

FRAN OSBORNE

Telephone: (510) 717 8612 Email franosborne@mac.com

Fran is a designer with international experience and demonstrated success in developing, delivering, and evaluating multi-disciplinary cultural projects and exhibitions. Recognized for creative approaches, accurate needs analysis and sensitive management of people, projects and budgets, Fran also has two years of recent experience with universal design, multi-lingual interpretation and access for people with disabilities. Originally from the UK, Fran is resident in California and was previously a designer and project manager for Higgins Gardner & Partners, a London-based architectural practice with an international reputation in the field of cultural design.

Education

BA (Hons), *Typography & Graphic Communication*, Reading University, UK
MA *Museum Studies*, San Francisco State University, California

Recent experience

Fran has worked independently and as part of many museum and design consultancy teams, often juggling simultaneous projects and tight deadlines to create a wide range of exhibitions and cultural events for diverse audiences. She has commissioned new work from artists, film-makers and performers, developed exhibit concepts and interpretive plans, undertaken research, written exhibit text, designed graphics, delivered gallery talks, presentations, and generated innovative programming for family learning and to engage new audiences. Fran has also written grants, managed collection acquisition and conservation, production logistics, project budgets, and supervised exhibit fabrication and installation.

Curator and graphic designer: *Patient No More: People with Disabilities Securing Civil Rights* (July–December 2015, Ed Roberts Campus, Berkeley, CA).

A major exhibition introducing the complex narratives of the “Section 504” sit-in of the Federal Building in San Francisco in 1977 by over 100 people with disabilities to formalize civil rights law. A main exhibit at the Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley is accompanied by a traveling version, an accessible website and curriculum materials. A fearless enquiry into best practices of universal design, practical prototyping, consultation with community representatives and humanities advisors helped create dynamic and innovative access features throughout.

- Guided the academic team from the Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University in developing, defining and refining initial project scope, concepts and goals.
- Worked with academics, access experts, design team colleagues, filmmakers, and undergraduate students (history and journalism) to research and create a major exhibition covering a significant civil rights narrative for the US disability community.
- Provided background research and helped create accessible video histories using archival film footage and contemporary interviews.
- Initiated and maintained contacts with activists, scholars, photographers, filmmakers, journalists and protest participants to create community engagement and fully develop the narrative content.
- Designed graphics and negotiated rights for photographic, audio and film material.

- Co-created and prototyped innovative interactive elements for audience engagement, whereby visitors use social media platforms to share their own protest issues and slogans.
- Delivered curator lectures and talks for the public.
- Published research paper about the early stages of the project in 2014.
- Visit: <http://longmoreinstitute.sfsu.edu/patient-no-more>

Curator: *In Concert* (September 2015, NIAD, Richmond, CA)

Invited curator for an online exhibition of contemporary art for NIAD (National Institute for Art and Disability), Richmond, California.

- <http://niadart.org/blog/on-view-aaoe-32-in-concert-organized-fran-osborn/>

Curator and designer: *'DIS/PLAY: a disability takeover show'* (March–April 2015, SOMArts Arts and Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA).

A 12-month curatorial residency through competitive application which resulted in a month-long exhibition of collaborative work by more than 35 artists and public programming for underserved and diverse audiences at the intersection of race, disability, gender and sexuality.

- Created the vision and concept for a large survey exhibition of contemporary work by artists, dancers, comedians, videographers, performance and installation artists, poets and writers.
- Developed and managed three public events, including performance, dance, artist panels, spoken word performance, video screenings and discussions.
- Worked with staff and artists to develop and refine the online presence, publicity and interpretive materials.
- Commissioned new work and facilitated extensive collaborations by large artists' groups, A.C.T. in San Francisco, as well as a range of individual artists and collectors from diverse communities.
- DIS/PLAY hosted the quarterly meeting of the Bay Area Arts Access Collective (BAAAC).
- Visit: <http://www.somarts.org/display>

Consultant: *Beauty Given By Grace: The Biblical Art of Sadao Watanabe* (Nov–Dec 2014, First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, CA).

- Registrar, curator and designer of a traveling exhibition of 70 stencil prints by the late Japanese printmaker Sadao Watanabe.
- Worked with the project team to create new thematic strands for the exhibit, writing and editing new wall text, designing publicity and performing collection management and registrar functions with SFSU graduate students. The project included extensive liaison with the local community and facility administrators.

Curator and designer Museum of Islamic Art (September 2011, Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar)

- Design and logistics planning for 'The Eloquent Eye', a retrospective exhibition of the work of American Islamic calligrapher Mohamed Zakariyah at the Museum of Islamic Art, Qatar.

UK Projects with Higgins Gardner & Partners

Design consultant and project manager Shaw House (2006–8, Newbury, Berkshire, UK)

- Created sympathetic design of permanent exhibition, mobile interactive educational kiosks and related materials for a new museum and temporary exhibition space within a historic Tudor country house. Worked closely with client team to establish goals and objectives and project managed to completion.

Consultant Eastbury Manor House (2005–9, Barking, UK)

- Consultation and design for a successful grant application for a £1.2 million refurbishment of Eastbury Manor House, and related interpretive design projects for the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Consultant Bootle Heritage Centre (2003–4, Liverpool, UK)

- Co-creator of a Feasibility Study to restore a museum with a lifelong learning centre, temporary exhibition and reflective spaces for local community use.

Design Consultant National Bank of Dubai Pearl Museum (2000–3 Dubai, UAE)

- Creation of a bi-lingual permanent exhibition on the history of pearling, and the development of banking and commerce in the Arabian Gulf.
- Initial research from primary sources and creation of musical and oral history components, collection management of historic archive and collection of pearls, coins, currency and trading artefacts. Writing, design and project management.

Design Consultant Tarbat Discovery Centre (1998–2000, Inverness, Scotland)

- Graphic designer and content developer for a major Archaeological Heritage Center with a focus on the study of the Picts in the Scottish Highlands.

Teaching experience

Lecturer: Museum Exhibition Design and Planning, Museum Studies Masters Program, San Francisco State University, (Fall 2014)

Visiting Lecturer: Chelsea College of Art, London, UK (2006–7)

Awards

Tarbat Discovery Centre, Commendation, Silver Unicorn Award, British Archaeological Awards for interpretation, 2000.

Publications and panels

'Universal Access in Exhibition Design', panel member, Bay Area Arts Access Collective, December 3, 2015. <https://www.facebook.com/events/761857487293478/>

Osborne, F., Luby, E.M. and Fogarty C., 'An Accessibility Adventure: Teaching and Learning Exhibition Design Through the Lens of Disability Studies', *Exhibitionist Journal* (National Association for Museum Exhibition), Fall, 2014.

Recent Press Coverage

Berkley Times, 'Must See: Patient No More' by Todd Kerr, August 13, 2015.

SF Chronicle, 'SOMArts show DIS/PLAY combats tired notions of disability' by N. Nataraj, March 25, 2015.

Daily Californian, 'DIS/PLAY exhibition brings accessibility to art world, sheds light on ableism' by Sarah Elizabeth Adler, April 16, 2015.