



Seth Eisen, Artistic Director, Eye Zen Presents

Writer, Director, Performer, Visual Artist, Researcher, Producer, Dramaturg, Curator, Historian, Archivist, Educator

Seth Eisen engages LGBTQIA+ history as a living, breathing dialogue by researching lost legacies. Blurring the edge between art, research, and activism, he creates a hybrid of visual art, and live performance. For 28 years Eisen has staged performance pieces, street spectacles, and installations and has curated and appeared in numerous collaborative projects created with other Bay Area artists. He performed as a member of the Butoh companies Harupin–Ha and Ink Boat from 1994-99. From 2000-2010 he toured with Keith Hennessy and Circo Zero across the US and Europe. His solo performances and installation projects have been featured at The Oakland Museum of California, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, The Contemporary Jewish Museum, and in art spaces on both coasts for 20 years. In 2007, Eisen founded Eye Zen Presents, an ensemble theater company that promotes social change by unearthing and elevating the histories of LGBTQIA+ and QTBIPOC ancestors.

Eisen has extensive experience working with archives in the realm of research, assessment, cataloging, preservation, institutional placement and artistic and curatorial interpretation.

PERFORMANCE and INSTALLATION (select, recent)

Fierce as Death: Queer as the Song of Songs (2022) Produced, directed, curated immersive, indoor/outdoor installation; The Contemporary Jewish Museum; San Francisco, CA.

FabLab: Celebration of Life (2022); Produced, directed, curated QTBIPOC ancestor project; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts; San Francisco, CA.

OUT of Site: Haight-Ashbury (2021) Produced, directed, researched queer history performance-driven immersive tour; SF Heritage, Doolan Larson Building, various locations on Haight Street and Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA.

OUT of Site: SOMA (2020) Live-Virtual queer history performance-driven immersive tour. Researched, co-wrote, directed; San Francisco, CA.

OUT of Site: North Beach. (2020) Wrote, staged, directed; North Beach Barbary Coast queer history performance- driven walking tour; Sonoma State University, Somoma , CA.

OUT of Site: SOMA (2019) Work in Progress, Researched, wrote, directed; San Francisco, CA.

OUT of Site: Performance/Lecture. (2019) Researched, wrote, directed; Shaping SF Public Talk, San Francisco, CA.

Solo Duet: 33 and Me (2018-19) Researched, wrote, performed; San Francisco, CA.

OUT of Site Salon. (2018) Researched, wrote, directed; San Francisco, CA.

OUT of Site: North Beach. (2018) Researched, wrote, directed; North Beach Barbary Coast queer history performance-driven immersive tour, various locations in North Beach and Financial District in San Francisco.

A Circle of Love: Celebrating Buzz Bense. (2017) Wrote, directed, performed, curated; San Francisco, CA.

Recipe for Relocating the Human Heart. (2017) Hartford St. Zen Center, San Francisco, CA.

Tales of the City: Queer History Walking Tour. (2017) Researched, wrote, performed, directed; various locations in Tenderloin and Castro, San Francisco, CA.

OUT of Site: Performance/Lecture. (2017) Researched, wrote, performed, directed; Shaping SF Public Talk, San Francisco, CA.

Simple Magic #1. (2016) Researched, wrote, directed; Congregation Sha'ar Zahav; San Francisco, CA.

Simple Magic #2,3. (2016) Researched, wrote, directed; San Francisco, CA.

The Air Mail Salon/The Remy Charlip Project. (2016) Wrote, directed, performed, curated; San Francisco, CA.

Rainbow Logic: Arm in Arm with Remy Charlip. (2016) CounterPulse, San Francisco, CA.
Three Beds. (2015) Staged reading. Viracocha, San Francisco, CA.
Homo File. (2012-2014) Wrote, directed, produced. CounterPULSE, San Francisco, CA.
Buffet Flats. (2011-2012) Curated, produced, performed. Five locations, San Francisco, CA.
Blackbird: Honoring A Century of Pansy Divas. (2008-2010) Yerba Buena Center For the Arts, Mama Calizo's Voice Factory, CounterPULSE, San Francisco, CA.
Homo Cookin'. (2011) International Home Theater Festival, Berkeley, CA.
Matrix of the Grind (2011) Too Much Festival, @ Dance Mission, San Francisco, CA.
American Tweaker (2006-2010) with Keith Hennessy and Jules Beckman, @ Les Substances, Lyon, France; Les Laboratoires D'Aubervilliers, Paris, France; Dance Mission, San Francisco, CA.
Queermemberment. (2010) Too Much Festival. Mama Calizo's Voice Factory, San Francisco, CA.
Sol niger (2007-2009) with Keith Hennessy and Circo Zero. Theater Artaud, SF; Les Substances, Lyon, France
Fagala. (2007) National Queer Arts Festival, Jon Simms Center, San Francisco, CA.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (selected since 2007)

