

# Helen Klisser During

Creating access, insight and engagement through the arts.

## FULL RESUME



### PRIVATE ART ADVISORY

1991 - present

Helen Klisser During is an art advisor, curator, and photojournalist who has championed global art projects for over 25 years. She creates, documents and fosters cultural exchange to promote understanding and address issues of social justice. An art world insider, Helen nurtures relationships among individuals and institutions to create significant cultural initiatives.

Klisser During is recognized by KEA as a [World Class New Zealander](#). International consultancies have included [Gibbs Farm](#) (New Zealand), [The Hall Art Foundation](#) (Massachusetts, Vermont, and Germany), [Art Dubai](#) (United Arab Emirates), [Art Toronto](#) (Canada), and [The Armory Show](#) (New York). Helen serves as international ambassador at large for [Auckland Art Gallery](#) and [Auckland University of Technology](#) (New Zealand); and as the U.S. Development Manager for [The Helen Clark Foundation](#).

She is the artistic director and co-founder with Mary Himes of [#UNLOAD: Arts Trigger a Conversation](#), a statewide initiative in Connecticut to promote conversation through arts and education, around the divisive issue of gun violence in America. She is a gubernatorial-appointed member of [The Connecticut Arts Council](#), chair of the art acquisitions committee for Connecticut, and artistic director emeritus of [Westport Arts Center](#).

### PHOTOJOURNALISM

1998 – present

#### Photo Assignments

- Still photographer for Gaylene Preston's 2016 documentary "[My Year with Helen](#)"
- United Nations Development Program: Rwanda and Malawi – Documented Hon. Helen Clark, Director/Administrator UNDP, Oct 2012 trip
- AmeriCares - Dominican Republic, Guatemala, El Salvador (Overnight airlift 2011)
- Won awards for photojournalistic excellence in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 from the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ), Connecticut Chapter.

#### Publications

- "The History-Rich Gesamtkunstwerk: Second Museum of the Hall Art Foundation." Larry's List, 2018

## **Publications (continued)**

- "Gesamtkunstwerk Schloss Derneburg." Magazin, Summer 2018
- Wallis, Stephen. "Step Inside the Hall Art Foundation's New Home." Architectural Digest, October 2017
- Bond, Jordan. "Exclusive: Kiwi Captures Dramatic Aftermath of New York Crash." New Zealand Herald, May 19, 2017
- "New Yorker Kunststiftung präsentiert Kunst im niedersächsischen Schloss Derneburg," Monopol Magazin, May 7, 2017
- Klisser During, Helen. "Summer Ski Touring: A New Zealand Adventure That Takes You Far Off the Beaten Path." Connecticut Cottages & Gardens, July/August 2016
- Watkins, Tracy. "National Portrait: Helen Clark Gunning for Top UN Job." www.stuff.co.nz, April 9, 2016
- McQuillan, Laura. "Helen Clark Makes Pitch for Secretary General Job in Speech to United Nations." www.stuff.co.nz, April 15, 2016
- Gaylene Preston Productions. "My Year with Helen" still photographer for New Zealand documentary film.
- Helen Klisser During has been a regular contributor to WestportNow.com since 2010
- Cag, Derin. "Powerful Women Secrets: Helen Clark." Richtopia.com, May 2016
- "From the Studio of Gary Komarin." Connecticut Cottages & Gardens photo, March 2016
- Connecticut Cottages & Gardens cover photo, November 2014
- Loynd, Ann. "Vantage Point: From their CT Studios, Five Groundbreaking Artists See their Works Come to Life." Connecticut Cottages & Gardens, November 2014
- Klisser During, Helen. "Down at the Farm: An Art Advisor and Curator...Gives CTC&G an Exclusive Tour of One of the World's Most Astounding Sculpture Parks." Connecticut Cottages & Gardens, September 2007
- Art New Zealand cover photo, spring 1998
- Klisser During, Helen. "Venice Biennale: The Irresistible Lure of the World's Premier Art Exhibit." Connecticut Cottages & Gardens, September 2013
- Klisser During, Helen. "Venice Biennale Image Gallery." Connecticut Cottages & Gardens (online), September 2013
- Jahmane. "Takin' it to the Streets..." Connecticut Cottages & Gardens, September 2013

## **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / CURATOR**

1998 – present

### **Artistic Director & Co-Founder with Mary Himes, #UNLOAD: Arts Trigger a Conversation**

#### Exhibition and Program Venues:

- Samuel Owens Gallery, Stamford, CT
- Fairfield University Art Museum, Fairfield, CT
- ArtSpace, New Haven, CT
- Ely Center of Contemporary Art, New Haven, CT
- Westport Country Playhouse, Westport, CT

