

# Adelheid Mers

CV

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<http://adelheidmers.org>

**Visual Artist;** drawing; digital design; focus on diagramming texts, events and organizations;

**Associate Professor;** Dept. of Arts Administration and Policy, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

**Research Interests:** Art as Research, New Media Policy, (Visual) Discourse Analysis

## **One-Person Shows, Cooperative and Collaborative Projects (selections):**

- 2009 “Visual Dialog Project - Defining Museum Ethics”, Museum Ethics Conference, Seton Hall, NJ, Conference Participant Mail Art Project and Survey
- 2008 “Peck School of the Arts Organogram 2008”, Inova Institute, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI
- 2008 “Diagram of the Resource Center Organizational Network”, a non-profit environmental education organization, live diagramming at a fundraising event, hosted by Caro D’Offay Gallery, Chicago
- 2007 “Diagramming Textaportation”, live diagramming event, Caro D’Offay Gallery, Chicago
- 2007 “Show [Title to be Determined by Symbols Not Yet Rendered]”, diagramming a 3-day, interdisciplinary collaboration, Roots and Culture Gallery, Chicago
- 2007 “KS(AM)EC”, drawings and diagrams in response to Kerry Schneider’s SAIC/MAAAP thesis; in conjunction with an Arts Administration Symposium, ThreeWalls, Chicago, IL
- 2004 “backgrounds and conversations - reading George Lakoff before an election”, an installation of diagrams and photo backdrops, a public discussion about values (the artist was present and available for conversations each afternoon), and a website for visitor photos taken with the provided backdrops; Open Studio Project, City of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2004 “Looking at/Looking through”, (re-installation of Lakoff diagrams and backdrops) Anderson Gallery, Drake University, Des Moines, IA
- 2004 “Im Spiel”, images after texts by Vilém Flusser, Jan Frühsorge Galerie für Zeichnung, Berlin, Germany
- 2003 “Home - Images after Texts by Vilém Flusser”, exhibited at and part of the collection of the Vilém Flusser Archive at the Hochschule für Medien, Cologne, Germany; digitally exhibited at the IN OUT 2003 Festival, Prag, Czech Republic; prints shown at Legion Arts, Cedar Rapids, IA, and at Dorman+Torluecke, Hammond, IN

2000 “Think Tank”, light installation, created and maintained as a project space to study diagram design and to create diagrams, also open to students for projects they wished to propose, in conjunction with a semester residency, Art Department Gallery, Columbia College, Chicago, IL

**Public Art and other Commissioned Works (selections)**

2008/09 “Embedded Artist”, City of Chicago Department of Innovation and Technology; mapping decision making and public policy processes; develop logo and visual executive summary for “Initiative on Digital Excellence”; create visual representations for Broadband Stimulus Fund Application; attend meetings and survey and visually interpret studies, statistics, proposals and other materials produced by other academics, government agencies and consulting firms;

2009 finalist, with Patrick McGee, CTA Public Art Project - Fullerton Station, Chicago, IL

2008 “Map of Mission Measurement”, commissioned through the Hyde Park Art Center’s “Not Just Another Pretty Face” project, Chicago

2007 “Art 44/46”, created a map/game of Lakeview East, printed in an edition of 500, organized by Stuart Keeler, Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce, Chicago

2006 “Paper Frieze”, temporary installation of silhouettes created with student cooperation, National Teachers Academy, Chicago

2005 “Heliosphere, Biosphere, Technosphere”, permanent installation including illuminated diagrams on photosynthesis and solar technology, Exelon Pavilion, Millennium Park Welcome Center, with Patrick McGee, Chicago

2005 “World of Art”, game and poster for “Setting up your Art and your Life” symposium, SAIC, Chicago, IL

2004 “Firefighters’ Choice”, permanent installation of photo/aluminum mural, Fire Station #3, with Patrick McGee, Evanston, IL

2003 “The Niche”, outdoor photo/aluminum mural, with Patrick McGee, commissioned through the Hyde Park Art Center’s “Not Just Another Pretty Face” project, Chicago

**Group Exhibitions (selections)**

2009 Picturing the Studio, Sullivan Galleries, SAIC, Chicago

2009 39 Verbs, Produced by Industry of the Ordinary, Packer Schopf Gallery, Chicago

2009 “The Chacon-Soto Show”, UBS 12x12, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

2009 “Artists Run Chicago”, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL

2009 “Response: Art and the Art of Criticism”, I-Space, Chicago, IL

2008/09 “America Today”, curated by Elizabeth Smith and Tricia van Eck, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