Gilbert, Andrew "Cultural spelunkers remember singer Jewlia Eisenberg with career-spanning Fierce as Death" Sunday Datebook, San Francisco Chronicle, September 28, 2022
 Schrager, Anne. "No Parade But Celebrating Must Go On." Sunday Datebook, San Francisco Chronicle, June 6-12, 2021
 Kruger, Charles. "Review: 'Out Of Site Haight Ashbury': A Performance Driven Queer History Tour from EyeZen Presents." Theaterstorm, June 16, 2021
 Schiffman, Jean. "Haight History Comes to Life in Theatrical Walking Tour." SF Examiner, June 17, 2021
 Gladstone, Jim. "Lovin' Haight Out of Site's groovy history tour." Bay Area Reporter, June 24, 2021
 Costello, Elizabeth. "Interactive theater experience highlights SF's SoMa—a vibrant nexus of queer history, art, and kink." 7x7, June 10, 2020
 "Queer History Tour of San Francisco's South Of Market Livestreams During Pride Month." Broadway World, May 19, 2020
 Charnock, Matt. "Eye Zen's 'OUT of Site: SOMA' Digital Production To Explore South of Market's Queer History." SFist, May 23, 2020
 "Walking tour doubles as SOMA history show." Out & About: Photo spotlight, Bay Area Reporter, June 6, 2019
 "Pride Month theatrical walking tour highlights SoMa's LGBTQ+ history." Hoodline, June 7, 2019
 Review: "Out of Site SOMA" Theatre Eddys, June 9, 2019
 Datebook Picks: "Exploring the future of LGBTQ nightlife." San Francisco Chronicle, June 2, 2019
 Kruger, Charles. "An LGBTQ Performative Walking Tour Through North Beach Queer History." Theater Storm, Mar. 2018.
 Reynolds, Eddie. "OUT of Site." Theatre Eddys, Mar. 2018.
 Falstreu, Nathan. "OUT of Site brings North Beach Queer History to Life." Hoodline, 5 Mar. 2018.
 Marke, B, "A Spirited Walking Through Some Incredible Queer History in OUT of Site." 48 Hills, 7 Mar. 2018.
 "Pick of the Week." San Francisco Chronicle, Mar. 2018.
 Madison, Alex. "OUT of Site" Bay Area Reporter, Mar. 2018.
 Desaulniers, Heather. "Building Rainbow Logic." In Dance, Nov. 2016.
 Schiffman, Jean. "Rainbow Logic Celebrates Remy Charlip." San Francisco Arts Monthly (New York Times insert) Nov. 2016.
 Sugarman, Saul. "Colorful life of influential artist in Rainbow Logic", J: Jewish Arts Weekly, Nov. 2016.
 Bauer, Claudia. "A loving portrait of Charlip." *San Francisco Chronicle*, Nov. 2016.
 Dodds, Richard. "Full Spectrum of Remy Charlip." *Bay Area Reporter*, Nov. 2016.
 Hunt, Ellen. "Homo File: Sam Steward as bridge between generations." 96 Hours, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 2 Jun. 2014.
 Chun, Kimberly. "Provocative double bill at CounterPulse." 96 Hours, *San Francisco Chronicle*, Sept. 2012.
 Avila, Robert. Stage-Review: "Fine Feathered Friend: Seth Eisen in Blackbird." *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, Jun. 2010.
 Leslie Katz, Theater Review, "Divas fly in Blackbird", The Examiner, 1 Jul. 2010.
 Goodwyn, Albert. "Eisen Portrays Pansy Divas." *The Bay Times*, 1 Jul. 2010.
 Avila, Robert. Stage-Review: "Blackbird: A Queer Vocal History." *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, 19 Nov. 2008.
 James, Evan. "Blackbird singing in the marginalized gay night." *SF Weekly*, 19 Nov. 2008.
 Van Iquity, Sister Dana. "Seth Eisen performs in Blackbird." *SF Bay Times*, 13 Nov. 2008.
 Guthman, Edward. "Joining the Circo." *San Francisco Chronicle*, 15 Sept. 2007, E3.
 Felciano, Rita. "Sol niger." *Dance View Magazine*, Vol 24, No. 4, Autumn 2007.
 Harmanci, Reyhan. "It's No Doll House: Radical puppetry challenges powers that be, speaks for the voiceless, entertains." *San Francisco Chronicle*, 4 Oct. 2007, 14.

