



Evi Numen

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Evi Numen is a curator, researcher, visual artist, and designer from Athens, Greece. After obtaining her Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania, she held the position of Exhibitions Manager & Designer at the Mütter Museum of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia. During that time, Numen organized, designed and installed multiple exhibitions at the Mütter Museum, as well as curated their contemporary medically-themed art shows. She was responsible for maintaining exhibitions of anatomical and pathological specimens to archival standards, as well as digitizing the museum's collection of medical photographs and illustrations. Her photographs of the museum artefacts and exhibitions have been published in numerous outlets including the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and the Guardian. She has provided photographs and design works to several publications, as well as record album covers, and museum merchandise. Numen has exhibited her visual art in group shows in Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland. A death-acceptance advocate, Numen trained as a hospice volunteer and end of life doula. She is the founder and curator of *Thanatography*, an online exhibition of contemporary mourning art and writing.

Numen moved to Dublin, Ireland with her spouse and two cats in the fall of 2018. She was awarded the position of Curator and Archivist of the Old Anatomy Museum, in Trinity College Dublin, following her successful proposal to preserve and renovate its medical heritage collection. She is currently working on an exhibition on the history of pandemics in Ireland. In her spare time she enjoys bird-watching, oil painting, and writing poetry.



KEY SKILLS

- ◆ Exhibition layout and graphics design
- ◆ Project management for museum exhibitions and related programming
- ◆ Museum object photography, handling, digitization, and conservation skills
- ◆ Experienced in museum storage optimization, archival safety, disaster preparedness, and pest management
- ◆ Content creation and engagement maintenance for social media for museums
- ◆ Experienced in art handling, installation, and security systems for exhibitions
- ◆ Research writing and public speaking
- ◆ Proficient in museum cataloguing and archiving, and related software use (Argus, Emu, AdLib)
- ◆ Museum lighting design and maintenance skills (fibre-optic and LED track and case lighting systems)
- ◆ Proficient in Microsoft Windows suite programs
- ◆ Expert in Adobe Design Suite graphic design programs (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator)
- ◆ Proficient in 3D design programs (Z-brush, Sculpttris) and web design programs (Dreamweaver, CSS) and technical design programs (Sketchup, Vectorworks, AutoCAD)
- ◆ Expert use of D-SLR camera systems and a variety of photography lighting equipment

AREAS OF RESEARCH

- ◆ The curation and display of human remains in a medical and sociological context
- ◆ Dissection and cadaver procurement in the 19th century
- ◆ Bodily autonomy of inmates before and after death in 19th century Philadelphia
- ◆ Contemporary beliefs surrounding death repulsion, denial, and acceptance
- ◆ Identity politics and aestheticism in early medical photography
- ◆ Mourning rituals, art therapy, and the psychology of grief
- ◆ Tracing the history and display of FOP skeletons across the globe
- ◆ The history of pandemics in Ireland

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Modern Greek, English, and French, conversational in Italian. Currently learning German and Irish.

EMPLOYMENT & EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – 2020** ♦ **Museum Curator and Archivist**, Old Anatomy Museum, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin
Completed a thorough survey of the collection, evaluated storage facilities, consulted on their improvement, located and transcribed catalogs, recorded data and created databases for collection, conserved osteological specimens and paper-based artefacts. Assisted in programming, gave tours of the collection and lectures to students, and contributed to research pertaining to the collection. Wrote governance documents for the museum including a mission statement, philosophy and guidelines of display in accordance with the Human Tissue Act and best museum practices, core values, and a five-year strategic plan.
- 2017** ♦ **Archaeo-forensics Photographer**, Mütter Institute of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia
Photographed rescue archaeological excavation project of an 18th century cemetery, recorded and evaluated findings, and assisted in their safe transport and storage.
- 2015 – 2017** ♦ **Hospice volunteer**, Penn Hospice and Compassus Hospice & Palliative Care, Philadelphia PA
Provided company for patients and respite care for their families. Educated patients and their families about the active dying process and supported them through it.
- 2016 – present** ♦ **Founder & Curator of Thanatography**, a virtual exhibition of contemporary mourning and memorial art
Showcased artists's work created in response to grief and loss, wrote on themes surrounding death, art, and memorialisation, organized and curated pop-up exhibitions of mourning art, and gave lectures on the subject.
- 2009 – 2016** ♦ **Exhibition Manager and Designer**, Mütter Museum of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia
Designed and maintained exhibitions and displays of the medical heritage collection of the Mütter Museum. Fulfilled rights and reproductions requests, digitized medical photographs and illustrations, trained and supervised museum interns and volunteers, acted as artist liaison and project manager for major grant-funded exhibitions.
Designed the following notable exhibitions: *Corporeal Manifestations*, 2009 | *Rarely Seen*, 2010 | *Through The Weeping Glass*, 2011 | *Vesalius on the Verge: The Book and the Body*, 2014 | *Our Finest Clothing: A Layered History of Our Skin*, 2016.
Curated and designed the following large scale exhibitions: *Bones, Books & Bell Jars, Photography by Andrea Baldeck*, 2012 | *Jordan Eagles– Blood Work*, 2013 | *Mind Illuminated: Microetchings and Paintings by Greg Dunn*, 2015 | *La Maladie: Paintings by Betsy Stirratt*, 2016 | *Perfect Vessels: Works by David Orr*, 2016.
Assisted in obtaining and fulfilling the following grants:
* Exhibitions and Interpretation Grant from the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, 2010
* National Endowment for the Humanities Exhibition Grant, 2013
* Museums for America Grant from The Institute of Museum and Library Services, 2014
* Digital Initiatives Grant, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 2014
- 2007 – 2009** ♦ **Teaching Assistant** for introductory design and photography courses, University of Pennsylvania, 2007–2009
- 2004 – 2009** ♦ **Graphic Designer and Desktop Publisher**, Alumni and Recreation departments of The University of Pennsylvania
- 2003 – 2007** ♦ **Art Gallery Curator**, Philomathean Society of the University of Pennsylvania
- 2003 – present** ♦ **Professional Fine Art Photographer & Graphic Designer**, evinumen.com

