

## Curator Biographies

**Mary Jane Jacob** is a leading voice in the field of social practice. Her landmark exhibition in Chicago—Culture in Action—is the subject of a just-released major book *Exhibition as Social Intervention: “Culture in Action” 1993*, as part of St. Martin’s Press/Afterall Books “Exhibition Histories” series. She has spoken on the subject worldwide; simultaneous with her own *A Lived Practice* series at SAIC, this fall alone she will speak in Brazil, Iceland, and in a major conference on the subject in England that includes other prominent figures in the field such as Nicolas Bourriaud and Claire Doherty.

Jacob was chief curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and in Los Angeles. Shifting her workplace from museums to the street led to “Culture in Action,” Jacob has also critically engaged the discourse of public space with the legendary exhibition *Places with a Past* in Charleston, SC, as well as *Conversations at the Castle* for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Meanwhile Jacob’s study into the nature of the art experience with artists and others has led to the anthologies *Buddha Mind in Contemporary Art*, *Learning Mind: Experience into Art*, and *The Studio Reader: On the Space of Artists*. The latter was published by University of Chicago Press, as was her other co-edited books *Chicago Makes Modern: How Creative Minds Changed Society* and the upcoming *Chicago Social Practice History* series. Jacob is currently writing a book on John Dewey. As Executive Director of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies and Professor at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago she leads the public and pedagogic initiatives of this area at the School.

**Kate Zeller** is a curator in the Department of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. There she has worked in recent years with artists Moon Kyungwon and Jeon Joonho, Kimsooja, and Wolfgang Laib to create site-specific installations for SAIC’s Sullivan Galleries, while also directing its MFA shows. Collaborating with the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago, Zeller curated *A Sense of Place*, presented as part of the 54th Venice Biennale’s Italian Pavilion. She is assistant editor of *Chicago Makes Modern: How Creative Minds Changed Society* and *The Studio Reader: On the Space of Artists*, and is co-series-editor the four-volume series *Chicago Social Practice History*.