

TCU VITA

1. Nicholas A. Bontrager

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n.bontrager@tcu.edu

3. Academic Background

a. Education (include degrees, dates, and institutions)

2010-2011 Master of Fine Arts, Art & Technology, The Ohio State University

2003-2008 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Photography & Digital Media, University of Houston

b. Professional certifications (where applicable)

n/a

c. Present rank

Assistant Professor

d. Year of appointment to the University and rank

2012 Assistant Professor of Art

e. Year of last promotion

n/a

f. Previous teaching and/or research appointments other than TCU (date, place, rank or title, full or part-time)

1. Part Time

2011-2012 Lecturer The Ohio State University

2010-2011 Graduate Teaching Associate The Ohio State University

g. Previous professional positions (other than those listed above)

2010-2012 Director of Photography
Covenant, dir. Michael Mercil, Columbus, Ohio

2010-2012 Technical Designer & Consultant
Ann Hamilton Studio, Columbus, Ohio

2011 Director of Photography
So It Was With Us, dir. Colin McDonald, Columbus, OH

2011-2012 Studio Assistant
Ken Rinaldo Studio, Columbus, Ohio

h. Formal continuing education associated with professional development

2017 Completed Digital Humanities Summer Institute course at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada (Digital Games as Interactive Tools for Scholarly Research, Communication and Pedagogy, prof. Jon Saklofske)

i. Honors and Awards

2017 Herhusid Artist Residency, Siglufjörður, Iceland
Coleman Ambassador, Coleman Foundation, TCU, Fort Worth, TX
College of Fine Arts Micro-grants for New Technologies, TCU, Fort Worth, TX

2016 *Target* is invited as an official selection of the Indie Grits Film Festival;
Columbia, South Carolina
Target is invited as an official selection of the Short to the Point Film Festival;
Bucharest, Romania
Coleman Ambassador, Coleman Foundation, TCU, Fort Worth, TX
College of Fine Arts Micro-grants for New Technologies, TCU, Fort Worth, TX
College of Fine Arts Creativity, Innovation, and Interdisciplinarity in Learning Program grant, TCU, Fort Worth, TX

2015 Coleman Fellow, Coleman Foundation & Neely Business School, TCU, Fort Worth, TX

2013 *Covenant* film awarded honorable mention at International Film Festival for Environment, Health, and Culture; Jakarta, Indonesia

Covenant film is invited as an official selection of the Fargo Film Festival; Fargo, North Dakota

Covenant film is invited as an official selection of the Colorado Environmental Film Festival; Denver, Colorado.

Coleman Fellow, Coleman Foundation + Neely Business School, TCU, Fort Worth, TX

2012 *So It Was With Us* film premieres as official selection of Argo Film Festival; Volos, Greece.

4. Teaching

a. Courses taught

ARST 10103 – Drawing 1

ARST 10123 – Design and Color

ARST 10133 – Three Dimensional Design

ARST 20503 – Video Art: Beginning New Media

ARST 30510 – 3D Modeling & 3D Printing: Advanced New Media

ARST 30610 – Interactive Robotics & Kinetic Sculpture: Advanced New Media

b. Courses developed at TCU

Entirely New Courses:

ARST 20503 – Video Art: Beginning New Media

ARST 30510 – 3D Modeling & 3D Printing: Advanced New Media

ARST 30610 – Interactive Robotics & Kinetic Sculpture: Advanced New Media

ARST 40970 & ANTH 40620 – Into the Small; cross-listed course collaboration for Art and Anthropology students, developed with Associate Professor Dr. David Aftandilian to emphasize biomimicry and animal cultures in our respective fields, scheduled for Spring 2018.

Enhanced Existing Courses:

ARST 10103 – Drawing 1; introduced new projects and course materials to engage in newly available tools/technology and contemporary conversations.

ARST 10123 – Design and Color; overhauled syllabus and course materials from a traditional media and design exercise class to an emphasis on digital foundations with inclusion of design and color principles.

