

THE WORLD
AND ITS
THINGS IN THE
MIDDLE OF
THEIR
INTIMACY

CURATED BY SARAH WALKO

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Ira Eduardovna, Jay Gould,
Dana Levy, Robert Lobe,
Lucia Papco

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FRIDMAN GALLERY

287 SPRING STREET
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*“Let your soul
stand cool and composed
before a million universes”*

Walt Whitman

The idea of parallel universes, or dimensions that resemble our own, has been a staple in works of science fiction and metaphysics. Writer Kurt Vonnegut’s repeating character Kilgore Trout called mirrors “leaks,” as he believed they were a connection to another universe.

This group exhibition of video, photography and sculpture, featuring works by Ira Eduardovna, Jay Gould, Dana Levy, Robert Lobe and Lucia Papco, aims to blur boundaries of concrete worlds, piecing together multiple realities and offering nature and memory as portals into otherness. Similar to that strange state, in which we find ourselves when waking, the artists explore the perspective of being between places.

By inhabiting the space between multiple simultaneous worlds, the works in this exhibition offer a unique vantage point illuminating how our reality is profoundly integrated with many other complex and mystical realms; the collusion of the past, present and future; and our relationship with the animate and inanimate. In our contemporary world, where many have lost a sense of connection with the magical, these artists open our minds to the divine part of life and to the infinite imagination.

Sarah Walko

The Cherry Orchard

Two channel video installation
Plaster mold of a wooden door,
sheetrock, projection
Mold 94 x 28 x 8 in
Sheetrock 47 x 16 in

For *The Cherry Orchard*, Ira Eduardovna reinterprets a scene from Chekhov's homonymous play of a family gathering while the cherry trees are chopped down. In Eduardovna's video, the artist's own family performs the Russian ritual of sitting together before separation. The installation reflects the intimate and domestic space where family gathers, with the video projected on a structure referencing a door, accompanied by the audio of her father whistling a waltz by Aram Khachaturian colliding with the sound of birds singing in the distance.

Ira Eduardovna

The artist explores ideas of contained longing and nostalgia. In Eduardovna's work, memory acts like a portal onto parallel worlds that are suspended in time, unlocked and delivered through the use of rituals.

The piece poetically highlights both familial rituals in replacement of language and the language of birdsong. Both serve as metaphors for complex communication - its necessity, its beauty and everything in between.



Dana Levy

Dana Levy's visual poems investigate the role of memory and identity in historical, social and political situations. Her works in video, installation and photography recreate a point in history that fluctuates between what is revealed and what is concealed. Focusing on the relationship man has with controlling and manipulating the wilderness, one enters scenarios where catastrophic events have evidently preceded the encounter. Experiencing Levy's work is like walking into the end of a dramatic story, rich with images provoking curiosity and emotion but few clues to unravel the consequences of the characters' decisions that led to the mysterious new reality.

Levy's pieces often feel primordial. In *Aftermath*, the artist presents an apocalyptic landscape of a flooded city, the dark remains of what once was the only evidence for the scope of the disaster. The scene is subdued, lyrical and stunning amongst the sense of loss. Destruction and resurrection, life

Aftermath

2009

Video 6 min

Collaboration with sculptor Sasha Serber
Original soundtrack by Joni Rokotnitz

and death, order and chaos, belonging and migration, are all dualities that inhabit Levy's artistic universe. Levy's stories do not command judgment, but instead are dark and poetic investigations between the natural and man-made and what we know and what we can imagine. Like Goethe, whose study of alchemy infused his literary works, Levy's work recalls "the blackening in alchemy" in which all is reduced to its essence, pregnant with the possibility of other worlds as yet unseen in the profound darkness.

The *Mineral Vitrails* series explores the artist's fascination with classification and nature's transformative power. Levy explains, "*Natural resources replace religious icons, and become a metaphor for new religion, where the savior no longer appears a figurative god, but rather in the form of precious objects. If once war was mostly caused by conflicting beliefs based in religion, today it is mostly natural resources that have become the reason behind world conflicts. As in stained glass windows, once the light passes through the colored glass it changes into something of great profundity and rapture.*"



Dryad

2012
Hammered Aluminum
80 x 33 x 77 in

Robert Lobe's aluminum hollow sculptures replicate the surface of rocks and trees recording their structure in one particular time in history. The new aluminum sculpture is a shell of the original, its fossilized doppelganger, locked in time and independent from its original source and its natural life. The storytelling is done through the layering of shapes and surfaces; and the accumulation of the past stratum tells the story of the present.

The artist's personal take on the ancient method of repoussé, by which he hammers metal sheets onto the skin of the tree, alters the structure of aluminum to achieve bas relief forms that capture and play with light and form. Lobe's practice, more meditative and intuitive than analytic, creates meaningful reflection on the man-made and natural world.

Robert Lobe

This supernatural is present in Lobe's *Dryad*, the female spirit of the tree. Although sculpting something we see everywhere everyday, he transforms the tree into an animated myth. In looking at the work, our perceptions shift from the narrative to the alchemical, equipping us with the ability to perceive a magical reality.

"The tree is more than first a seed, then a stem, then a living trunk, and then dead timber. The tree is a slow, enduring force straining to win the sky."

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Wisdom Of The Sands*.