EDUCATION

- 2001** ♦ **International Baccalaureate Diploma with Honors**, Athens College, Greece
- 2006** ♦ **Bachelors in Fine Arts**, concentrations in Photography and Design, University of Pennsylvania, United States
Elective courses in Art History, Museum Studies, Philosophy, and Graphic Design
- 2007** ♦ **Post Baccalaureate in Gross Anatomy**, 2008, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, United States
- 2009** ♦ **Masters of Fine Arts**, Concentration in Photography, University of Pennsylvania, United States
- ongoing** ♦ **Continuing education and professional development** courses and workshops on museum conservation, lighting design, archiving techniques, social media management for cultural institutions, storytelling for museums, forensic anthropology, and others

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Photograph contribution for feature film by the Brothers Quay, “*Through The Weeping Glass: On the Consolations of Life Everlasting (Limbos & Afterbreezes in the Mütter Museum)*”, 2011
- ◆ Feature photographs for New York Times articles “*Animators Amok in a Curiosity Cabinet*” by F. Lindz, October 13, 2010, and “*Stark Reminders of How Uncivil a War It Was: ‘Broken Bodies, Suffering Spirits’ at the Mütter Museum*” by D. Grady, January 14, 2014
- ◆ Photography for *Boy of Bone, a Collection of Short Stories Inspired by the Mütter Museum*, by K. R. Sands
- ◆ Cover photography for the *Photographic Regional Atlas of Bone Disease: A Guide to Pathologic and Normal Variation in the Human Skeleton* (3rd Ed.) by Robert W. Mann and David R. Hunt, 2013
- ◆ Photography for *Dr. Mutter’s Marvels: A True Tale of Intrigue and Innovation at the Dawn of Modern Medicine* by Cristin O’Keefe Aptowicz, 2014
- ◆ Museum object and exhibition photography for the Mütter Museum website (www.muttermuseum.org) and *Memento Mütter*, a grant funded virtual exhibition available at: <http://memento.muttermuseum.org>
- ◆ *Body-snatching and the curious case of One-Eyed Joe*, interview for the National Public Radio program “*On the Pulse*” by Elana Gordon. Also published on “*Criminal: a Podcast*,” 2016
- ◆ Photography for feature article “*The Race to Rescue the Remains of an 18th Century Cemetery*” by Allison Meier for *Hyperallergic*, April 2017
- ◆ Photography and text for RTÉ article “*Remains of the Day: Inside Trinity’s Hidden Anatomical Museum*,” November 2018

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- ◆ *Imagining the Body Abnormal: Art and Artifice in Early Medical Photography*, Science on Tap Lecture Series, Philadelphia, PA, US, 2010
- ◆ *The curious story of One-eyed Joe and the 1867 Anatomy Act*, presentation at the Death Salon conference, Philadelphia, PA, US, 2015
- ◆ Artist’s presentation for the CAMD Dean’s Lecture Series, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA, US, 2016
- ◆ *In the Margins: How Physicians, Resurrectionists and Collectors Evaded the Law in 19th Century Philadelphia*, “Corpses, Cadavers and Catalogues: The Mobilities of Dead Bodies and Body Parts, Past and Present, An Interdisciplinary Seminar,” 2016, London, UK
- ◆ *Vanitas: the History of Death in Art*, “Creative Mornings” lecture series, Philadelphia, PA, US, 2017
- ◆ *Talking with the Dead: Engaging with Human Remains in a Contemporary Medical Museum Context*, Irish Museums Association Annual Conference, “Transforming Museums,” 2020, Athlone, Ireland

SELECTED ART EXHIBITIONS

- ◆ *Darker Nature*: Fall 2005 Maryland Institute of Art, Baltimore, MD
- ◆ *Negative Exposure*: Fall 2006 Trinity Art Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- ◆ *Body Exhibit*: Spring 2007 PhotoWest Art Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- ◆ *American Photo Images of the Year*: Fall 2007 Splashlight Studio, New York, NY
- ◆ *Through You*: Fall 2008 Charles Addams Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- ◆ *PennMFA Thesis Show*: Spring 2009 Icebox Project Space, Philadelphia, PA
- ◆ *Where There’s Smoke, There’s Smoke*: Summer 2009, Michael Steinberg Fine Art, New York, NY
- ◆ *Annual Thanatography Pop-up Art Show*: 2013-2016 (Curator & exhibiting artist) Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA
- ◆ *One Minute Auras*, CruxSpace Gallery: Winter 2018, Philadelphia, PA

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member of Museums Association (MA) and Irish Museums Association (IMA)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.