

## Education

2014 MFA, Film/Video, Bard College

2007 BA, Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University

## Teaching and Course Design

2019 - Present **Adjunct Faculty, New York University**

### **Motion Graphics**

Introduction to digital animation and motion design, primarily using After Effects but supported by Animate, Photoshop, Illustrator, and Premiere Pro. Covers pipeline for working in animation or motion graphics including storyboards, pitching projects, and animatics, as well as introducing students to a wide range of contemporary trends and concepts in motion graphics, from narrative and documentary to abstraction.

2017 - Present **Part-Time Lecturer, Parsons School of Art and Design**

### **Documentary/Truth (2020 - Present)**

Animated documentary studio class focused on developing sophisticated form and content. Animated documentary tends to resist the idea of a single truth, instead creating space where artists can embrace abstraction and explore highly individualistic points of view. This class uses the lens of animated documentary to help students develop both advanced understanding of storytelling and refine their animation techniques.

### **Animation History and Theory (2017 - Present)**

Animation seminar introducing students to art history through the investigation of animation. We look at propaganda and avant garde film, advertising and feminist film to construct a history of thought in the 20th Century. Assignments are a mix of writing, presentations, and studio work.

### **Course Coordinator: Topics (2020 - Present)**

Developed material for six variously-themed sections of the junior year required class; this included writing course structure, suggesting potential assignments, creating recommended reading/watching lists for each section, developing discussion questions, and meeting with professors as necessary. I also suggested a number of best practices for inclusive teaching online and in person. Also created and ran a cross-sectional lecture series with talks from Victoria Sin, Lei Lei, Woodrow Phoenix, Jacob Ciocci, and Nina Yuen.

### **Politics of Aesthetics (Fall 2020)**

Graduate seminar on political art, examining historical and contemporary avant gardes including surrealism, culture jamming, feminist animation, and video art. We read a variety of theoretical texts and artist manifestos including those of Laura Mulvey, bell hooks, Jonathan Crary, Andre Breton, and Naomi Klein as students look for ways to bring theory and practice together.

**Topics: Animation** (Spring 2018 - Spring 2020)

Advanced animation studio covering digital animation, stop motion, and experimental techniques; includes serious critiques and discussion of challenging contemporary animation. Professional practice is taught alongside advanced technical and conceptual development.

2019

**Adjunct Faculty, Montclair State University  
Animation History**

Art history department lecture class covering animation history from pre-cinematic optical devices through contemporary video art and installation, video games, and VR. Students complete art historical research culminating in a final paper.

**Lectures and Guest Teaching**

- 2020 Guest Artist, Princeton University  
Artist lecture: "Narrative structures"
- 2019 Guest Lecturer, Harvard University  
Academic Lecture: "Early American Animation"  
Speaker, Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present Conference  
Academic Essay: "Practice, Pedagogy, Place"  
Guest Critic, New York University  
Final semester critiques for Motion Graphics  
Visiting Artist, School of Visual Arts  
Artist Lecture: "Hand-made Animation & Slow Theory"
- 2018 Guest Critic, School of Visual Arts MFA Program  
Degree-granting critiques for MFA in Visual Narrative  
Speaker, Canada Gallery  
Academic lecture: "An Unusual History of Mainstream Animation"  
Visiting Artist, Parson's Pre-College Program  
Artist lecture: "Intentionality in Animation"  
Visiting Artist, School of Visual Arts  
Artist lecture: "Aggressive Animation"
- 2017 Guest Critic, School of Visual Arts MFA Program  
Degree-granting critiques for MFA in Visual Narrative  
Visiting Artist, School of Visual Arts  
Artist lecture: "Liminal Narrative"  
Speaker, Ecstatic Truth Symposium, Royal College of Art  
Academic lecture: "Expanding the Index in Animated Documentary"
- 2014 Visiting Artist, Hunter College  
Artist lecture: "Unconventional Drawing"  
Visiting Artist, Columbia University  
Academic lecture: "Animation, Architecture"

Becky James

james.becky@gmail.com  
www.beckyjams.com

36 Strong Place #1  
Brooklyn NY 11231  
617-233-9289

Speaker, Primetime Gallery  
Artist lecture: "Architecture and Animation"

### **Inclusive Teacher Training**

- 2020 Inclusive Teaching: Supporting All Students in the College Classroom, six week course, Amanda Jungels and Chandani Patel, Columbia Center for Learning and Teaching  
Online Faculty Training, TNS course for online teaching, The New School  
Distributed Education  
Feminist Film Theory, Paige Sweet, Brooklyn Institute for Social Research
- 2014 Active Listening, Pippi Kessler JCC Manhattan
- 2016 Digital Embodiment, Jordan Kraemer, Brooklyn Institute for Social Research
- 2015 Trans Theory, Stephanie Rosen, Brooklyn Institute for Social Research
- 2013 Theorizing Play, Heather Ohaneson, Brooklyn Institute for Social Research  
Wittgenstein and Language, Luis Guzman, New York University
- 2012 Writing on the Body, Abby Kluchin, Brooklyn Institute for Social Research  
Becoming a Woman: Feminist thought since Simone de Beauvoir, Grace Hunt, The New School

