

REVIEWING 11

EXPLORING THE HISTORY + LEGACY OF

Black Mountain College



Stan VanDerBeek, film still from *Premise/No. 7*, 1967, 16mm film, color, sound, 4:09 min.
Realized with Ken Knowlton. Music by John Cage. © Estate of Stan VanDerBeek.

September 20 – 22, 2019

Three-day program filled with speakers, panels, workshops + performances held at UNC Asheville's Reuter Center and Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center

Co-hosted by Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center and University of North Carolina Asheville

www.blackmountaincollege.org

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

1:00 pm — UNC Asheville's Reuter Center Lobby
REGISTRATION OPENS

1:30 – 3:00 pm

PANEL — Room 205 — Moderator: **Sharmin Hasan**
Elliot Inman: *Natasha Goldowski: Science, Cybernetics, and High Speed Computing at Black Mountain College*
Dave Peifer: *The Life and Works of Max Dehn*

PANEL — Room 206 — Moderator: **Nancy Ruppert**
Mary Emma Harris: *The Bauhaus and Black Mountain College: "How Do You Hold a Moonbeam in Your Hand?"*
Thomas Edward Frank: *How Not to Start a College: Black Mountain Among the Experimental Colleges*

PERFORMANCE — Manheimer Room
Identity in the Post-Digital Age: **Lei Han** with UNC Asheville students **Lucy Ackerman**, **Alondra Arias**, **Sarah Chao**, **Sophia Chirico**, **Kendell Ely**, **Alexander Ernteman**, **Sam Farrar**, **Jeffrey Fulcher**, **Eli Helms**, **Nay Chi Hlaing**, **Kem Ra Skhert Joseph-Achikeobi-Jess**, **Micajah McCurry**, **Maryanne Morgan**, **Miles Neyen**, **Jetsun Peangmeth**, **Kevin Phillips**, **Chloe Sanders**, **Myles Thomas**, **Sarah Tomczak**, **Clara Tucker**, and **Taylor Wilson**



3:15 – 4:45 pm

PANEL — Room 205 — Moderator: **Carissa Pfeiffer**
Jeff Davis: *Nothing Doesn't Happen Except As Succession: Charles Olson's Later Poetics*
Heidi Kelley + Ken Betsalel: *For Love: Projected Verse and the Teaching of Ethnographic Poetry*

PANEL — Room 206 — Moderator: **Jay Miller**
Michael Beggs: *Color and Weltanschauung: General Education in Josef Albers's Color Course*
Julie Levin Caro: *Bauhaus to Black Mountain: Josef and Anni Albers Works on Paper: A Virtual Exhibition Tour*
Andreas Luescher: *Josef Albers Homage and the Transformation of Self*

WORKSHOP — Room 230
Joséphine A. Garibaldi + Paul Zmolek:
Laptop Performance Laboratory: Meaningful Work with Meaningless Devices

PERFORMANCE — Manheimer Room
Aparna Keshaviah: *Mātrika*

BELOW FROM LEFT: Stan VanDerBeek in front of the "Movie-Drome" Stony Point, NY 1964. Courtesy Estate of Stan VanDerBeek. Sara VanDerBeek, *Baltimore Dancers Twelve*, 2019, digital c-print, 20 x 15.75 inches, edition 1 of 3. Courtesy of the Artist and Metro Pictures, New York.



FROM LEFT:
Artist Sara VanDerBeek.
Chelsea Spengemann, Director
of the Stan VanDerBeek Archive.

