

Leigh Kotsilidis

EDUCATION

- 2009-13 **Concordia University** MFA Studio Arts, Open Media concentration
- 2005-06 **York University** Honours BA, Anthropology, Creative Writing Minor
- 1995-03 **York University** BA, Anthropology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2000-20 **Freelance Graphic Designer**, Montreal, QC
 — Design and layout for specialty poetry collections, trade books, publicity materials (posters, handbills, online ads), CD and vinyl packaging.
- 2013 - *present* **Managing Editor / Education and Community Outreach Program Manager**, Vallum Society for Arts & Letters Education, Montreal, QC
 — Manages Vallum's publishing projects: *Vallum: Contemporary Poetry* magazine and Vallum Chapbook Series; includes soliciting writers, copyediting, printing, distribution, publicity and marketing, organizing launches and related events, budgeting.
 — Oversees the coordination and execution of poetry workshops in underserved communities throughout Montreal; includes evaluating and establishing new community partners, determining workshop methodologies, scheduling processing and assessing feedback, reporting, budgeting, fundraising.
 — Responsible for all grant writing and fundraising for operational and project expenses.
 — Manages staff and interns; includes scheduling, delegating tasks, evaluating performance.
- 2013 **Guest Poetry and Art Editor**, *Riddle Fence: A Journal of Arts & Culture*, St. John's, NFLD
 — Selection and solicitation of poets and artist for issue #16.
- 2010-11 **Teaching Assistant**, Integrated Studio in Contemporary Art Practices, Concordia University, Montreal, QC
 — Support of the professor with delivering curriculum through lectures, demonstrations, and discussions; student evaluations.
- 2009- 10 **Teaching Assistant**, Video History and Theory, Concordia University, Montreal, QC
 — Support of the professor with delivering curriculum through lectures, and discussions; student evaluations.
- 2010 **Intern (Summer)**, Véhicule Press, Montreal, QC
 — Database management, proofreading, publicity and marketing.
- 2003-09 **Co-Publisher**, littlefishheartpress, Orono, ON
 — Managing all aspects of publishing full-length poetry collections and chapbooks, including solicitations, design and layout, printing, distribution, publicity, launches, budgeting.
- 2008 **Guest Poetry Editor** for Advanced seminar in creative writing (fourth year), Trent University, Peterborough, ON
 — Working one on one editing students' poems.
- 2005-06 **Editorial Assistant / Co-designer**, *LICHEN Arts & Letters Preview*, Whitby, ON
 — Selection of poets for 2 issues per year; design and layout of publication.
- 2002-06 **Co-Editor-in-Chief / Art Editor / Designer**, *Existere (York University's Literature and Arts Journal)*, Toronto, ON
 — Selection and solicitation of poets and artists for 2 issues per year; design and layout of publication.

COMMUNITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES

- 2013-
present **Artistic Director**, Rocket Science Room, Montreal, QC
— Curates and programs niche events, such as music shows, readings, workshops, screenings, theatre, and art performances.
- 2013-
present **Managing/Artistic Co-Director / Head Scientist**, Scientists for Love, Montreal, QC
— Scientists for Love create events that use the scientific method as a conductor for social energy and connection; committed to the study and advancement of love in all its forms.
- 2016-18 **Managing/Artistic Co-Director**, General Audience, Montreal, QC
— Programming of a monthly, community-based, informal lecture series to provide opportunities for people to share knowledge, experience, research, creative projects, information, and ideas in a comfortable and open environment.
- 2010-15 **Managing/Artistic Co-Director**, Fish Quill Poetry Boat Tour, The Grand River, ON
— Organization and execution of a ten-day poetry and music tour by canoe

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPEMENT

- 2016-18 **Board Member / Treasurer**, Quebec Writers' Federation, Montreal, QC
— Committees: Hire A Writer; Digital Development; Gala; Youth Prize; Finance.
- 2018 **Jury Member**, Poetry in Voice, Montreal, QC
— Selecting winning poems for the 2018 poetry in schools competition.
- 2013 **Jury Member**, Irving Layton Awards for Creative Writing, Concordia University, Montreal, QC
— Selecting winning poems for the 2013 poetry competition.
- 2012 **Jury Member**, ART342, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA
— Selecting incoming poets to attend the 2013 writing residency.
- 2003-05 **Board Member**, Artspace Artist-run Centre, Peterborough, ON
— Committees: Fundraising; Programming.
- 2003-05 **Jury Member / Programming Committee**, Artspace Artist-run Centre, Peterborough, ON
— Selecting artworks to be exhibited for the 2004, 2005 programming years.