### **Relevant Work Experience**

- 2011 - 2007 James Fuentes Gallery, Associate Director  
Curated and installed exhibitions, artist relations, artwork fabrication
- 2007 - 2003 The Reasonable People's League, Producer  
New media group, especially tangible media interfaces; produced videos, performances, and video objects
- 2005 Chapman Productions, Production Intern  
Assisted with production of hit UK children's television show "Fifi and the Flowertots"

### **Gallery Exhibitions**

- 2020 Transparency and Ambiguity: The Modern Space of Axonometry, cur. Yve-Alain Bois, National Gallery of Art  
Screeners guest curator, Helena Anrather, New York
- 2019 Print is Dead, cur. Caitlin Craggs, 884 Pacific, New York
- 2018 Slummer Nights 2, cur. Sadie Laska, Canada, New York
- 2016 Fort Greene, cur. Adrienne Rubenstein, Venus Over Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
Rush Process of Hand Crafted Films, Houston Art Museum
- 2015 Writ Large, The Great Wall, Oakland  
Oof, University of the Arts, Philadelphia

- 2014 Fake Video, Primetime, New York  
Death By Art, Death By Audio, New York  
Chinese Zodiac Compatibility Test, cur. Adrienne Rubenstein, 276 Grand, New York  
The Last Brucennial, Bruce High Quality Foundation, New York
- 2013 Courtesy of the Artists: Trad., cur. Alex Segade and Malik Gaines, Recess Art, New York  
The Eyes Have It: 50 Years of Film at Harvard, Harvard Carpenter Center, Cambridge  
Microcinemas, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago  
Thesis Exhibition, Bard College, New York
- 2012 I know this but you feel different, Marc Jancou Contemporary, New York
- 2011 Group Show, Yes.Oui.Si., Boston  
Pop Up, Freddy's, New York  
Distilled Motion, Spectacle Gallery, Boston
- 2010 The Salt Mine, Primetime, New York  
Frame by Frame: Animated at Harvard, Sert Gallery, Cambridge
- 2009 The Kings County Biennial, Kidd Yellin, New York  
ShapeShifting: Reinventing Heritage, Division of Human Works, New York  
The New Deal, Art Production Fund, New York
- 2008 8 ½ x 11 / A4, James Fuentes, New York  
Action.Stop.Action, Vox Populi, Philadelphia  
Bugs for Teeth, and other ways of thinking, Lumen Eclipse, Boston  
Rooftop Films, Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 2007 Thesis Exhibition, Harvard Carpenter Center, Boston
- 2006 Labyrinthitis, Rivington Arms, New York  
Here is Not Now, 486 Broadway, New York

### **Selected Film Festivals**

- 2019 Rockaway Film Festival, New York
- 2017 Filmquest, Provo  
Frightfest, London  
Florida Film Festival, Maitland  
Third Culture, Hong Kong  
Dumbest Sh\*t I Ever Saw, New York
- 2016 Sommets du Cinema d'Animation, Montreal  
Denver Film Festival, Denver  
Oldenburg Film Festival, Oldenburg

- New Orleans Film Festival, New Orleans  
Aesthetica, York  
Fantastic Fest, Austin  
Krok, traveling festival through Ukraine and Russia  
Rooftop Films, New York  
Animation Block Party, New York  
Lowlands, The Netherlands  
Newport Beach Film Festival, Newport Beach  
Florida Film Festival, Maitland  
SXSW, Austin  
Imagine, Amsterdam  
Slamdance, Park City
- 2015 L'Alternativa, Barcelona  
Montreal World Festival, Montreal  
Animac, Lleida
- 2014 Jihlava International Documentary Festival, Jihlava  
Brooklyn Film Festival, Brooklyn  
Psychopomp, Chicago  
International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam
- 2011 Cinema St. Louis, St. Louis  
Denver Film Festival, Denver  
AMFEST, Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Yekaterinburg  
Animation Block Party, New York
- 2009 Message to Man, St. Petersburg  
Animabasauri-Animabaque, Bilbao  
SXSW, Austin  
Analogue, Budapest and Vienna  
Traverse City Film Festival, Traverse City  
Portable Film Festival, Melbourne
- 2008 Cinema St. Louis, St. Louis  
Aurora Film Festival, Norwich  
Antimatter, Victoria  
Slamdance, Park City  
SXSW, Austin  
Best Animation, cur. IFC, Chelsea Market  
Arizona International Film Festival, Tucson  
Salem Film Festival, Salem  
Boston Underground Film Festival, Boston  
The Best of Animation Block Party, Boston
- 2007 Denver Film Festival, Denver  
Aurora Film Festival, Norwich  
Sidewalk Film Festival, Birmingham  
Animation Block Party, New York