5:00 – 6:00 pm — Manheimer Room
Welcome + Introduction
by BMC+AC Executive Director **Jeff Arnal**
KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Sara VanDerBeek, artist and daughter of BMC alumnus Stan VanDerBeek and **Chelsea Spengemann**, Director of the Stan VanDerBeek Archive: *Translating the archive and transposing the studio. Collaboration as a practice and as theme in the work of Stan and Sara VanDerBeek*

6:30 – 8:30 pm
CONFERENCE + EXHIBITION RECEPTION
BMC Museum + Arts Center, 120 College Street,
downtown Asheville with a food truck on site
VanDerBeek + VanDerBeek
Curated by Sara VanderBeek +
Chelsea Spengemann, Director
of the Stan VanDerBeek Archive

7:00 pm
PERFORMANCE — BMC Museum + Arts Center
Max VanDerBeek, percussion artist and son of Stan VanDerBeek, will perform a live percussion response to the recently digitized footage Stan VanDerBeek created with Merce Cunningham as part of their larger collaborative work entitled *Variations V*.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:00 – 9:00 am — Reuter Center Lobby
MEET + GREET THE PRESENTERS

9:00 – 10:30 am

PANEL — Room 206 — Moderator: **Alvis Dunn**
Aaron VanSteinberg: *"Superspace is Looming": Robert Creeley's Daybook of a Virtual Poet and the Reprogramming of Poetic Experientialism*
Jeff Gardiner: *A Poetics of Primary Materials: from Bauhaus to Black Mountain, from Albers to Olson*

PRESENTATION — Room 207
David Silver: *When the College was Female*

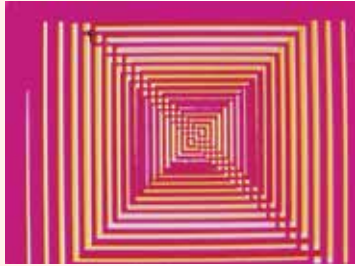
WORKSHOP — Room 230
Julie J. Thomson: *Environmental Humanities at Black Mountain College: Ray Johnson + Rivers, Hazel Larsen Archer + Trees, Jonathan Williams + Bluets, Stan VanDerBeek + Willow Reeds + Making John Cage's Mud Pies*

10:45 am – 12:15 pm

PANEL — Room 205 — Moderator: **Jeff Davis**
The Further Range: Extending Black Mountain Poetics
Michael Seth Stewart: *"Fey" Projective Poetics: John Wieners, Robert Duncan, Michael Rumaker and Charles Olson*
Joshua Hoeynck: *Process Philosophy and Pedagogy: Charles Olson's Reading and Teaching of Alfred North Whitehead at Black Mountain College*
Stephen Williams: *A Poet in the Clouds: Jack Sharpless*

PANEL — Room 206 — Moderator: **Seth Rouser**
Seth Rouser: *Just By Chance: A Commemorative Performance for the Merce Cunningham Centennial Celebration*
Kelly Ozust: *Van Dyke and Chance Operations*
Julianna Hane: *Chance Operations in Aerial Dance*

SCHEDULE CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



FROM LEFT: Stan VanDerBeek, *Skulduggery*, 1962, film still. © Estate of Stan VanDerBeek. Stan VanDerBeek, *Moirage*, 1966-68, film still. © Estate of Stan VanDerBeek. Sara VanDerBeek, *Baltimore Dancers Two*, 2012, digital c-print, 20 x 15.75 inches, edition 1 of 3. Courtesy of the Artist and Metro Pictures, New York.

10:45 am – 12:15 pm — CONTINUED

WORKSHOP — Room 230

Candace Buck: *Repurposing Fallen Woods of UNCA: Weaving on Miniature Looms*

PERFORMANCE — Manheimer Room

Ann Dunn, choreographer, with seven members of **The Asheville Ballet** (Megan Jones Medford, Fleming Lomax, Rebecca Nohria, Clara Zander, Eleazar Montgomery, Lane Wagner, and Jacob Walas) perform *Contours in Space: for Ruth Asawa*

12:15 – 1:15pm

CATERED LUNCH

1:30 – 2:30 pm — Manheimer Room

A Celebration of BMC writer **Michael Rumaker**



LEFT: Mary Ann Fretz Giusti, *Michael Rumaker on the Dining Hall Porch Overlooking Lake Eden*, Summer 1953.