ARST 10133 – Three Dimensional Design; introduced new projects and course materials to engage in newly available tools/technology and contemporary conversations. Worked with Associate Professor Cameron Schoepp to achieve designation of Fine Arts Requirement (FAR) for the course, which is part of the core requirement. This has led to a massive increase in enrollment and recruitment.

c. Honors projects directed, or committee service

1. Parker Wise, BS Electrical Engineering, 2017 (committee)

2. Nathan Loewen, BS Electrical Engineering, 2017 (committee)

d. Graduate theses (recitals) and dissertations directed, or committee service

2017-18 MFA Graduate Thesis Committee Barbra Horlander

2016-17 MFA Graduate Thesis Committee Bella Jones

2016-17 MFA Graduate Thesis Committee Kacie Baker

2016-17 MFA Graduate Thesis Committee Daniel Gray

2015-17 MFA Graduate Thesis Committee Erika Duque

2015-17 MFA Graduate Thesis Committee Kiran Sattar

2015-17 MFA Graduate Thesis Committee Audrey Travis

2014-16 MFA Graduate Thesis Committee Mason Bryant

2013-15 MFA Graduate Thesis Committee Courtney Hamilton

2013-15 MFA Graduate Thesis Committee Max Morris

2012-14 MFA Graduate Thesis Committee Ryan Goolsby

e. External support received or pending for academic work (i.e., pedagogical grants, curriculum or program development. Include source and amount requested and/or received)

1. Received

2013 Maxon MSA grant (classroom software) \$1500.00

2. Not received
3. Pending
- f. Internal support for academic work received (e.g., Instructional Development)
 1. Received

2016	Coleman Ambassador Award	\$1000.00
2015	Senior Coleman Fellowship Award	\$2000.00
2014	Instructional Development Grant	\$1500.00
	Coleman Fellowship Award	\$3750.00
2013	Instructional Development Grant	\$2215.00
 2. Not Received
- g. Academic Advising (list here or under Service, but list only once)

2017	Advisor 68 Studio Art minors.
2016	Advised 1 Studio Art major in the Printmaking area, advisor to 68 Studio Art Minors.
2015	Advised 1 Studio Art major in the Printmaking area.
2014	Advised 2 Studio Art majors in the Printmaking area.
2013	Advised 1 Studio Art major in the Printmaking area.

5. Research and Creative Activity (*This section may be College specific, not limited to the examples below*)

- a. Refereed publications, invitational or juried exhibitions, performances, commissioned or contracted work in design, choreography, and composition

Publications and reviews:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2017 | <p><i>Autonomous Art Systems</i>, guest co-editor, Media-N journal, fall issue</p> <p>Buntaine, Julia. "ROUNDUP: Science & Technology at CAA 2017." SCIART MAGAZINE. SCIART Center, 21 Feb. 2017. Web. 11 June 2017.</p> <p>Bontrager, Nick. "Videogames as scholarly tools and research". Article for TCU Insights Fall 2017 magazine.</p> <p>Calimbahin, Samantha. "May The Fort Be With You." Fort Worth Magazine 1 June 2017: 103-05. Print.</p> <p>Hokanson, Taylor & Rob Ray & Nick Bontrager. "Stand Up Comedy." Audio podcast, <i>Opposable Thumbs</i> 24 April 2017.</p> |
| 2016 | <p>Glasstire: Out of this World: UFO and Space Art; Arts discussion article.</p> <p>VIB3 Art2Code; Juried catalog of artists working with computer code.</p> <p><i>19th Japan Media Arts Festival exhibition</i> catalog; The National Art Center; Tokyo, Japan</p> <p>Beltran, Connie. "3D Modeling & 3D Printing". Article for TCU Magazine Summer 2016.</p> <p>Custard, Daniel. "TCU New Media Writing Studio". Interview and promotional video for TCU.</p> |
| 2015 | <p>ArtsHound.com Pick of the Week; Twitter feed selecting best arts events in Houston, Texas.</p> <p>Strench, Kaylen. "Space Puppets Land in Matchbox Gallery". Exhibition review for Rice Thresher newspaper.</p> <p>Other Machine Co. "Blending the Traditional and Digital at TCU's New Media Art Program". Interview promoting TCU and the New Media Art program.</p> <p>Glasstire: Top 5, Feb 5, 2015; Website and video blog promoting SIGNALS.</p> |
| 2013 | <p><i>Parodic Machines</i> exhibition catalog; The Van Every/Smith Galleries, Davidson, North Carolina.</p> <p><i>Experiencing Perspectives</i> exhibition catalog; Mercedes-Benz Financial Services, Fort Worth, Texas.</p> <p>Bontrager, Nick. "Wearable Technology & Somatic Gesture". Article for TCU Insights Fall 2013 magazine.</p> |
| 2012 | <p><i>Actions:Mutations:Revisions:Formations</i> – Exhibition catalog. Grand Rapids, Michigan.</p> |