RELATIONAL/INTERACTIVE WORK

Scientists for Love (in collaboration with Amy Chartrand)

- 2014-17 **Speed-dating for the Senses (and the sensitive)**
Montreal, QC & Toronto, ON (SummerWorks, 2015)
— *A social experiment with the senses, attraction, and 30 singles.*
- 2016 **Intermission**
Canadian Stage, Toronto, ON
— *An evening of experiments exploring parallel universes and agency.*
- 2015 **Field Study: Data Pool**
SummerWorks Opening, Toronto, ON
— *A public intervention: Participants were asked how they connect with people (touch, smell, taste, hearing, sight) and were assigned a colour based on their response. These colours were then a way to strike up conversation with strangers.*

- 2015 **Field Study: Saliva Swap**
SummerWorks Mixer, Toronto, ON
— *A public intervention: In exchange for a swab of saliva, participants received someone else's DNA and their phone number.*
- 2015 **Field Study: Complimentary Connections**
Montreal Metro, Montreal, QC
— *A public intervention: 100 Montreal metro riders received a card for people to write down and pass along a compliment to stranger.*
- 2014 **Sweet Nothings: Readings for one**
Blue Metropolis Literary Festival, Montreal, QC
— *An experiment in form and experience: personalised literary readings from Blue Met poets by phone, alone in a hotel room.*
- 2014 **Field Study: I hear you and I love you**
Casa del Popolo, Montreal, QC
— *A public intervention survey.*

Additional works

- 2022 ***EXCUSE YOU!* (performance in collaboration with Rafael Lozano-Hemmer)**
HEK (Haus der Elektronischen Künste), Basel, Switzerland
- 2013 ***Lady Into Fox***
Redpath Museum, Montreal, QC
- 2012 ***Rare Birds***
Mouse Print Gallery, Montreal, QC
- 2008 ***Snowfort* (Stop-animation component in DVD format)**
Love Letter to a Dinosaur, Peterborough Arts Umbrella Gallery, Peterborough, ON
- 2007 ***Be the Perfect Valentine***
Bitten, Peterborough Arts Umbrella Gallery, Peterborough, ON
- 2006 ***Because We Must***
A Destination:Gutter Collaborative Event, The Spill Café, Peterborough, ON
- 2002 ***Choose or Choose* (video component in VHS format)**
York University, Toronto, ON
- 2002 ***Real Time* (videocomponent in VHS format)**
York University, Toronto, ON
- 2001 ***The Red Show* (video component in VHS format, sound component in 16-bit stereo)**
Gallery 1313, Toronto, ON

STOP-MOTION ANIMATION SCREENINGS

- 2019 ***13, un ludodrame sur Walter Benjamin* (includes 6 stop-motion animation shorts)**
— InScience International Science Film Festival Nijmegen, Netherlands
- 2019 — Giornate degli Autori at the Venice film festival, Venice, Italy
- 2019 — Festival de Cinema Jueu de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
- 2019 — Casa del Cinema, Rome, Italy
- 2018 — Journées Internationales du Film sur l'art 12e edition, Louvre, Paris, France
- 2018 — Mediafilm, Montreal, QC
- 2018 — Cinéma Le Clap, Quebec City, QC

- 2018 — Cinémathèque Québécoise, Montreal, QC
- 2018 — Doc Fortnight du MoMA, New York City, USA
- 2018 — CPH : DOX, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2018 — Festival de Cine de Lima intitulée, Lima, Peru
- 2017 — Les Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma, Montreal, QC
- 2017 — RIDM (Rencontres internationales du documentaire de Montréal), Montreal, QC

Dinosaurs

- 2008 — *The Doll Show #1: Poppet*, Artspace: Mudroom, Peterborough, ON

Dinosaurs, Japanese Garden, My Brother's Wedding

- 2008 — Cow Palace Arts Festival, Cow Palace, Orono, ON
- 2008 — Thomson House Art Show Thomson House, Montreal, QC

