

# Leigh Kotsilidis

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## EDUCATION

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- 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

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 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.
- 2000- *present*    **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            **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**, littlefishcartpress, 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.

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## COMMUNITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES

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- 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

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPEMENT

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- 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.

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## RELATIONAL WORK

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### Scientists for Love

- 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.*

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## INSTALLATION EXHIBITIONS

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- 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

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## STOP-MOTION ANIMATION SCREENINGS

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- 2019 ***13, un ludodrame sur Walter Benjamin*** (includes 6 stop-motion animation shorts)  
— 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
- 2008 **Dinosaurs**  
— *The Doll Show #1: Poppet*, Artspace: Mudroom, Peterborough, ON
- 2008 **Dinosaurs, Japanese Garden, My Brother's Wedding**  
— Cow Palace Arts Festival, Cow Palace, Orono, ON
- 2008 — Thomson House Art Show Thomson House, Montreal, QC
- 2008 **My Brother's Wedding**  
— *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
- 2006 **7 shorts**  
— Artsweek, The Underdog, Peterborough, ON
- 2006 **Six Short Stop-Animations:**  
— 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
- 2005 **Four Very Short Stop-Animations**  
— *Sound and Vision*, Cinema 379, Peterborough, ON

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## SCULPTURE EXHIBITIONS

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- 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

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## PUBLICATIONS (JOURNALS & SMALL PRESS)

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- 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)

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## READINGS

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- 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 Pavllion* (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

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## AWARDS

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- 2014 *Grants for Professional Writers: Creative Writing (Poetry)* (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* (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.

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## RESIDENCIES

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- 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)

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## SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

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### **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 Lalis

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