2:45 – 4:15 pm

PANEL — Room 205 — Moderator: **Kate Averett**

Manuel Beltrán Alcántara: *Black Mountain College: Architecture to Teach to See*

Charlott Greub: *Interdisciplinary Lessons from the Idea and Process of Drawing Notations in Music and Architecture*

Sasson Rafailov: *Specialization Paradox: The Case for Interdisciplinary Education in Architecture*

PANEL — Room 206 — Moderator: **Greg Lyon**

Eric Baden: *Moving Pictures: Photographs, Intervals, and Edges*

Quynh Lam: *Using Photography to Address the Lost and Forgotten History*

Ariadna Lorenzo Sunyer: *Opening Eyes and Opening Minds: The Uses of Slides at Black Mountain College*

PANEL — Room 207 — Moderator: **Casey Watkins**

Nick Boone: *The Black Mountain Poets are Dead. Long Live the Black Mountain Poets!*

Ant Lobo: *Talking in Code: Queer Sensibility At and After Black Mountain College*

Joseph Pisa: *Black Mountain and the Black Arts Movement*

PERFORMANCES — Room 230

Joseph Bathanti: *Poetry Reading*

Thom Young: *Poetry Reading*



Andy Oates, *Lake Eden/Mae West*, nd, vintage gelatin silver print, 5.5 x 8.5 inches. Collection of Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center. Gift of the Artist.

4:30 – 6:00 pm

PERFORMANCE — Room 120

Ted Pope: *Swannanoa Song River Information Network Tributaries*

PANEL — Room 206 — Moderator: **Candace Buck**

Adam Blair: *Creative Perception as Embodied: A Multi-layered Experience of Art*

Craig Fischer: *Chance and Multimedia Aesthetics in Barbara Rubin's Christmas on Earth (1963-5)*

Alexis Zanghi: *Willing Buyer, Willing Seller: Robert Rauschenberg's Canyon and the Commodity Form*

PANEL — Manheimer Room — Moderator: **Curt Cloninger**

Hyemin Kim: *Second life of B.M.C. Poetry in Computational Cinema: Bifurcating Materiality of Words in Stan VanDerBeek's Poemfield Series*

Thom Young: *The Black Mountain Rhizome in the Experimental Vein of American Verse*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:00 am

COFFEE + CONVERSATION

BMC Museum + Arts Center, 120 College Street, downtown Asheville

10:00 am

DEPART FOR LAKE EDEN CAMPUS TOUR

Carpools depart from BMC+AC for Black Mountain College's Lake Eden Campus Tour led by **David Silver + Julie J. Thomson** — \$15 per person



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Sara VanDerBeek earned her BFA from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 1998. Sara is a contemporary artist working primarily in photography. Her photographs utilize a variety of formal strategies and references yet remain consistently engaged with issues of memory and the experience of time and space. Her work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2010); Hammer Museum, University of California Los Angeles (2011); Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland (2014); Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2015); and the Baltimore Museum of Art (2015). She lives and works in New York.

Chelsea Spengemann is Director of the Stan VanDerBeek Archive. She has worked alongside Sara in the curation of *VanDerBeek + VanDerBeek*, a new exhibition which explores Stan's experimental films and includes new works by Sara.

PRESENTERS

Eric Baden is a photographer, curator, and professor of Art at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina. He is the founding director of photoplus, a multidisciplinary arts event held in Asheville, NC that produced photo+craft (2016), linking the photography and craft communities and photo+sphere (2018) that merged photography and the climate sciences.

Joseph Bathanti is former Poet Laureate of North Carolina (2012-14) and recipient of the 2016 North Carolina Award for Literature. He is the author of ten books of poetry. He served as the 2016 Charles George VA Medical Center Writer-in-Residence in Asheville, NC.