- 2011 Morris, Michael J. "[Control](#)". Exhibition review.
 Mantey, Jackie. "[Exhibit: Control at OSU Urban Arts Space](#)". Exhibition review.
 Reed, Joanna Emily. "[GCAC Presents: Review of Confluence\(s\) at UAS](#)". Exhibition review.
 Starker, Melissa. "Exhibit Review | Urban Arts Space: Talented Graduate Students spread their wings". Exhibition review.
 Bontrager, Nick. "The Conflation of Image Making and Image Fixation in Six Acts." Graduate Thesis.
- 2010 Boyer, Heather. "Art and technology students fuse electricity and creativity". Exhibition review.

Solo Exhibitions and Two Person Shows:

- 2016 *Space Puppet Relay Team: Project Terra*; The Art Corridor at Tarrant County College; Arlington, Texas
- 2015 *Space Puppet Relay Team* with Emily Link; Matchbox Gallery at Rice University; Houston, Texas
SIGNALS; The Aurora Picture Show; Houston, Texas. Curated by Mary Magsamen
- 2014 *The Color Out of Space* with Adam Fung; The Studio Gallery, Brookhaven College; Dallas, Texas
- 2011 *Control* (with Joshua Penrose); City Center Gallery, Columbus, Ohio
- 2008 *The Artists Saloon*; Buffalo Bayou Art Park, Houston, Texas

Juried Group Exhibitions:

- 2016 *19th Japan Media Arts Festival*; The National Art Center; Tokyo, Japan
Virtual Object; CURRENTS New Media Festival; Form & Concept gallery; Santa Fe, New Mexico
- 2015 *Synthetic Zero*; Bronx Art Space; Bronx, New York
Retrofuturistic GIFs exhibition; Pehrspace Gallery; Los Angeles, California
- 2014 *NMC10* video programme; 12 month traveling exhibition. Premiere at Chicago Cultural Center; Chicago, Illinois
- 2012 *Artprize*; Calder Plaza; Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 2011 *30 Second Spots*; CAA Conference; New York, New York
Natural|Unnatural; Shot Tower Gallery; Columbus, Ohio

Invitational Group Exhibitions:

- 2016 *That's So Hot*; 500X Gallery; Dallas, Texas
The Artsmarter Prize; Cris Worley Fine Arts; Dallas, Texas. Curated by Christopher Blay
- 2015 *Faculty Exhibition*; Moudy Gallery; Fort Worth, Texas
- 2013 *Parodic Machines*; Van Every/Smith Gallery; Davidson, North Carolina
Experiencing Perspectives; Mercedes-Benz Financial Services, Fort Worth, Texas
Faculty Exhibition; Moudy Gallery, Fort Worth, Texas
VSP 5 (Visual Stimulus Package); G Gallery, Houston, Texas
- 2012 *Crossroads: An Intersection of Art & Technology*; CC Center, Columbus, Ohio
CONFLUX: An Exhibition Celebrating the Intersection of Art + Technology; The Pearl Conard Art Gallery, Mansfield, Ohio
New School; Moudy Gallery, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2011 *Visiting Lecturers Show*; Swing Space Gallery, Columbus, Ohio
Confluence(s); Urban Arts Space, Columbus, Ohio
Plug; The Silver Image Gallery, Columbus, Ohio
- 2010 *Permutations; Fotofest Biennial 2010*, Northline Art Gallery, Houston, Texas
Magnetocorpus; The Silver Image Gallery, Columbus, Ohio
Times II; Aurora Picture Show, Houston, Texas