Becky James

james.becky@gmail.com  
www.beckyjams.com

36 Strong Place #1  
Brooklyn NY 11231  
617-233-9289

Crown Point Festival, New York  
NYC Shorts Festival, New York  
Visionfest, New York  
San Antonio Underground Film Festival, San Antonio

### **Awards**

Special Award, Fantastic Fest, 2016  
Vimeo Staff Pick, August 2016  
Animate-It, SXSW, 2009  
Special Judges Award for Excellence in Poster Design, SXSW  
Jury Award, SXSWclick!, 2009  
16mm Film Award, Takoma Park Film Festival, 2009  
Jury Award, SXSW, 2008  
Jury Award, Dick Arnall Prize for Rogue Vision in the Manipulated Moving Image, Aurora Film Festival, 2008  
Selected for Short Film Showcase on IFC.com, 2008  
Audience Award, Animation Block Party, 2007  
Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize Finalist, 2007

### **Music Videos and Commissions**

AnotherSky, Nippon Television Network, 2019  
Video for Brooklyn Rider, String Quartet Parts 1 & 2, Mercury Classics Records, 2015  
Album art for Stargaze, Transgressive Records, 2015  
Album art for Checking in at Twenty, Famous Class Records, 2014  
Video for Deerhoof, Breakup Song, Polyvinyl Records, 2012

### **Museum Collections**

Centrum Dokumentárního Filmu, Czech Republic

### **Other Research**

2019 American Museum of Natural History, Research Assistant  
Researching the 3D space of spider silk production with Cheryl Hayashi, CT scanning spiders; creating 3D models using VGStudioMax and related software

2018 Wildlife Conservation Society, Bolivia Office, Research Assistant  
Six weeks assisting entomologist Martín Apaza with specimen collecting in field at four sampling locations ranging from the Andes to the Amazon basin, as well as in-office insect mounting, photographing, and preparing for identification

### **Selected Press**

Becky James

james.becky@gmail.com  
www.beckyjams.com

36 Strong Place #1  
Brooklyn NY 11231  
617-233-9289

Carla MacKinnon, "A view of Ecstatic Truth 2017," *animateddocumentary.com*, June 28, 2017  
Alex Widdowson, "Ecstatic Truth II: Lessons of Darkness and Light," *animateddocumentary.com*, June 23, 2017  
Richard Whittaker, "Fantastic Fest Awards," *The Austin Chronicle*, September 2016  
Doug Klinger, "Go from imagination to animation in the Short 'Vocabulary 1,'" *The Vimeo Blog*, August 2016  
Interview with Andrea Allen and Doug Klinger, *Vimeo Podcast*, August 2016  
Interview with FanboyTV, *Austin Public Access*, March 2016  
Chris O'Falt, "What is the Key to Writing a Good Short Film Script?" *Indiewire.com*, March 2016  
Christina Wiese, "SXSW Filmmakers in Focus: Animated Shorts," *sxsw.com*, March 2016  
Haru Coryne, "'Looney Tunes' this aint," *Brooklyn Paper*, July 2011  
Stephanie Young, "Becky James," *Vellum #6*, January 2011  
Andrew Goldstein, "Recession-Affected Artists Reduced to Working with Printer Paper," *New York Magazine Blog*, December 2008  
"Interview with Becky James," *IFC.com*, November 2008  
Erin Wylie, "Genus of the Species," *Time Out New York*, September 2008  
"Snake Review," *IFC.com*, July 2008  
Anne del Castillo, "72 Hours at SXSW," *POV pbs.org*, March 2008  
Wells Dunbar, "SXSW 08 Film Reviews: Animated Shorts," *The Austin Chronicle*, March 2008  
Brad Parreet, "SXSW: A Bat, Hat, Bag and Head," *Alamo Drafthouse Cinema*, March 2008  
Mary Ann Skeweres, "Slamdance: Bush vs. Bin Laden and Blood will tell and More," *Animation World Magazine*, February 2008  
Jake Friedman, "Toons Take Bite Out of Big Apple," *Animation Magazine*, November 2007  
Garry Platt, "[PS04] A Paint Show," *Fringe Magazine*, August 2004  
Leo Benedictus, "Don't Just Sit There," *The Guardian*, August 2004  
Elizabeth Schwyzer, "Seductive Steps," *The Edinburgh Sunday Herald*, August 2004

## Filmography

Abstract Cabinet & Texas House 5, 2020  
Vocabulary 1, 2016  
Worm, 2015  
Drainer, 2015  
Pigs, 2014  
Throwing Squares, 2014  
Hit, 2014  
Active Image O, 2014  
Untitled (Box), 2013  
Q.E.D., 2013  
(o), 2013  
(o), 2012  
Interiors, 2012  
Shapes in the City, 2011  
The Salt Mine, 2010  
I hate you don't touch me or Bat and Hat, 2008  
Snake, 2007

Becky James

james.becky@gmail.com  
www.beckyjams.com

36 Strong Place #1  
Brooklyn NY 11231  
617-233-9289

Crazy Rock, 2006  
Treely, 2005