Michael Beggs is an architectural designer and independent scholar whose wide-ranging research interests include architecture and cinema, art and design pedagogy, daylight simulation for architecture, color, and architecture in rural America. He was formerly employed at the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, where he researched and catalogued Josef Albers's photographic materials.

Manuel Beltrán Alcántara is studying for his masters degree at the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Sevilla. His research topic is *Black Mountain College, Analysis of Learning Spaces, and Architecture to Teach to See*.

Ken Betsalel is a political theorist and ethnographer who has published in the fields of civic engagement and community. He has also exhibited his documentary photography. He and Heidi Kelley are currently working on a project that makes use of poetry, photography, and collaborative ethnography to tell the story of community.

Adam Blair is a doctoral candidate at Stony Brook University. He is currently writing a dissertation on “creative spectatorship,” which digs into what it might mean to be genuinely creative when we encounter works of art. IG: @adamtheblair.

S. (Nick) Boone teaches American Literature and writing at Harding University. His dissertation—*Truth and Method on Black Mountain: The Hermeneutical Stances of Charles Olson, Robert Creeley, and Robert Duncan*—examines how the Black Mountain poets each depended on fundamental features of hermeneutic ontology (Heidegger; Gadamer) as a basis for their poetry.

Candace Buck works in Administration and Finance at UNC Asheville. She is a 2016 MLAS Graduate of UNC Asheville, with a Capstone project focusing on photography and poetry inspired by Black Mountain College.

Julie Levin Caro received her PhD in Art History from the University of Texas at Austin and is a professor of Art History and chair of the Art department at Warren Wilson College in Asheville.

Jeff Davis is a poet and independent scholar. He’s a long-time researcher into the Black Mountain College poets. His work on Charles Olson has been published in *Appalachian Journal* and *Staying Open: Charles Olson’s Sources and Influences* (Vernon Press, 2019), and he also edited previously unpublished Olson texts for *Appalachian Journal*.

Ann Dunn teaches Humanities and The Arts and Being Human at UNC Asheville. Her doctoral concentration was in Shakespearean Studies with a secondary focus on The Literature of the Italian Renaissance. Dunn has published three volumes of poetry, raised five children, and has eleven grandchildren so far.

Craig Fischer is a professor of English at Appalachian State University, where he teaches classes on film theory, film history, and comic books / graphic novels. His article on Stan VanDerBeek and Terry Gilliam was included in *Appalachian Journal’s* special issue on Black Mountain College (2018).

Thomas Edward Frank is university professor and associate dean for Continuing Studies in the Graduate School of Wake Forest University. He teaches and writes about American communities of ideals, particularly liberal arts colleges and utopian movements, as well as the conservation of the natural and built landscapes.

Jeff Gardiner, an independent scholar, has written and presented numerous talks and papers on the work of Charles Olson. In addition to essays and talks, he has taught a course on Olson’s poetics at the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts in San Francisco, his hometown, where he attended classes taught by Robert Duncan at New College.

Joséphine A. Garibaldi & Paul Zmolek, Artistic Directors, Callous Physical Theatre. Established in 2004, Callous Physical Theatre is a collaborative, project-based endeavor. Guided by the slogan “We go where the work takes us,” directors Joséphine A. Garibaldi and Paul Zmolek are dedicated to fostering collaboration across communities, disciplines and cultures regionally, nationally, and internationally through a dialogic practice of art-making, research, and pedagogy.

Charlott Greub is an artist, architect, urban designer and educator. She was educated in Germany, where she earned a Bachelor of Architecture from the School of Applied Sciences in Cologne. Since 2015 she is a PhD student at the RWTH Technical University in Aachen (Germany) where her research focuses on the study of the pavilion as a new genre between art and architecture.

Lei Han is an artist, educator and designer. Her work, often inspired by nature and everyday life, explores notions of perception, memory, transience and time. She is professor of New Media at UNC Asheville. Students signed up for Lei’s NM450 Digital Video Art course are mostly New Media majors in their junior and senior year of studies.

