essay, Tufts University Art Gallery, Medford, MA, 2010

Awards & Residencies

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

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

Food & Justice Thematic Residency, Sante Fe Art Institute, Sante Fe, NM, 2015
Special Projects Sponsorship, The Institute for Art & Olfaction, Los Angeles, CA, 2013
Fellow, Mildred's Lane, Beach Lake, PA, 2010
Full Tuition Merit Scholarship, SMFA, Boston, MA, 2009

Talks

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, 3rd 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

Collections

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

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 You Can Only Find at L.A.'s Hot Sauce Art Show", 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

Teaching & Professional

Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Communication Studies & Dept. of 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