2008 “HereThereEverywhere”, curators Greg Knight and Sofia Zutautas, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago

2007/08 “Mapping the Self”, curated by Tricia van Eck, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

- 2007/08 “Fast Forward”, curated by Jim Yood and Lisa Wainwright, Rockford Art Museum, Rockford, IL
- 2007 “DIY”, curators Doro Boehme and Kevin Henry, A+D Gallery, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
- 2006 “Negotiated Localities”, curators Claire Pentecost and Cindy Coleman, Betty Rymer Gallery, SAIC, Chicago, IL
- 2006 “New Cartographies”, LoBot Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 2006 “Takeover”, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2006 “Reading Blankets” with Track House Nomadic Circus Experience and Other Worldly Delights: the Great Artist Landshare Remote Backside of Aspen Mountain, Stray Show, Chicago
- 2005 “World of Art” vinyl print of game and oversized game pieces, at Yard Sale @Track House, Track House, Oak Park, IL
- 2003 “Not Just a Pretty Face”, exhibition of patron commissioned artwork; work commissioned by Jeff and Linda Mercer, an exterior mural; Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL (catalog)
- 2003 “Operation: Human Intelligence”, Contemporary Arts Council, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL; (catalog); traveling to: Art Museum of the University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
- 2002 “context II”, Heidecksburg, Rudolstadt, Germany
- 2002 “Mind and Matter”, HDC Gallery, Hamond, IN
- 2002 “nubo wave map (space) bubble”, Illinois State University Galleries, Normal, IL
- 2001 “Magazine”, The Stray Show, with FGA, Chicago, IL
- 2001 “What they half created”, Glass Curtain Gallery, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
- 2001 “Snapshot”, curated by Gary Sangster, Contemporary Museum, Baltimore, MD
- 2000 “Blink/Interventions in the Salon”, curated by Brian Ritchards and Julie Charmelo, Northern Illinois University Gallery, Chicago, IL (Catalog)
- 1998 “Not in my lobby, you don’t”, curated by Chuck Thurow and Ruth Horwich, Hyde Park Art Center and LaSalle Street Bridge House, Chicago, IL
- 1998 “Sculpture in Chicago: The Next Generation”, curated by Karen Indeck and Dennis Kowalski, UIC Gallery 400, Chicago, IL
- 1998 ART 1998 CHICAGO, The New Pier Show, Tough Gallery/Uncomfortable Spaces, Chicago, IL
- 1998 “The Harry Carey Show”, curated by Michelle Grabner/Brad Killam, Diverse Works, Houston, TX
- 1997 “Faculty Biennial”, Illinois State University Gallery, Normal, IL
- 1997 “Current”, Michael Burns, Adelheid Mers, Dan Rose, in conjunction with ISEA, Tough Gallery/Uncomfortable Spaces, Chicago, IL
- 1997 “The Art Exchange Show”, with Tough/Uncomfortable Spaces, New York, NY
- 1997 ART 1997 CHICAGO, The New Pier Show, Tough Gallery/Uncomfortable Spaces, Chicago, IL
- 1997 “Saldo - Klaus Rinke Alumni Exhibition Project”, Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany (Catalog)
- 96/97 “Art in Chicago 1945-1995”, curated by Lynne Warren, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL (Catalog)

**Visiting Artist/Panelist/Lecturer (selections)**

Summer 08	Hochschule Zwickau, Department of Applied Art, Schneeberg, Germany Mapping the desired evolution of the department as it adds a master's program; faculty workshop;
Spring 08	University of Central Florida, Orlando Artist talk, live mapping a virtual lecture with N. Katherine Hayles and mapping workshop with students in the Texts and Technology PhD program in the English Department;
Winter 08	Bauhaus University Weimar, New Media Division, Weimar, Germany Artist talk, advising
Summer 07	Kunsthochschule Weissensee, Berlin, Germany Artist talk and discussion
Spring 07	Artists Connect lecture series, Art Institute of Chicago, IL presentation, "Adelheid Mers connects with Carl Blechen"
Spring 07	Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL juror, MFA exhibition
Summer 06	Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL panelist; What happens when artists take over an institution?
Fall 05	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL Artist talk, critiques
Spring 05	The Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, Chicago, IL panelist, "The Art of the Artist Statement"
Spring 05	University of South Florida, Tampa, FL Artist talk, mapping workshop, critiques
Winter 05	Kunsthochschule Weissensee, Berlin, Germany Artist talk and discussion
Fall 04	Drake University, Des Moines, IA Artist talk and discussion
Fall 04	"Imaging Politics", Presidential Debates series panel discussion, Drake University, Des Moines, IA
Spring 03	DePaul University, Chicago, IL Artist talk and discussion
Winter 03	Kunstschule Rudolstadt, Germany lecture and workshop: "Vilém Flusser: The World as Surface"
Fall 02	Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL advisor to "curatorial projects" seminar
Winter 02	Medienhochschule Köln, Germany Artist talk and discussion