My Brother's Wedding

- 2008 — *The Millbrook International 3 Minute Film Festival Gala*, The King Street Centre for the Arts, Millbrook, ON
- 2007 — *Matrix Magazine #78, "The Narrative T" Launch*, Blizzart's, Montreal, QC
- 2007 — *The Festival of Darkness*, Art Gallery of Peterborough, Peterborough, ON
- 2007 — *Shoot and Score*, Sadlier House, Peterborough, ON

7 shorts

- 2006 — Artsweek, The Underdog, Peterborough, ON

Six Short Stop-Animations:

- 2006 — Artsweek, The Underdog, Peterborough, ON
- 2006 — Artsweek, Trent Film Society Chambers' St. Parking Lot, Peterborough, ON
- 2006 — The Festival of Darkness, Art Gallery of Peterborough, Peterborough, ON

Four Very Short Stop-Animations

- 2005 — *Sound and Vision*, Cinema 379, Peterborough, ON

SCULPTURE EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 **EXCUSE YOU! (neon sign in collaboration with Rafael Lozano-Hemmer)**
Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA
- 2022 **EXCUSE YOU! (neon sign in collaboration with Rafael Lozano-Hemmer)**
Bitforms Gallery, Art Basel, Miami
- 2022 **EXCUSE YOU! (neon sign in collaboration with Rafael Lozano-Hemmer)**
Wilde Gallery, Basel, Switzerland
- 2004 **Prototype** (sound component in 16-bit stereo):
Surface, Cossar's Art Centre, Peterborough, ON
- 2003 **Cubes I, II, III**
50/50 Art Extravaganza, Peterborough Public Library, Peterborough, ON
- 2003 **People Product**
Catwalk, Market Hall, Peterborough, ON
- 2002 **Glut**
Why Stop at the Lollipop, The Mocking Bird, Toronto, ON
- 2000 **Urban Psyche Series**
Dis=connect, SOF Art House, Toronto, ON
- 2000 **Urban Psyche Series**
Utopia Café and Grill, Toronto, ON

PUBLICATIONS (JOURNALS & SMALL PRESS)

- 2014 **“For Christ’s Sake”**, Hazlitt online, Random House of Canada, weekly poem.
- 2013 **Rare Birds** (installation excerpts), *Apogee Magazine*, Spring 2013.
- 2012 **The Best Canadian Poetry In English 2011** (An Anthology featuring selected poets who published poems during 2011), Tightrope Books. (1 poem)
- 2012 **Flukes of Nature** (excerpts), *Event Magazine* No. 41.2
- 2011 **“By Any Name,” “Before Meteorologists,” “The Tin Woodsman Turns Partisan,” “Rodeo Romance”**, *The Winnipeg Review*, Issue 5, Fall.
- 2011 **Hypotheticals**, Coach House Books.
- 2009 **“what are we driving ourselves into”**, *Prairie Fire* No. 30:3.
- 2009 **“Supposition No.1”**, *Prairie Fire* No. 30:3.
- 2009 **“Supposition No.2”**, *Prairie Fire* No. 30:3.
- 2008 **I.V. Lounge Nights** (An Anthology featuring selected poets from the I.V. Lounge Reading Series), Tightrope Books. (3 poems)
- 2008 **“Diagnoses”**, *Prism international*. No. 47:1 Fall.
- 2009 **“Ambitious Birds”**, **Fevered Spring Almost Instant Anthology**, Toronto Small Press Fair Group.
- 2007 **The Hoodoo You Do So Well** (An Anthology of poetry from the Banff Centre for the Arts Writing Studio 2007), Littlefishcartpress. (10 poems)
- 2007 **This Grace** (An Anthology featuring four poets), Littlefishcartpress. (10 poems)
- 2005 **“Artificial Reef”**, *The Fiddlehead* No. 226 Winter.
- 2005 **Hypotheticals** (A small chapbook), Littlefishcartpress. (6 poems)