- Inventeur*; The Silver Image Gallery, Columbus, Ohio
 2009 *Sound Forms*; Aurora Picture Show, Houston, Texas
 2008 *Laurie Anderson: A Prelude*; The Wortham Center, Houston, Texas
Dissonance; *Fotofest Biennial 2008*, Space125 Gallery, Houston, Texas
 2007 *Winter Show*; The Blaffer Gallery, Houston, Texas
 2006 *Winter Show*; The Blaffer Gallery, Houston, Texas
Art Show; Bootleg (artists' warehouse), Houston, Texas
 2005 *Winter Show*; The Blaffer Gallery, Houston, Texas

Film Festivals & Screenings

- 2016 *SIGNALS*; *Transformers: A Code and Data-Driven Animation* film screening; CAA Conference; Washington, D.C.
Target; [Indie Grits Film Festival](#); Columbia, South Carolina
Target; Short to the Point Film Festival; Bucharest, Romania
Target; Short to the Point Film Festival; Targu Mures, Romania
 2015 *Mess With Texas*, traveling film series in partnership with Texas Archive of the Moving Image. Curated by Peter Lucas, premiere at The Aurora Picture Show, Houston, Texas
 2014 *Covenant*; Museum of the Moving Image; Astoria, New York
Hotline; Chicago Cultural Center; Chicago, Illinois
Hotline; Sleeth Gallery; West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, West Virginia
Hotline; Llewellyn Gallery; Alfred State College, Alfred, New York
Hotline; Brick City Gallery; Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri
 2013 *Covenant*; American Documentary Film Festival; Palm Springs, California
Covenant; International Film Festival for Environment, Health, and Culture; Jakarta, Indonesia
Covenant; Athens Film Festival; Athens, Ohio
Covenant; Colorado Environmental Film Festival; Boulder, Colorado
Covenant; Fargo Film Festival; Fargo, North Dakota
 2012 *Covenant*; Field & Screen film series; Wexner Center for the Arts; Columbus, Ohio
So It Was With Us; Argo Film Festival; Volos, Greece

Residencies

- 2008 The Experimental Television Center; Owego, New York

- b. Non-refereed publications (include publications arising from presentations, i.e., proceedings), exhibits, performances, textbooks, etc.

Group Exhibitions

- 2016 *3rd Annual Artist Trading Card exhibition*; Art Science Gallery; Austin, Texas
 2013 *MoMA PopRally: Abstract Currents*; In conjunction with the exhibitions *Inventing Abstraction* and *Abstract Generation: Now in Print*; Museum of Modern Art; New York, New York

- c. Materials or activities accepted or **scheduled but not yet** printed, released, or presented

Solo Exhibitions and Two-Person Shows

- 2017 *the map is not the territory* with Adam Fung; Haggerty Gallery, University of Dallas; Dallas, Texas
spectral happening with Adam Fung, THE ARTS gallery, Collin College, Plano, Texas
Lunar Covenant, Herhusid Gallery, Siglufjörður, Iceland
Alone Together: Contemporary Arcade; The Art Gallery; Tarleton State University (member of A&M University System), Stephenville, Texas

Invitational Group Exhibitions

- 2017 *Faculty Exhibition*; Moudy Gallery, Fort Worth, Texas

Residencies

2017 Herhusid Artist Residency, Siglufjörður, Iceland

Visiting Artist Lecture & Workshop

2017 Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, California
Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island

d. Papers presented, participation on panels, etc., (include date, place, organization, invited or refereed)

Panels:

2017 *Foundations in Art: Theory and Education* conference; Kansas City, Missouri; invited panel presenter
College Arts Association conference; New York, New York; selected panel co-chair with Adam Fung.
Digital Fabrication Symposium; University of North Texas; Denton, Texas; moderator of curated artist discussion panel

2013 *Parodic Machines* artist panel; The Van Every/Smith Galleries, Davidson, North Carolina; Invited by curator Paula Gaetano-Adi.