Winter 02           Kunsthochschule Kassel, Germany  
presentation: “Integration of Theory and Practice in Higher Art Education”

Winter 02           Kunstschule Rudolstadt, Germany  
lecture and workshop: “Fusion project”

Spring 01           University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

**Residencies**

Summer 08           invited workshop participant, “Making Artistic Inquiry Visible”;  
Banff Centre Institute, Banff, Canada

Spring 00           visiting artist; Columbia College, Chicago, IL  
semester appointment to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration through  
slide-talks, advising, collaborative work with students and an exhibition, “Think Tank”.

Fall 98              visiting artist, Alfred University, Alfred, NY  
BAFA (integrated fine arts and humanities) program,  
Foundations Light Workshop: 4 week workshop co-taught with Petra Soesemann and  
Beth-Ann Dobie ; to give lectures on, discuss theoretical context of and develop light  
based sculpture, installation and performance work with students.

Spring 98           artist-in-residence; Alfred University, Alfred, NY  
“Light and Shadow” series; 2 week residency: artist slide-talk, advising, collaborative  
work with students, public slide lecture: “Square and Round - on the Representation of  
Space in Art”, and an exhibition “Fiat Lux - For Hélio from Adelight”.

**Conferences and Symposia (selections)**

Spring 2010        The Feminist Art Project, College Art Association Conference, Chicago, Ill.  
“Distributing Ourselves: New Media Art, Curating, Networks, and Collaborations”  
Facilitated by Hana Iverson and led by Beryl Graham of CRUMB with curatorial responses and  
discussion from School of the Art Institute of Chicago: Jon Cates, Bruce Jenkins, Abina Manning,  
and Adelheid Mers.

Spring 2009        Community University Research Partnership conference: “Whose Show is it, anyway?  
Community - engaged performance and exhibition arts in the small city”, Thompson Rivers  
University, Kamloops, Canada  
workshop leader: "Conversation Mapping and Collaborative Live Diagramming”

Spring 2009        CAA conference; with Nick Lowe, “Ethics of Responsibility – from individual burden to  
organizational opportunity”, Panel: New Thoughts on Teaching Museum Ethics, chair, Janet  
Marstine, PhD, Seton Hall University

- Fall 2007 Community University Research Partnership conference: “Mapping Culture and the Quality of Life in Small Cities”, in conjunction with the “The Last Best West” conference, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, Canada  
panelist: “Mapping Culture and Social Change”
- Spring 2007 FATE Open Session, Paper: “Foundations as Triage”; CAA Conference, New York
- Spring 2007 “Shift • Connect • Evolve”, FATE conference  
session chair: “Assess, Situate, Disperse – Addressing Diversity of Artistic Approaches in Foundations”; Milwaukee, WI
- Fall 2005 “Art as Research: The Art of the Artist Statement”, Symposium  
Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, Canada  
presentation: “Cognitive and representational preference and the Early Adopters Exhibition”
- Spring 2004 Pixelraiders2, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, England  
Paper: “Introducing: Representational Preference” (paper accepted, unable to attend)
- Fall 2002 APA Convention, Chicago  
discussant, session on giftedness and creativity,  
chair, Patricia D. Stokes, Barnard/Columbia University, NY
- Fall 2001 “Ethics and the Arts”  
panelist on: “Feminists Face the Arts”, led by Peg Brand and Eleanor Heartney  
Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- Spring 01 CAA Conference, Chicago  
speaker in the session “If one is good, why not two?”, chair, Laurie Palmer  
paper: “Applied Aesthetics”
- Fall 2000 Barnard Feminist Art and Art History Conference  
paper: “Smart Thinking, Ugly Work - Formulating a Relativist Aesthetic from Personal Experience”; in conjunction with a workshop conducted by Elisabeth Condon; Barnard College, NY
- Spring 2000 Art, Media and Not-Sense series  
Paper: “A catholic Look at the Role of the Artist in the Age of Digital Technology ”  
Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, OH