**Artistic Director Emeritus, Westport Arts Center, Westport, CT**

**2016-present**

**Artistic Director, Westport Arts Center, Westport, CT**

**2010-15**

#### Notable Programs

- Founded *Westport Artists Collective*, won ACE Award from Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County
- Founded *ArtCafé* – weekly gathering of artists, collectors and art lovers to review art events
- Created *ArtCafé Blog* – to inform collectors, artists & community of happenings in the art world
- Initiated *Wednesday Brown Bag Artist Lunchtime Lectures*, featuring artist talks

## **Artistic Director, Westport Arts Center (continued)**

### Notable Exhibitions

- *Eric Fischl*, 2015
- *EAST meets WESTport: Marton Nemes*, 2015
- *Leonard Everett Fisher: A Retrospective*, 2015
- *Coney Island: Side Show* – companion to Wadsworth Atheneum’s exhibition, 2015
- *Edward Burtynsky: Nature Speaks* - from the Andrew & Christine Hall Collection, 2014
- *Scents & Soles: Robert Cottingham and Nina Bentley*, 2014
- *Abstract Notes: Smilow Cancer Hospital patients and their families*, 2014
- *On the Wire Veiled Rebellion* - photo essay on Afghan women by Lynsey Addario, 2014
- *Chuck Close: Photo Maquettes*, 2013
- *Bird’s-Eye View* - Richard Artschwager, David Maisel, Massimo Vitali and others from the Hall Collection, 2013
- *William Wegman: The Traveler* - postcard paintings, 2013
- *Pen Pals and Dreams*: letters & drawings inspired by the Copper documentary, 2012
- *Muse* - works by Paul Cadmus, Jane Sutherland, Pablo Picasso, Chuck Close, 2012
- *Landscape: Scene / Re-seen* - photographs from the Hall Collection, 2012
- *Toy Stories* – Alexander Calder, Jeff Koons, Nick Cave, Charles Ray, Murakami, Tom Friedman, Peter Drake, 2012
- *On Duty: Arnold Odermatt, Enrique Metinides & Arthur Felling (Weegee)*, 2012
- *Malawi With Love* a collaborative exhibition with Save the Children featuring artwork by Malawian children, 2011
- *Christo and Jeanne-Claude*, 2011
- *Hope in Haiti*: photographs by 50 children from Carma Foundation Orphanage in Haiti, 2011
- *Divine Comedy: Drawings by R. Crumb and Roz Chast*, 2010
- *Memory: Works by Mayer Kirshenblatt, Leo Kok, Christian Boltanski, Sophie Calle, Anselm Keifer*, 2010

**Curator, United Nations**, New York, NY **2011**  
*Champions to End Malaria – featuring PLATON*

**Gallery Director, Silvermine Guild Arts Center**, New Canaan, CT **2000-07**

### Notable Exhibitions (\*Sponsored by the Emily Hall Tremain Foundation)

- *James Rosenquist: The Speed of Light and Beyond\**, 2007
- *WaxWorks: Jasper Johns, Robert Ryman\**, 2006
- *Culture & DNA: Science Meets Art*, 2006
- *BUILD: Louis Kahn/Architecture/Sculpture\**, 2005
- *Consciousness and Process: The Digital in Sculpture, Photography, Animation,\** 2005
- *Christo and Jeanne-Claude 'Two Works in Progress\**, 2002
- *Paul Cadmus Retrospective\**, 2002
- *Icons of Twentieth Century Photography*, 2001
- *Michael Mazur: Dante’s Inferno\**, 2001
- *From Rembrandt to Ryman\**, 2000
- *A Little of Chelsea comes to Connecticut*, 2000

## **ART & INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCIES**

2008- present

**U.S. Development Manager, The Helen Clark Foundation** **2018-present**

- This Foundation was started by Hon. Helen Clark, 37<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1999-08, Administrator of The United Nations Development Programme from 2009-2017

### **International Ambassador at Large, Auckland University of Technology (AUT)**

Auckland, New Zealand

**2018-present**

- Curiosity, creativity, connection and collaboration are the core teaching philosophy at AUT, which represents the best of New Zealand with a firm global perspective.

### **International Ambassador at Large, Auckland Art Gallery**

Auckland, New Zealand

**2017-present**

- This leading cultural institution in Aotearoa New Zealand has a collection of 17,000+ artworks, and serves a place for art, a catalyst for ideas, and a center for collaboration and dialogue.