Conferences/Fairs

2016 *Technarte 2016*; Bizkaia Aretoa; Bilbao, Spain; Juried international selection resulting in only sixteen speakers from thirteen different countries.

2013 *Design Fair 2013*; Lawndale Art Center; Houston, Texas; Invited by curators Jenny Lynn Weitz-Amaré Cartwright & Scott Cartwright as a member of the Texas Co-Op

e. Editorships, consulting, adjudications (List here or under Service)

1. Requested to submit book proposal for Routledge Press, *Drones, Art, and Autonomous systems*, in progress with co-editor/author Adam Fung
2. Juror
2008-2009 Juror for TAEA Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE)
3. Visiting Artist/Lectures
2014 “Collaboration in the Arts” lecture, University of Houston
Rice Space Arts Initiative presentation, Rice University
2012 Visiting Artist Lecture, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston
Visiting Artist Lecture, Kansas State University
Visiting Artist Lecture, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Visiting Artist Lecture, Florida State University
Visiting Artist Lecture, Texas Christian University
2011 “Storyboarding for Artists” lecture, The Ohio State University
2010 “Websites for Artists” lecture, The Ohio State University
“Emerging Technologies” artist talk, The Ohio State University
“Fail to Proceed” artist talk, The Ohio State University
4. Project Managing, Consulting & Assistance
2012 *The Event of a Thread*; Artist: Ann Hamilton. Produced for the Park Avenue Armory. New York, New York.
Spinning Projectors; Artist: Ann Hamilton. Produced for Picker Art Gallery at Colgate University. Hamilton, New York.
Autopoesis; Artist: Ken Rinaldo. Produced for VIDA retrospective. Madrid, Spain.
2011 *Paparazzi Bots*; Artist: Ken Rinaldo. Produced for Nuit Blanche event. Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
Fusifform Polyphony; Artist: Ken Rinaldo. Produced for Nuit Blanche. Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
Ghost – A Border Act; Artist: Ann Hamilton. Produced for Cranbrook

Art Museum, Detroit, Michigan.

f. External support received or pending (include source and amount requested and/or received)

1. Received

2014	Rice Space Arts Initiative project grant	\$500.00
2011	Fergus Family Fund award	\$500.00
	Urban Arts Space project grant	\$200.00
2007	Flaxman Arts Scholarship (Tuition Grant)	\$800.00

2. Not received

2016	Materials-Based Research Grant; The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design;	\$15,000.00
2013	Harpo Foundation Artist Grant (sponsored)	\$5793.25
2012	Rhizome.org Commissions Grant (finalist)	\$5000.00
	The Idea Fund, Houston, Texas	\$3500.00
2011	Rhizome.org Commissions Grant	\$5000.00

3. Pending

g. Internal grants received (e.g., TCU/RCAF, Junior Faculty)

1. Received

2017	TCU Microgrants for New Technologies	\$1500.00
2016	TCU Microgrants for New Technologies	\$1500.00
	TCU Creativity, Innovation, and Interdisciplinarity in Learning Program	\$2500.00
2015	Dean's Research Grant	\$2500.00
2014	RCAF Award	\$4000.00
	JFSRP Award	\$6000.00

2. Not Received

2015	RCAF Award	\$3997.76
	JFSRP Award	\$6000.00
2013	RCAF Award	\$4000.00
	JFSRP Award	\$6000.00

h. Other research or creative activities not included in any of above

2017	Technical Advisor for TCU Dance Professor Adam McKinney's project using Drones Invited researcher at NASA Lunar Sample Data Center; Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas
2016	Attendance at ThinkTank9 arts educators' conference; Montana State University; Bozeman, Montana Invited researcher at NASA Lunar Sample Laboratory Facility; Johnson Space Center; Houston, Texas
2010	Attendance as filmmaker at Austin Film Festival; Austin, Texas