READINGS

- 2017 **Blanc de Blanc** (Backyard Sessions), Montreal, QC
- 2016 **Port Credit Library**, Mississauga, ON
- 2016 **The Garnet**, Peterborough, ON
- 2015 **Café L’Insouciant** (Lapalabrava Reading Series), Montreal, QC
- 2015 **Chez Boris** (Lawn chair soiree Reading Series), Montreal, QC
- 2015 **Atwater Library** (Quebec Writers’ Federation, Rapid-Fire Reading Series), Montreal, QC
- 2015 **Molly’s Coffee House** (odd sundays Reading Series), Fredericton, New Brunswick.
- 2014 **University of New Brunswick**, Fredericton, New Brunswick.
- 2014 **High Park** (The High Park Reading Festival, Toronto, ON
- 2014 **Café Résonance** (Résonance Reading Series), Montreal, QC
- 2014 **The Elora Poetry Centre** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Elora, ON
- 2014 **Atwater Library** (The Atwater Poetry Project), Montreal, QC
- 2013 **The Sparrow** (LitPop Reading Series #2), Montreal, QC

- 2013 ***The Common*** (The Common Reading Series), Toronto, ON
- 2013 ***Tranzac*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Toronto, ON
- 2013 ***Beaver House*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Elora, ON
- 2013 ***Historic Kissing Bridge*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), West Montrose, ON
- 2013 ***Words Worth Books*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Kitchener, ON
- 2013 ***Wired Up Pugs Café-Bistro*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Cambridge, ON
- 2013 ***Cedar House*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Paris, ON
- 2013 ***The Station Coffee House & Gallery*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Brantford, ON
- 2013 ***Chiefswood National Historic Site*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, ON
- 2012 ***York University***, Toronto, ON
- 2012 ***Niagara Artists Centre*** (Grey Borders Reading Series), St. Catharines, Ontario.
- 2012 ***Brock University***, St. Catharines, ON
- 2012 ***Tranzac*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Toronto, ON
- 2012 ***Elora Farmers Market, Bissell Park*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Elora, ON
- 2012 ***Historic Kissing Bridge*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), West Montrose, ON
- 2012 ***Gallery on the Grand*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Kitchener, ON
- 2012 ***Wired Up Pugs Café-Bistro*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Cambridge, ON
- 2012 ***Brown Dog Cafe*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Paris, ON
- 2012 ***The Station Coffee House & Gallery*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Brantford, ON
- 2012 ***Chiefswood National Historic Site*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, ON
- 2012 ***Casa del Popolo*** (The Golden Hour), Montreal, QC
- 2012 ***Placebo Space*** (The Golden Hour), Toronto, ON
- 2012 ***New York Mills Cultural Center***, New York Mills, Minnesota.
- 2012 ***Lawnya Vawnya Festival***, St. Johns, NL
- 2012 ***Robson Reading Series***, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
- 2012 ***Art Bar Poetry Series***, Paupers Pub, 539 Bloor St. W., Toronto, ON
- 2012 ***Cobourg Poetry Workshop***, 66 King East, Cobourg, ON
- 2012 ***Barnhill's Books***, 811 Burke Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA
- 2012 ***High Point University (Phillips 120)***, High Point, North Carolina.
- 2011 ***The Dance Cave*** (*Hypotheticals* book launch), Toronto, ON
- 2011 ***The Artel*** (*Hypotheticals* book launch), Kingston, ON
- 2011 ***The Sparrow*** (*Hypotheticals* book launch), Montreal, QC
- 2011 ***University of New Brunswick***, Fredericton, NB
- 2011 ***Bissel Park Pavillion*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Elora, ON
- 2010 ***Historic Kissing Bridge*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), West Montrose, ON
- 2011 ***Waterloo Region Museum*** (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Kitchener, ON