**Curating and Editing (selections)**

- 2009 editor, “Useful Pictures”, Whitewalls (distributed through University of Chicago Press)
- 2005 curator; “Early Adopters”, exhibition, discussion and web archive on art world constituents, 3Arts, Chicago, IL

- 2003 curator; “Retrospectives”, 12 artists were invited to create mini-retrospectives on their entire range of work, including administrative, educational and other endeavors; Gallery 312, Chicago, IL
- 2002 organizer; “ Fusion Project”, multi-media, transgressive exhibition project with colleagues and students from the SAIC and U of C, L.I.P.A. Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2002 co-organizer, with Annie Morse; “48 hours of action”, an abandoned office building served as site for the creation of videos, with Dorman+Torluemke, Hammond, IN
- 2001 co-curator and contributing artist; “Collaborative Fusion”, organized with Elisabeth Condon, transgressive/cooperative exhibition project with 14 invited artists and their guests, with extensive website; 450 Broadway Gallery, New York, NY, with a mirror project connected via web with Shuko Wada at Kitakyushu Center for Contemporary Art, Kitakyushu, Japan
- 2001 organizer and juror; “Face Off”, an exhibition juxtaposing formal and relational artwork, Betty Rymer Gallery, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 99/00 advisor; Public Art Advisory Panel/Library Project, City of Chicago Percent for Art Program
- 1997 co-curator, with Jackie Terrassa; “Present”, an exhibition of emerging visual artists and composers who make artwork that subtly provokes and invites audience interaction; Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL

### **Publications**

- “Responsibility to”, September 2009, Drain Magazine, Issue 12, <http://www.drainmag.com/>
- “The value of didactic art and the gift economy—from object ownership to object affiliation”, Art21 Blog, July 6, 2009 <http://blog.art21.org/2009/07/06/the-value-of-didactic-art-and-the-gift-economy%E2%80%94from-object-ownership-to-object-affiliation/>
- “Interview with Jan Kaila and Jan-Erik Andersson, Academy of Fine Art, Helsinki, Finland”, in “Bootprint”, Vol. 2, No. 2, April 2009
- “Diagram for an exhibition: Spiegelbild”, Lido, Magazin von KIT – Kunst im Tunnel, Düsseldorf, issue 03/08, August 2008
- “Art as Research”, diagram and lecture (on DVD), “Open Letter”, Canadian Journal of Writing and Theory, Artists' Statements & the Nature of Artistic Inquiry, Thirteenth Series, No. 4: Fall 2007
- “Diagram after Duchamp’s lecture *The Creative Act*”, in: Sketches: Organizing Arts, Elizabeth Chodos and Kerry Schneider, Edts.; Green Lantern Press; May 5, 2007
- “Crisis of Linearity”, translation of a lecture by Vilém Flusser and “Stalking the Continuum”, essay and diagram, in “Bootprint”, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1 March 2007
- ‘Brain Wave: A Sketch’, in: The Feminist Art Project, M / E / A / N / I / N / G Online #4: Feminist Art: A Reassessment, edited by Susan Bee & Mira Schor. February 2007

“Adelheid Mers on Vilém Flusser”, luckypix blog, [http://www.luckypix.com/blogger/2006\\_09\\_01\\_archive.html](http://www.luckypix.com/blogger/2006_09_01_archive.html),  
October 2006

“World of Art”, and “Diagram after Lakoff”, in Diagram 5.1, 2005

Scale, Volume 01, Issue 8+9: Edited by Joel Swanson, Sept. 2004,  
select files: MP1.pdf, MP2.pdf, MP3.pdf “Diagrams”

“Quarter After Eight”, Volume 8, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, Spring 2002

“Applied Aesthetics” interactive CD-rom, “Publication with No Name”, Volume 2, Kopenhagen, Denmark,  
Fall 2001

“A Collaborative Fusion”, with Elisabeth Condon, NYArts Magazine, September 2001

“Present”, essay, with Jacqueline Terrassa, accompanying the exhibition at the Hyde Park Art Center, 1997

“Acts/Projections”, booklet accompanying the solo-exhibition at Tough Gallery, 1996

### **Education**

1988/89                    University of Chicago  
student at large, Graduate School, Committee on the Visual Arts,  
in association with a grant from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)

1980 - 86                MFA, Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany  
studied with Tony Cragg, Klaus Rinke, Günther Uecker

1980 - 85                University of Düsseldorf, Germany  
German Literature, Linguistics, Philosophy, Pedagogy, Didactics

