

Lewis Dérogène (Loo-weez Dare-o-jean)

Artistically known as PhenomenaLewis

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AWARDS

2025 – Neutral Density (ND Award) | Gold Star (First Place) winner of the 2025 Professional People—Portrait category, featuring my 2025 self-portrait photograph *Mind-Full*.

2024 – Life Framer | Winner of the March 2024 Color Competition (judged by photographer Thomas Jackson)

EDUCATION

Academy of Art University | MA in Fashion Art Direction | 2023–2025

Select coursework: Fashion Art Direction, Digital Photography Concepts, Fashion Business (Visual Merchandising, Image and Brand), Photo and Video Production, Magazine Print and Digital Media Publishing

School of Visual Arts | BFA in Fine Arts (with honors) | 2015–2019

Select coursework: Video Installation, Soft Sculpture, and Metal Workshop.

RESIDENCIES

Château Orquevaux Artist Residency | 2022

- Completed a 4-week residency focusing on photography and drawing
 - Published two photography narrative books: *The Lady and The Chair* and *The Pomegranate Journal*
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head of Exhibitions (Full-time) | 2023–Present

Museum of Contemporary Art \ Connecticut (MoCA\CT)

- Provides senior-level leadership for exhibition planning, production, and implementation, ensuring alignment with institutional mission, curatorial standards, and audience engagement goals. Oversees exhibition logistics, including loan administration, shipping, contracts,

insurance, installation, deinstallation, and documentation, in accordance with established museum best practices and professional standards.

Acts as principal liaison to artists, lenders, guest curators, speakers, and external partners. Manages contractual agreements, honoraria, and deliverables for exhibition-related collaborators in coordination with finance and executive leadership. Ensures compliance with institutional policies, timelines, and budgets.

Supervises installation teams, contractors, and vendors, maintaining quality control, safety, accessibility, and fiscal responsibility. Develops interpretive materials and supports curatorial research, documentation, and collections care.

Leads exhibition-related public programming, group visits, and accessibility initiatives in collaboration with education and programming departments. Oversees documentation and digital archiving of exhibitions and programs to support institutional memory, grant reporting, and marketing initiatives.

Works cross-functionally with executive leadership, development, marketing, education, and finance departments on strategic planning, fundraising efforts, and long-term exhibition and audience engagement strategies.

- Curated the inaugural Black History Month event series with a film screening of *DELA: The Making of El Anatsui* followed by a Q+A with the film's director Oyiza Adabada. Managed and coordinated a performance night with poet Sahmra Sawyer, dancer Jeffline Saint-Louis and pianist Joe Bush. Organized a workshop led by artist Remy Sosa. Secured full funding for this series through the generosity of the Senior Executive at PepsiCo.

Studio Assistant (Part-time) | 2019–2022

Jana Haimsohn

- Assisted in archiving performance videos, artworks, and reviews for the artist's website.
- Assisted with revision and subtitle edits for director Jana Haimsohn's films:
 - *Sleep Tight, I Love You: Unhoused Neighbors* (2006) – completed revised edit in 2019.
 - *Capoeira* (produced by Manhattan Neighborhood Network) – completed revised edit in 2019.
 - *I Fram Haiti* – translated and edited subtitles in 2019.
 - *David Rivera: ASL Storyteller* (with Third World Newsreel) – contributed to revised edits in 2019.
- Documented her artworks through photography and video.

Teaching Experience

- **Teaching Artist** | Studio Institute | 2022–2023
- **Documentary Filmmaking Teacher** | Girl Be Heard | 2021
- **Teaching Artist** | St. Nicks Alliance | 2020–2021

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

2026

- Assisted the curators of *Art, Jazz + the Blues*, Ive Covaci and Anne Boberski from the Westport Public Art Collections with the screening room video.
- Curated the 11th annual high school exhibition, *The Sound of Us: Youth Culture Now*, and delegated tasks with MoCA\CT's museum fellow, Maggie Farrell with the teens council to develop exhibition management skills at MoCA\CT.

2025

- Assisted the Acting Director of MoCA\CT, Pamela Hovland, in creating a layout for *Enough Already: Women Artists from the Sara M. + Michelle Vance Waddell Collection* exhibition.
- Curated and managed the inaugural Black History Month event series at MoCA\CT, securing sponsorship from Pepsi Co.
- Curated the 10th annual high school exhibition, *Humans and Nature: A Changing Relationship*, and managed the teens council in co-curating at MoCA\CT.

2024

- Assistant curator to Victoria McCraven on *It Will Go On*, an exhibition featuring BIPOC artists using text as resistance, running from March to June 2024 at MoCA\CT.
- Curated the 9th Annual High School Art Show *Through the Lens of Icons*, including managing student interviews, creating a virtual magazine, and overseeing promotional materials at MoCA\CT.

2023

- Managed the exhibition layout of *This is The Life I See*, a solo exhibition of Purvis Young's work curated by Liz Legget and Ruth Mannes, managed exhibition text, and visitor's experience at MoCA\CT.
- Co-curated the inaugural *Kaleidoscope*, an exhibition featuring artworks from MoCA\CT's summer camp and partner organizations.

