

Cleveland Design Competition

Project 2007 – Juror Biography

Zoë Ryan is a British curator and writer. She is currently the Neville Bryan Curator of Design at The Art Institute of Chicago, where, in addition to organizing exhibitions, she is building the museum's first collection of contemporary design. Prior to moving to Chicago she was Senior Curator at the Van Alen Institute in New York, a non-profit public art and architecture organization committed to improving the design of the public realm. Ryan was also editor of the *Van Alen Report*, the Institute's quarterly journal. She joined the Institute in Fall 2000 to lead research, publication, and exhibition projects. Ryan most recently organized the exhibition "The Good Life: New Public Spaces for Recreation," which opened in September 2006 and explored how public spaces are being redesigned to meet the needs of 21st century recreation and leisure. She edited the accompanying catalogue, distributed by Princeton Architectural Press (PAP). Ryan co-edited *Coney Island: Pavilions of Fun*, published in spring 2007, by PAP.

In 2004, she curated "VARIABLE CITY: Fox Square" (September 28-December 10, 2004), an exhibition of work by visual artist Julia Mandle and Ariel Krasnow, an urban designer, which explored the unique hybrid of outdoor site-specific performance and urban design research. In 2003 she curated "OPEN: new designs for public space" (June 11-October 31, 2003), an exhibition exploring innovative architecture, landscape, and urban design from cities across the globe, by renowned designers including Will Alsop, Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio, Craig Dykers, Peter Eisenman, Zaha Hadid, Walter Hood, and Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi. The show traveled to the National Building Museum in January 2005 and the Chicago Architecture Foundation in January 2006. In November 2006 it was shown as part of the Quito Biennial in Ecuador. In summer 2007 it will open at the Cleveland Museum of Contemporary Art.

In fall 2001 Ryan co-curated the exhibit "Renewing, Rebuilding, Remembering" (February 12 – July 9, 2002), which traveled to The Lighthouse, Glasgow. Ryan co-edited the accompanying publication *Information Exchange: How Cities Renew, Rebuild and Remember*, published in November 2002 with Distributed Art Publishers. The Institute projects she has managed include the October 2005 conference "The Politics of Design Competitions" organized with Princeton University and the April 2002 conference "Urban Design: Practices, Pedagogies, and Premises," organized with Columbia and Harvard Universities.

Prior to working at VAI Ryan was a curatorial assistant in the Architecture and Design Department of the Museum of Modern Art, New York and worked on "Projects 66: Campagna/Ingo Maurer" (November 27, 1998 - January 19, 1999). Before that she worked in the Department of Prints, Drawings and Paintings at The Victoria & Albert Museum on the exhibition "The Power of the Poster" (April 2 - July 26, 1998).

Ryan has a Master's degree in Art History from Hunter College, New York and a Bachelor's degree in Art History from the University of Sussex. She is a member of the New Leadership Associates of ArtTable. She is often called upon as a juror and has been asked to speak at numerous conferences and panels globally. Her writing on art and design has been published internationally in *The Architect's Newspaper*, *Blueprint*, *Contemporary*, *Monument*, *Icon*, and *Log*.