Mary Emma Harris is an independent scholar and serves as the chair and director of the Black Mountain College Project. Harris was named the 2016 Black Mountain College Legacy Research Scholar at UNC Asheville. Harris earned her BA from Greensboro College and an MA from UNC Chapel Hill.

Joshua Hoeyneck received his PhD from Washington University in St. Louis, and his research focuses primarily on the confluences between process philosophy, Black Mountain poetry, and environmental criticism.

Elliot Inman has led workshops in electronics and creative coding on topics ranging from basic electronics and Arduino/Circuit Python programming to Fast Fourier Analysis, 8-bit chip synths, MIDI controllers, and the Internet of Things. He documents his own electronic music experiments at www.MusicalCircuits.com.

Heidi Kelley is a cultural anthropologist and poet who does field work in Spain and Western North Carolina.

Aparna Keshaviah is a classically trained dancer and musician whose choreography evolves the traditional lexicon of Bharatanatyam. Her work extracts the ancient dance form out of the confines of classical repertoire and staging and into more flexible, engaging currents of contemporary Indian dance.

Hyemin Kim (Pronouns: they/them) holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from SUNY at Buffalo with specialization in 20th century continental philosophy, poetics, and queer literature. Their work centers on intermediality, ecological poetics, and queer lyricism in 20th to 21st century American and cross-cultural literature and cinema.

Nguyen Duc Diem Quynh (aka Quynh Lam) is a Vietnamese contemporary artist. In 2018, Quynh was granted a Fulbright Scholarship from the U.S. Department of States and is now pursuing an MFA in Studio Art at the University of Tennessee School of Art. Quynh is a recipient of the 2019 Art Future Prize in Taiwan and also on the list of 15 young and emerging artists.

Ant M Lobo (Pronouns: they/them) is an artist and independent curator based in Raleigh, NC. Their artworks focus on sexuality and gender by exploring themes of tragedy, history/myth, relic, and sex + power while using their past experiences to allegorize sex and love through their work.

Andreas Luescher is a Swiss architect, who is currently professor and chair of Architecture and Environmental Design at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. His research is on design processes in architecture and design from an aesthetic, social, public policy, sustainability as well as visual culture perspective.

David Peifer is a Mathematics professor at UNC Asheville. His research is in topology and geometric group theory. His work is directly related to research and problems posed by Max Dehn. David has been a board member of the BMCM+AC for ten years and has attended every ReVIEWING BMC conference (presenting at five).

Dr. Joseph Pisa is currently associate professor of English at Belmont Abbey College, near Charlotte, NC. There, he teaches courses in modern and contemporary literature, African American Studies, and creative writing.

Ted Pope’s great grandmother was Cherokee and his great-grandfather Scots or Irish or both. His Grandmother was a lush and the West Virginia town she lived in w/his Grandfather, Coy Spears, displayed a sign on the courthouse lawn that read “No Dogs or Coy Spears Allowed”. His parents both worked for STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND. Teddy’s earliest memory is stealing sugar cubes from the Base Commanders coffee cabinet and eating them while staring at a framed photo of a B-52 carrying a nuclear weapon being refueled mid-air by another plane, and maybe the first question he asked is how can they fly so delicate as to be connected up there.

Sasson Rafailov is a Master in Design Studies candidate at Harvard University. His scholarly research focuses on the history of design education in the United States and its trajectory in the 21st century.

Seth Rouser, a native of South Carolina, is a visual artist and professor of Fine Arts with a practice that engages in many different media and disciplines. He has over 17 years of experience teaching at the college level, which include courses in design, painting, drawing, computer imaging, and interdisciplinary and collaborative art.

Kelly Ozust is a choreographer, dancer, and teacher working in Rock Hill, SC where she is an assistant professor of Dance at Winthrop University. She has created work for concert dance, musical theatre, opera, and film.