### **Art Consultant, Hall Art Foundation, Massachusetts, Vermont, Germany 2017-present**

- With a collection of 5000+ works by several hundred major international artists, Andrew and Christine Hall make their collection available for the enjoyment and education of the public. They operate 2 museum spaces (Germany & Vermont), partner with MassMoCA (Massachusetts), and collaborate with public institutions around the world.
- Prior to acting as an Art Consultant for the Hall Art Foundation, Helen has collaborated with Christine and Andrew Hall since 2011. She curated four exhibitions for the Westport Art Center, CT: *Eric Fischl* in 2015; *Edward Burtynsky: Nature Speaks* in 2014; *Bird's-Eye View* in 2013; and *Landscape: Scene / Re-seen* in 2012

### **Art Consultant, Gibbs Farm, Kaipara Harbour North Island, New Zealand 1990-present**

- Gibbs Farm is a sculpture collection set on North Auckland property is dominated by the immense Kaipara Harbour, the largest harbour in the Southern Hemisphere. Given the extreme weather and vast scale of the landscape, the artworks displayed here are simultaneously powerful artistic statements and singular engineering feats. "Nearly everything here is the biggest art work the artist has ever done," says founder Alan Gibbs.
- Helen has been involved since the beginning of the made introductions of Richard Serra, Sol LeWitt and Zhan Wang that led to major sculptural projects there.

### **Art Consultant, Art Dubai, New York Armory, Art Toronto**

**2008-present**

- Art Consultant to liaise and host VIP Collectors

### **Public Art Project Consultant, UNICEF, Saatchi, NYC & Co.**

**2009-10**

- Aided in the *Above Water* public art project

## **ARTS OUTREACH**

1998-present

### **Juror/Valuation Panel**

- New Haven Paint and Clay Club, 2013
- Deutscher-Menzies Auction House, Australia: NY Expert, International Art, 2000-present
- *Innovation Design Awards: Juror, Connecticut Cottages & Gardens Magazine, CT, 2007*
- *Radius Emerging Artist Workshop: Presenter (hosted by The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield Guild of Artists & Westport Arts Center, CT), 2007*
- Connecticut Commission of the Arts, CT, 2006 & 2007
- Tremaine Art Foundation: three person jury of contemporary curators, 2006
- Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT
- Katonah Museum, Arts Panel, Katonah, NY

## **Hope in Haiti**

**2010-11**

- Organized "Kids with Cameras" Carma House Foundation to give 50 orphans disposable cameras to photograph their lives in post-earthquake Haiti to be shown via "Hope in Haiti" exhibitions
- Documented post-earthquake Haiti photographs of hospitals, Port au Prince, and tent cities.
- Sent to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Exhibited "Hope in Haiti" at Westport Arts Center in 2010 and Saatchi + Saatchi NYC in 2011.

## **Speaker, Center for Architecture, American Institute of Architecture (AIA) 2009**

- "Electric Fountain" at Rockefeller Center: A project by artists Tim Noble & Sue Webster from concept and fabrication, to installation. March 3. (<http://iesny.org/>)

## **Moderator "An Insiders Insight to the Art World," Fairfield University 2002**

- A unique peek into New York City's major "art world" players
- Five on-campus lecturers including: Thomas Krens, Director Guggenheim Museums; Knight Landesman, Executive Publisher, ARTFORUM; Christopher Eykyn, Director, Impressionism & Modern Art, Christies Auction House; Paul Morris, Chelsea Art Gallery Owner

## **Art Education After-School Program Director, Weston Public Schools, CT 1998-01**

- Developed and implemented hands-on after school enrichment program "Portrait of an Artist," an in-depth study of artists' lives, technique and work
- Developed a two-week summer workshop: *20th Century Art, Music and Dance*

## **CORPORATE MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT**

1981-1991

### **National Brand Manager, Pepperidge Farm Inc.,**

Division of Campbell Soup Co., Rolls Norwalk, CT

**1988-91**

- Managed 35 varieties of rolls and bakery products with over \$60 million in sales revenue, nationally
- Managed Stuffing and Croutons nationally \$60 million in revenue

### **Marketing Director**

**1981-86**

**Klissers Farmhouse Bakeries, Auckland, New Zealand**

- Director of Sales, Marketing, Advertising, Public Relations, Research, Development and Distribution
- Implemented franchising and licensing projects for "Vogel's" Bread in Holland, Hong Kong, and Singapore

## **RECOGNITIONS**

- Member of The Explorer's Club, for international work in social justice and photo-documentation
- Gubernatorial Appointment to Connecticut Arts Council, 2016
- Received ACE (Arts & Culture Empowerment) Award from The Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County for co-founding The Westport Artists' Collective, 2016
- Recognized by KEA as a World Class New Zealander, 2015
- Prizewinning Photojournalist, Society of Professional Journalists, 2011-17
- Received Tremaine Art Foundation Grants, 2000-12
- University of Auckland Sportswoman of the Year, 1980
- New Zealand Ski Team, 1973-1976

## BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Weston, Westport Chamber of Commerce, CT, 2012-13  
Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT, 2008