2020

- Curator & Exhibiting Artist, *Beyond Beauty: the ideal form*, The Mad Lab, Norwalk, CT – Two-person exhibition featuring my work and that of Bathscheba Derogene.

2019

- Co-Curator & Exhibiting Artist, *Veiled*, TBG Gallery, New York, NY – Group exhibition with Anna Stallone and Soyoung Chang featuring photography, video art, and paintings by all three artists.

2017

- Co-Curator & Exhibiting Artist, *ARE - WE - MORE*, Living Gallery Outpost, New York, NY – Group exhibition co-curated with Steven Drake, Haley Peacock, and Vieno James, featuring works by us and fellow School of Visual Arts classmates.

EXHIBITIONS

2026

- *Between Worlds* | Ely Center of Contemporary Art, New Haven, CT (curated by Larry Ossei-Mensah)
- *Borderlands: Soft Margins, Hard Truths* | Cummings Art Galleries, New London, CT (curated by Nico W. Okoro)

2024

- *Photography Fine Art Fair* | MoCA\CT, Westport, CT
- *The Perfect View* | Harsh Collective, New York, NY (curated by Bianca Jean-Pierre)
- *Emerge: Contemporary Narratives of African American Expression* | Saatchi Art (curated by Siting Wang)
- *35th International Photography Competition* | Agora Gallery, New York, NY

2022

- *Inner Dialogue: Solo Show Preview* | Home Gallery, New York, NY curated by The Honey Pump <https://www.homehomehomehome.com/phenomenalewis>
- *Healing & Hope* | Kente Royal Gallery, Harlem, NY curated by Dodji Gbedemah

2021

- *Groop Shø* | Brooklyn, NY curated by Raina Mehler
- *Juneteenth: A Celebration of Black Art, Identity, and Freedom* | Brooklyn, NY curated by We Roam Freely team
- *tHP: Beacon* | Brooklyn, NY curated by The Honey Pump in collaboration with Satellite Art Fair

2020

- *Beyond Beauty: the ideal form* | Norwalk, CT curated by Lewis Derogene
- *Bathing in Blackness* | SoMAD, New York, NY curated by Kamra Hakim
- *LIC Live Art* | Long Island City, NY curated by Furusho von Puttkammer

2019

- *Veiled* | TBG Gallery, New York, NY curated by Lewis Derogene, Anna Stallone and Soyoung Chang
- *Satellite Art Show* | Pfizer Building, Queens, NY curated by Brian Whiteley
- *GI Portal* | Governor's Island, New York, NY curated by 4Heads

2018

- *Fine Arts Open Studios* | School of Visual Arts, New York, NY curated by the BFA Fine Arts department
- *The Antithesis Project* | Fridge Art Fair at the NU Hotel, Brooklyn, NY curated by Eric Ginsburg and Amanda Acosta

2017

- *ARE – WE – MORE* | Living Gallery Outpost, New York, NY curated by Lewis Derogene, Steven Drake, Haley Peacock, and Vieno James
- *Salutation Vineyard* | Powell State Building, Harlem, NY curated by Anthony Burton

2014

- *Streets Seats* | Stamford, CT curated by the town of Stamford Connecticut
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PUBLICATIONS

- *Rubbettino Editore* (2025) – “Il Corpo Solitario IV” Photography book by Giorgio Bonomi
 - *Populist Magazine* (2025) – “[Photo Journal \ Lewis Derogene](#)” by Shane Allen
 - *Westport Lifestyle* (2024) – Featured in “2024 Women of Westport” by Sara Gaynes Levy
 - *Culture Icon Zine*, Issue 3 (2022)
 - [Creative Habits Visual Podcast](#) (2022)
 - *African Digital Art* (2022) – “[Interview with Haitian Digital Photographer and Artist PhenomenaLewis](#)” by Jepchumba
 - *The Curator Mag* (2021) – “Portraitures of PhenomenaLewis: Reclaiming Africanity,” by Mariyam Fatima
 - [Emerging Artists Collective](#) (2021) – “Interview: PhenomenaLewis,” by Chunbum Park
 - *Culture Icon Zine*, Issue 1 (2020)
 - [Creatrix Mag](#) (2020) – “PhenomenaLewis” by Jana Astanov
 - *School of Visual Arts* (2019) – “20/20” SVA BFA Fine Arts catalog
 - *4Heads* (2019) – “Portal: GI” catalog
 - [Gothamist](#) (2019) – “Here’s A Preview Of Portal: Governors Island, The Wild Art Fair Opening This Saturday On Colonels Row,” by Scott Lynch
 - [Sounds Like NYC](#) (2018) – “Sounds Like NYC Ep. #019 | Lewis Derogene,” by David Lozada
 - *Aljazeera* 2018 – “US: Emerging artists showcase their work at Fridge Art Fair in NY” video interview by Gabriel Elizondo
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SKILLS

- Art Curation, Exhibition Management, Art Installation, Exhibition logistics, Budgeting, Social Media Management
- Photography, Cinematography, Documentary Filmmaking, Text-based Motion Graphics
- Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom, Premiere Pro, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Acrobat, Adobe Aero
- Copywriting, Public Programming, MS Outlook, Word, Excel, Powerpoint
- English
- Haitian Creole
- French
- Spanish