1979 - 80                University of Cologne, Germany  
German Literature, Linguistics, Philosophy

### **Teaching**

Fall 2007 - present    Associate Professor, Arts Administration and Policy, School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
(Adjunct Associate Professor '05, Adjunct Assistant Professor '01, Instructor '96)

Fall 01, Spring 02    Visiting Lecturer, University of Chicago

Winter, Spring 99    Visiting Lecturer, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Fall 97, Spring 98    Visiting Professor, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

### **Awards and Nominations**

2008	Faculty Enrichment Grant (Team Teaching), School of the Art Institute of Chicago
2008	Nominee, Richard Driehaus Foundation
2007	Nominee, Richard Driehaus Foundation
2007	Faculty of the Year Award, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
2007	Chairman's Award, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
2005	Special Assistance Grant, Illinois Arts Council
2005	Faculty Enrichment Grant, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
2004	Special Assistance Grant, Illinois Arts Council
2003	Faculty Enrichment Grant, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
2003	City of Chicago Dept. of Cultural Affairs Community Arts Assistance Program Grant
2001	Faculty Enrichment Grant, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
1995	Arts Midwest/NEA Regional Visual Artist Fellowship
1995	City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs Artists International Program Grant
1994	City of Chicago Dept. of Cultural Affairs Community Arts Assistance Program Grant
1993	City of Chicago Dept. of Cultural Affairs Community Arts Assistance Program Grant
1989	Exhibition Grant, Goethe Institute, Chicago
1988	Award of the German Academic Exchange Service, (DAAD) Bonn
1988	Award of the British Council, London, Cologne

### **Bibliography (selections)**

- Fred Camper, "ADELHEID MERS", in: "Response: Art and the Art of Criticism", catalog, I space, April 2009
- Nicholas Frank, Picture of A Picture, INOVA cataposter, April 2008
- Jessica Lee Cochran, Review of INOVA mapping project, Proximities, April 2008
- Kari Lydersen, "Picturing the World, Around Us", Washington Post, Sunday, January 6, 2008
- Alan Artner, "Art, cartography meet at juncture where philosophical issues reside", Chicago Tribune, October 28, 2007
- Susan Snodgrass, "Window of opportunity: the recent opening of the Hyde Park Art Center in new quarters provides Chicago with a chance, rare in any art community, to rethink the overall ecology of its art institutions and their missions", Art in America, January 2007
- Jeff Huebner et al, "Truth and Consequences", Public Art Review, Fall/Winter 2006
- Alan Artner, Images Extract Visions from the Commonplace, Chicago Tribune, October 21, 2005
- Fred Camper, Critic's Choice, Chicago Reader, September 2004
- Gerhard Charles Rump, Wetterfeste Zeichnungen bei Frühsorge, Die Welt, July 2004
- kbn, Spielanleitung, Tip Berlin, July 2004
- Fred Camper; lecture/presentation on Adelheid Mers at the Chicago Art Fair, 2002
- Sabine Bujack-Biedermann, "Über die Geschichte einer Idee in der Alten Wache", Ostthüringer Zeitung, 15. January 2002

Victor M. Cassidy, "Prairie Smoke", <http://www.artnet.com/Magazine/features/cassidy/cassidy7-20-00.asp>, July 2000  
Cindy Loehr, "Site Works", New Art Examiner, July/August 2000  
Joel Baxter, "Blink: Interventions in the Salon", New Art Examiner, April 2000  
Ann Wiens, "The Millennium Fusion Project", New City, Jan. 6, 2000  
Julie Charmelo and Brian Ritchard, "Blink - interventions in the Salon", Catalog, January 2000  
Kathi Norklun, "Is it art if no one sees it?", Woodstock Times, Sept.30, 1999

### **Affiliations**

since 2009	Field Editor for Books and Related Media on Arts Administration and Museum Studies, <a href="http://caa.reviews">caa.reviews</a>
since 2008	member, Fachverband Kulturmanagement, Weimar, Germany
since 2008	editorial board, Small Cities Imprint, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC, Canada
since 2008	member, Association of Arts Administration Educators (AAAE)
2007/8	curatorial advisory board, ThreeWalls Solo, Chicago, IL
since 2006	research associate, CURA (Community University Research Alliance), Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC, Canada
2000 - 2005	curatorial advisory board, Gallery 312, Chicago, IL
since 1999	member, College Art Association (CAA)
since 1995	editorial board, Whitewalls, a journal of language and art