## PRESS

- "Reframing How We Talk About Guns," NZEdge.com, November 1, 2018
- "Playhouse Talk on 'Art and Gun Violence,'" WestportNow.com, October 29, 2018
- Dumas, Tim. "The Art of Conversation: How two women are using art to encourage civilized discussion about gun safety." Greenwich Magazine, October 2018
- "Helen Klisser During Unloads on Gun Violence." NZEdge.com, August 1, 2018
- Marks, Karen. "Deconstructing Guns, Reconstructing Art." The Arts Paper, July 13, 2018
- Wanna, Carly. "Guns Turned Into Art." New Haven Independent, July 13, 2018
- "Gun Buyback Aims to Make Connecticut a Safer Place to Live." Advancing Kids, December 19, 2017
- "Chief Koskinas: Talk Needed on Pistol Permits and Mental Health Issues." Westport Now, December 11, 2017
- "Art Triggers Conversation About Guns." Westport Now, November 27, 2017.
- "'Up in Arms' Exhibit at Samuel Owens Gallery Stimulates Conversation on Guns." Greenwich Free Press, March 9, 2018
- Amarante, Joe. "#UNLOAD: Guns in the Hands of Artists Opening at Fairfield University Art Museum." New Haven Register, May 27, 2018
- Cascone, Sarah. "Editor's Picks: 12 Things Not to Miss in New York's Art World This Week." ArtNet News, May 28, 2018
- Boros, Phyllis A.S. "Provocative #UNLOAD: Guns in the Hands of Artists to Open at Fairfield University Art Museum
- "Gun Debate Exhibit Opens at Fairfield University Art Museum" News 12 CT, June 1, 2018
- Lang, Joel. "Art Exhibit Gives Decommissioned Street Guns to Artists to Express Their Views on Violence." Connecticut Post, June 5, 2018
- Papp, Justin. "Fighting Fire with Fire: Fairfield University Exhibition Uses Decommissioned Guns to Explore Gun Violence." Fairfield Citizen, May 31, 2018
- Dunne, Susan. "Artists #UNLOAD In Gun Exhibit at Fairfield University." Hartford Courant, June 26, 2018
- Nields, Annie. "Shock and Art: #UNLOAD Exhibit Takes on America's Gun Violence Epidemic." WSHU Public Radio, June 28, 2018
- Colasurdo, Christy. "Insider's Guide: Arts and Culture." Westport Magazine, January/February 2013
- Helle, Nancy. "The Art of Exploration: A Rewarding Journey at the Westport Arts Center." VENU Magazine, 2012
- McCall, Claire, "Toast of the Town," Simply You Living. Summer 2011/2012
- Hall, Mitchell. "Bread and Roses." Idealog, December 9, 2010
- "Helen During Resigns as Silvermine Gallery Director." Westport News, 2007
- Lombardi, D. Dominick. "Roz Chast: Theories of Everything and Much, Much More." culturecatch.com, April 16, 2007
- Streitfeld, L.P. "Silvermine Reinterprets Visionary Architect Louis Kahn." The Advocate & Greenwich Time, July 3, 2005
- Genocchio, Benjamin. "Telling Tales of History, Myth, Fantasy (and Real Life, Too)." The New York Times, April 10, 2005
- Streitfeld, L.P. "Restoring the Character Balance at Silvermine." Stamford Advocate, April 3, 2005
- Solomon, Alisa. "Art Makes a Difference." The Nation, October 21, 2004
- Eliasoph, Philip. "Silvermine Strikes Gold." Westport Magazine, March 2004
- Streitfeld, L.P. "Innovative Tradition at Silvermine." The Advocate & Greenwich Time, January 25, 2004
- "Biting the Big Apple: Two New Zealand Women Making a Big Splash in Gotham." Next

Magazine September 2003

### **PRESS (continued)**

- Streitfeld, L.P. "Extended Images of Self at Silvermine." The Advocate & Greenwich Time, July 13, 2003
- Zimmer, William. "Tribute to a Local Printmaker and, Yes, to His Paintings Too." The New York Times, November 3, 2002
- Streitfeld, L.P. "The Poetic Genius of Gabor Peterdi." The Advocate & Greenwich Time, November 3, 2002
- Streitfeld, L.P. "Rising Stars Meet 20th Century Masters at Silvermine." The Advocate & Greenwich Time, April 7, 2002
- Zimmer, William. "Dedicated to Fueling a Passion for the Arts." New York Times, May 6, 2000
- Streitfeld, L.P. "Invigorating New Blood at Silvermine." The Advocate and Greenwich Time,
- Lombardi, D. Dominick. "Southern Atmosphere." NYARTS magazine
- Lombardi, D. Dominick. "Waxworks." NYARTS magazine
- McLean, Terry. The Best of McLean. Hodder & Stoughton, 1984. "They Do Come Back" essay on page 150 as reprinted from the New Zealand Herald, September 8, 1979

### **EDUCATION**

Auckland University, MBA program – 2 out of 3 years, 1983-85

Auckland University, BA Art History, 1976-79

### **LANGUAGES**

English, Dutch, German