- 2011 *O’Keefe’s Cottage Cafe* (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Cambridge, ON
- 2011 *Brown Dog Cafe* (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Paris, ON
- 2011 *Brantford Arts Block* (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Brantford, ON
- 2011 *Chiefswood National Historic Site* (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, ON
- 2011 *Historic Kissing Bridge* (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), West Montrose, ON
- 2010 *Historic Kissing Bridge* (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), West Montrose, ON
- 2010 *Gallery on the Grand* (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), West Bridgeport, ON
- 2010 *O’Keefe’s Cottage Cafe* (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Cambridge, ON
- 2010 *Brown Dog Cafe* (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Paris, ON
- 2010 *Brantford Arts Block* (Fish Quill Poetry Boat Reading Tour), Brantford, ON
- 2010 *Kubo Lounge* (Cooked and Eaten Reading Series), Peterborough, ON
- 2009 *University of New Brunswick*, Fredericton, NB
- 2008 *The Gordon Best Theatre* (Cooked and Eaten Reading Series), Peterborough, ON
- 2008 *The Green Room* (“The Hoodoo You Do So Well” Book Launch), Montreal, QC
- 2008 *I.V. Lounge* (“The Hoodoo You Do So Well” Book Launch), Toronto, ON
- 2008 *University of New Brunswick*, Fredericton, NB
- 2008 *Seahorse Tavern* (Shoestring Reading Series), Halifax, NS
- 2008 *University of Prince Edward Island*, Charlottetown, PEI
- 2008 *Struts Gallery*, Sackville, NB
- 2008 *Moncton Public Library*, Moncton, NB
- 2007 *Banff Centre for the Arts*, Banff, AB
- 2006 *University of New Brunswick*, Fredericton, NB
- 2006 *Free Times Café*, Toronto, ON
- 2005 *Free Times Café*, Toronto, ON
- 2005 *IV Lounge*, Toronto, ON

AWARDS

- 2021 *Research and Creation Grant (Poetry)* (Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec)
- 2015 *Travel Grant Literature* (Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec)
- 2014 *Grants for Professional Writers: Creative Writing* (Canada Council for the Arts)
- 2013 *Travel Grant Literature* (Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec)
- 2013 *Travel Grant Literature* (Canada Council for the Arts)
- 2012 *Travel Grant Literature* (Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec)
- 2011 *Travel Grant Literature* (Canada Council for the Arts)
- 2011 *Travel Grant Literature* (Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec)
- 2010 *CBC Literary Awards* (Finalist)

- 2009 **CBC Literary Awards** (Finalist)
- 2009 **Research and Creation Grant (Poetry)** (Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec)
- 2008 **Writers' Reserve Grant** (Arc Magazine in conjunction with Ontario Arts Council)
- 2008 **Best Animation** (The Millbrook International 3 Minute Film Festival), Millbrook, Ontario.
- 2007 **Writers' Reserve Grant** (Coach House Books in conjunction with Ontario Arts Council)
- 2005 **P.K. Page Irwin Prize** (Honourable Mention), Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario.

RESIDENCIES

- 2012 **NY Mills Cultural Center**, NY Mills, Minnesota, USA (4 weeks)
- 2011 **ART342**, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA (14 weeks)
- 2011 **The Banff Centre**, Banff, Alberta, Canada (5 weeks)
- 2007 **The Banff Centre**, Banff, Alberta, Canada (5 weeks)

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

Scientists for Love (Relational art project):

August 7, 2015; *The Toronto Star*, "Find your soulmate – by sniffing their dirty T-shirt", Katrina Clarke

March 16, 2015; CBC's *Wire Tap*, "The Dating Game", Jonathan Goldstein

February 14, 2015; CBC's *Radio Noon*, "Interview with Mira Burt-Wintonick"

February 14, 2015; *La Presse*, "Amour et Science: Speed Dating Scientifique", Philippe Mercure

February 14, 2015; *La Presse*, "Amour et Science: Les Dessous de L'Expérience", Interview with Philippe Mercure

March 23, 2014; *Maclean's*, "Can we sniff out true love?", Lev Bratishenko

Hypotheticals (Full-length poetry collection, published by Coach House Books, 2011):

Spring 2014; *The Bull Calf*, Review, Graham Jensen

September 12, 2012; Lemon Hound, *The Limbless and Resolute in Kotsilidis' Hypotheticals*, Jesse MacEachern

July 2102; Literature.com, Review, Jay Millar

May 2012; American Scientist, *Querying Science*, Rick Mullin

February 1, 2012; NewPages Book Reviews, Review, Alyse Bensel

Fall 2011; Rover: Montreal Arts Uncovered, Matthias Lalisie

Fall 2011; Montreal Review of Books, Review, Bert Almon