Julianna Hane is an instructor of Dance at Winthrop University, specializing in aerial dance. Her research interest involves integrating Laban theory with aerial dance to enrich personal expression and performance quality.

David Silver is associate professor and chair of Environmental Studies at the University of San Francisco where he also teaches classes in Urban Agriculture. For the last seven years, David has been researching and writing a multimedia history of the farm at Black Mountain College.

Michael Seth Stewart edited the letters and journals of John Wieners and teaches at the University of Alabama.

Ariadna Lorenzo Sunyer is a PhD student at the Université de Lausanne (History and Aesthetics of Cinema Section) and the University of Girona (Department of History and Art History), under the supervision of Dr Olivier Lugon and Dr Xavier Antich.

Julie J. Thomson is the co-editor of the *Journal of Black Mountain College Studies*, the editor of *That Was The Answer: Interviews with Ray Johnson*, and in 2017 she curated the exhibition *Begin To See: The Photographers of Black Mountain College* at BMCM+AC.

Aaron VanSteinberg, a Kansas native, graduated from Duke University in May 2019 with a BA in English. His senior honors thesis, *Lines of Crisis: William Carlos Williams, Robert Creeley, and Denise Levertov* examined the relationship between influence, experimentalism, and crisis in these three poets.

Stephen Williams is a poet living in Chicago. He edits *Aurochs*. He has previously collaborated with Peter O’Leary to re-present Jack Sharpless’ work at the Louisville Conference On Literature And Culture, 2019.

Thom Young (Pronouns: they/them) is a writer and student based in Boone, North Carolina, as well as the Asheville area. They have published domestically and internationally in publications such as *Wussy*, *FAG BLOOD*, *American Chordata*, and in numerous zines. In addition, they have edited both magazines and collections of poetry. *Bespoke* is their first collection.

Alexis Zanghi is a writer based in Minneapolis. She is currently a PhD student at UMN in the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, where her research focuses on the critical political economy of the contemporary art market.

VanDerBeek + VanDerBeek

Curated by Sara VanDerBeek and
Chelsea Spengemann, Director of the Stan VanDerBeek Archive

SEPTEMBER 20, 2019 – JANUARY 4, 2020

This exhibition explores the work of contemporary artist Sara VanDerBeek and that of her father, pioneering film artist and Black Mountain College (BMC) alumnus Stan VanDerBeek (1927-1984). An innovator in animation and expanded cinema, VanDerBeek often collaborated with dancers to create films that captured the dynamic movement of modern dance. Included are a number of recently preserved dance films as well as other works made by VanDerBeek and his peers at BMC. New photographs and sculptures by Sara VanDerBeek employ cinematic layering and montage to explore the simultaneity of contemporary human experience. The artworks on view, including select archival materials related to Stan's studies at BMC, suggest varied ways of perceiving the resonance between past and present.

ABOVE: Sara VanDerBeek, *Baltimore Dancers Eleven*, 2019, digital c-print, 20 x 15.75 inches, edition 1 of 3. Courtesy of the Artist and Metro Pictures, New York. RIGHT: Stan VanDerBeek, *Untitled (Landscape)*, 1955, paint on wood panel, 10.3125 x 5.875 inches. © Estate of Stan VanDerBeek.

Exhibition Opening + ReVIEWING 11 Conference Reception

Friday, September 20 — 6:30-8:30 pm — FREE — Food Truck on Site

7pm PERFORMANCE Max VanDerBeek, percussion artist + son of Stan VanDerBeek, will perform a live percussion response to the recently digitized footage that Stan VanDerBeek created with Merce Cunningham.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FOUNDATION, BUSINESS, + INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS



Hedy Fischer and Randy Shull, Stan VanDerBeek Archive, Windgate Charitable Foundation, Susan Rhew Design, UNC Asheville Dean of Humanities.