6. Service

a. Departmental service

1. Committees

2016	Thistlethwaite Travel Grant Committee
2015-current	Scholarship Committee (chair)
2013-2016	Technology Plan Committee
2013	FWCA Curator Search Committee
2012-2015	Gallery Committee

2. Other departmental service

2016	Established "Sticker Vending Machine Project" for students Exhibited 3D printed student artworks in the Launchpad Gallery of the Neeley School of Business Traveled to Houston, Texas for student recruitment with Associate Professor of Art Richard Lane
2015-current	Assisted with development of new School of Art website
2015	Assisted with creation of School of Art Field Book

- Assisted with expansion of New Media studio and Digital Imaging Art Lab reshoring
- 2013 Presentation & talk; TCU 1-second Film Festival; Aurora Picture Show, Houston, TX
- National Art Education Association Preconference Workshop
Co-curator for New Media Moudy Gallery Exhibition
- 2012-current Created and maintained @TCUStudioArt Instagram account
- 2012 Established New Media Equipment Checkout for students
- b. College service
1. Committees
- 2016-current College of Fine Arts Equipment Committee
- c. University service
- 2017 Advisor and coordinator for *Creative expressions of Social Justice* conference for Office of Community Engagement
Videogames as tools for Scholarly Research; article and presentation for TCU Insights magazine
- 2016-current Faculty sponsor for Videogame Developers Club
- 2016 Presenter for Digital Pedagogy Roundtable Luncheon, New Media Writing Studio
- Internal reviewer for New Media Graduate Certificate applications
- 2015-16 Advisor for TCU Library Technology Plan
- 2014 Workshop and lecture for Chancellor's Scholars Weekend Retreat
- 2013 *Wearable Technology & Somatic Gesture*; article for TCU Insights magazine
- 2012-current Institute for Critical and Creative Expression; Advisory Board Member
Co-Curated Art and (Science) Student Research Symposium Exhibition
- d. Community activities directly related to professional skills
- 2017 *Extreme Weather* workshop and study at the Research & Learning Center; The Fort Worth Museum of Science & History
- Hosted meeting of the North Texas Digital Fabricators in New Media Lab
- 2016 Instructor for Adult Art Program; The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas
- 2015 "Artist Presentations" lecture, Community Arts Center, Fort Worth, TX
Instructor for Adult Art Program; The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas
- Invited beta tester for OtherMachine Company, San Francisco, CA
- 2014 Instructor for "3D Scanning" and "Inflatable Sculpture" workshops at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History
- Studio visits with students; Brookhaven College; Dallas, Texas
- Instructor for "3D Scanning and Printing" workshop; Brookhaven College; Dallas, Texas
- 2013 Instructor for Adult Art Program; The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas
- 2012 Instructor for "Script to Screen" workshop
Contributor to open-source project, Kinect@Home
Contributor to open-source project, Polargraph robotic plotter
- 2011 Instructor for "Toy Hacking and Circuit Bending" workshop
Instructor for "Youth Digital Photography" workshop
Instructor for "Beginning Lego NXT Robotics" workshop
Instructor for "Advanced Lego NXT Robotics" workshop
Invited beta tester, 123D Catch (Photogrammetry software)
Developer, New Media Workshop at Ohio State University
Contributor to open-source project, RepRap 3D Printer
- e. Professional service (i.e., memberships in professional organizations, offices held, adjudications, chairing panels. List editorships and consulting here if not under Research and Creative Activity)
- 2017 Conference Submission Reviewer, SIGGRAPH Computer Graphics and

- Interactive Techniques conference
- 2016-current Science Communication Fellow, Fort Worth Museum of Science & History
- member, Foundations in Art: Theory and Education
- 2014-2016 Art Commissioner, Fort Worth Public Art Commission
- 2013 Selection panel member, Fort Worth ISD Chair of Excellence
- 2011-current member, Rhizome.org
- 2011-current member, New Media Caucus
- f. Academic Advising (List here or under Teaching.)
- *see Teaching
- g. Other Service activity not include in any of the above.