COMMISSIONS/RESIDENCIES (selected since 2008)

- 2016** Residency: Montalvo Arts Ctr: Lucas Artist Residency Program, *Rainbow Logic: Arm in Arm with Remy Charlip*.
- 2016** Co-Commission: CounterPulse, *Rainbow Logic: Arm in Arm with Remy Charlip*.
- 2016** Residency: Lou Harrison Center for Art Music and Ecology, *Rainbow Logic: Arm in Arm with Remy Charlip*.
- 2016** Residency: Paul Dresher Ensemble Artists Residency (DEAR), *Rainbow Logic: Arm in Arm with Remy Charlip*.
- 2012** Residency/Commission: CounterPULSE, Artist-In-Residency Commissioning Program, *Homo File*.
- 2011** Commission: Queer Cultural Center, Creating Queer Community, *Buffet Flats*.
- 2008-10** Residency: Mama Calizo's Voice Factory, Solo Residency, *Blackbird*, SF, CA.

GRANTS

San Francisco Arts Commission
San Francisco Grants for the Arts
Creative Work Fund
California Arts Council
Center For Cultural Innovation
Jim Henson Foundation
Kenneth Rainin Foundation
Walter And Elise Haas Fund

Zellerbach Family Foundation
Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation
Queer Cultural Center
Theatre Bay Area CA\$H Grant
MAP Fund
Gerbode Foundation
Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation
Fleishhacker Foundation

Teaching Experience

- 2005-2016** Advisory Faculty, John F. Kennedy University, Berkeley, CA.
Department of Arts and Consciousness, M.F.A. and M.A. Transformative Arts.
Created and directed Performance Specialization for BFA, MFA and MA programs.
- 2007-2016** Part-Time Faculty, College of San Mateo, San Mateo, CA.
- 2009-present** Adjunct Faculty, Berkeley City College, Berkeley, CA.
- 2018-present** Adjunct Faculty, Laney College, Oakland, CA.

Visiting Faculty/Guest Artist

- 2019** Sonoma State University, Exhibition- *Queeries: Queer Artists and Identities*
- 2015-2016** California Institute of Integral Studies, MFA in Theater-Performance Making
- 2004** New College of California, (EPI) Experimental Performance Institute, San Francisco, CA.

Invited Talks/Visiting Artist Lectures/Presentations

- 2022** Guest Artist Lecture: Queer History Conference 2022, San Francisco State University;
Guest Artist Lecture: From Archives to the Streets: Performing Place-Based Queer Histories; Social

Justice Week; Sonoma State University; Sonoma, CA

- 2021** Guest Artist Lecture: Archival Storytelling; Creative Capital
- Lecture Series: Queering the Song of Songs; Curated and Hosted 3 Virtual Gatherings; Contemporary Jewish Museum; San Francisco, CA
- Guest Artist Lecture: OUT of Site-Creative strategies giving Image to the Unseen; University of California, Berkeley; Course: Future Histories Lab Storytelling Colloquium
- 2020** *OUT of Site, Performing Queer History*; California College of Art; Course: Peripatetic Wunderkammer; Professor, Michael Epstein
- OUT of Site, Performing Queer History*; University of California, Irvine; Course: Queer History Making; Professor, Jennifer Terry.
- OUT of Site, Performing Queer Ancestry*; The Bay School; San Francisco, CA.
- 2019** *OUT of Site, Queering Archives and Sites-Speaking to Ancestors*; Sonoma State University;
- Guest Artist Lecture: LGBTQ US History; Professor, Don Romesburg *OUT of Site, Performing Queer History*; Sonoma State University; Sonoma, CA
- Guest Artist Lecture: Eric Quezada Center/Shaping San Francisco Public Talk Series, San Francisco, CA.
- 2018** Guest Artist Lecture: *OUT of Site, Performing Queer History*; Teaching and Learning Center, Berkeley City College, Berkeley, CA.
- 2016** Guest Artist Lecture: *Simple Magic: The Art of Remy Charlip and Reclaiming Queer Ancestry*; California College of Art, Oakland, CA.
- Simple Magic: The Art of Remy Charlip and Reclaiming Gay Jewish Ancestry*; Chochmat Chalev, Berkeley, CA and Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, San Francisco, CA.
- 2015** Guest Artist Lecture: *Simple Magic: The Art of Remy Charlip and Reclaiming Queer Ancestry*; Adelphi University, Garden City, NY.
- 2011-2015** Guest Artist Lecture: *A Queer Vocal History*; SOMARTS/Chrysalis Studios/Queer Ancestors Project; San Francisco, CA.
- 2013** Guest Artist Lecture: *A Queer Vocal History/ Breaking the Silence*; Visiting Artist Lecture, St. Mary's College, Moraga, CA.
- 2010-2013** *A Queer Vocal History*; Visiting Artist Lecture/Performance, The Athenian School; Danville, CA.
- 2010** *A Queer Vocal History/Honoring A Century of Pansy Divas*; Visiting Artist Lecture and Performance, St. Mary's College, Moraga, CA.