Jay Gould

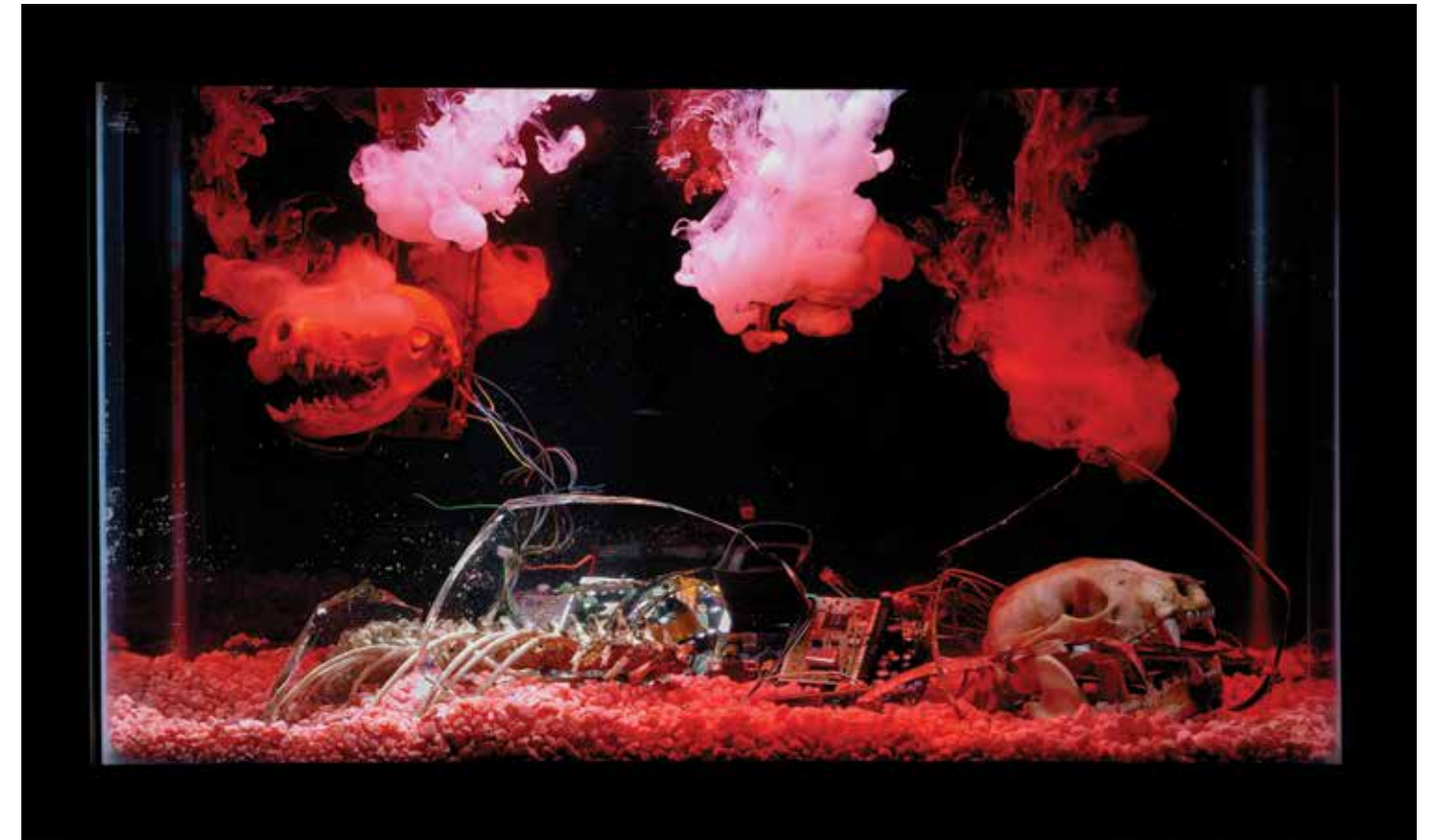
Experiment #15

2006
Pigment Print
24 x 36 in

Jay Gould considers his art to be “*conceptual explorations in photography, science and storytelling.*” Approaching his work in the manner of a science experiment, the artist begins each project with an initial hypothesis and experimental methodology that embraces failure, unpredicted results, and discovery. Like a detective using visual experimentation, he seeks to unveil the mystery of the reality that surrounds us, and the connections linking the natural world with the unseen and mysterious reality beneath the surface.

Using photography as his main tool, often combined with computer graphics, drawing, laser-cutting, sculpture, video and installation, the artist embraces the medium’s ability to manipulate truth. His images are key frames of a moment in time in his fictional non-linear universes. The fabricated narratives are presented as a series of explorations and constructions set within a stage, and the events construe a strange destruction balanced with subtle humor. “*These stages are created physically and photographed in an aquarium, with no digital compositing in order that these events remain truthful in some relative way,*” explains Gould.

Gould further imbues the work with a sense of provocation, wonder and mystery relating to his obsession with the “multi-universe” in modern physics. Gould states: “*the possibility of parallel universes is one of the most provocative curiosities of all. Nearly everything that defies explanation has considered alternative universes, from déjà vu, to religion to physics.*”



That Country I #2

2012
24x29,5 inch Baryt print

Lucia Papco uses landscape as a portal to blur the boundary between representation and creation. Using black and white processes to manipulate images, she creates contemplative abstract narratives transporting the viewer to a place, both familiar and constructed, where both plot and space are obscured.

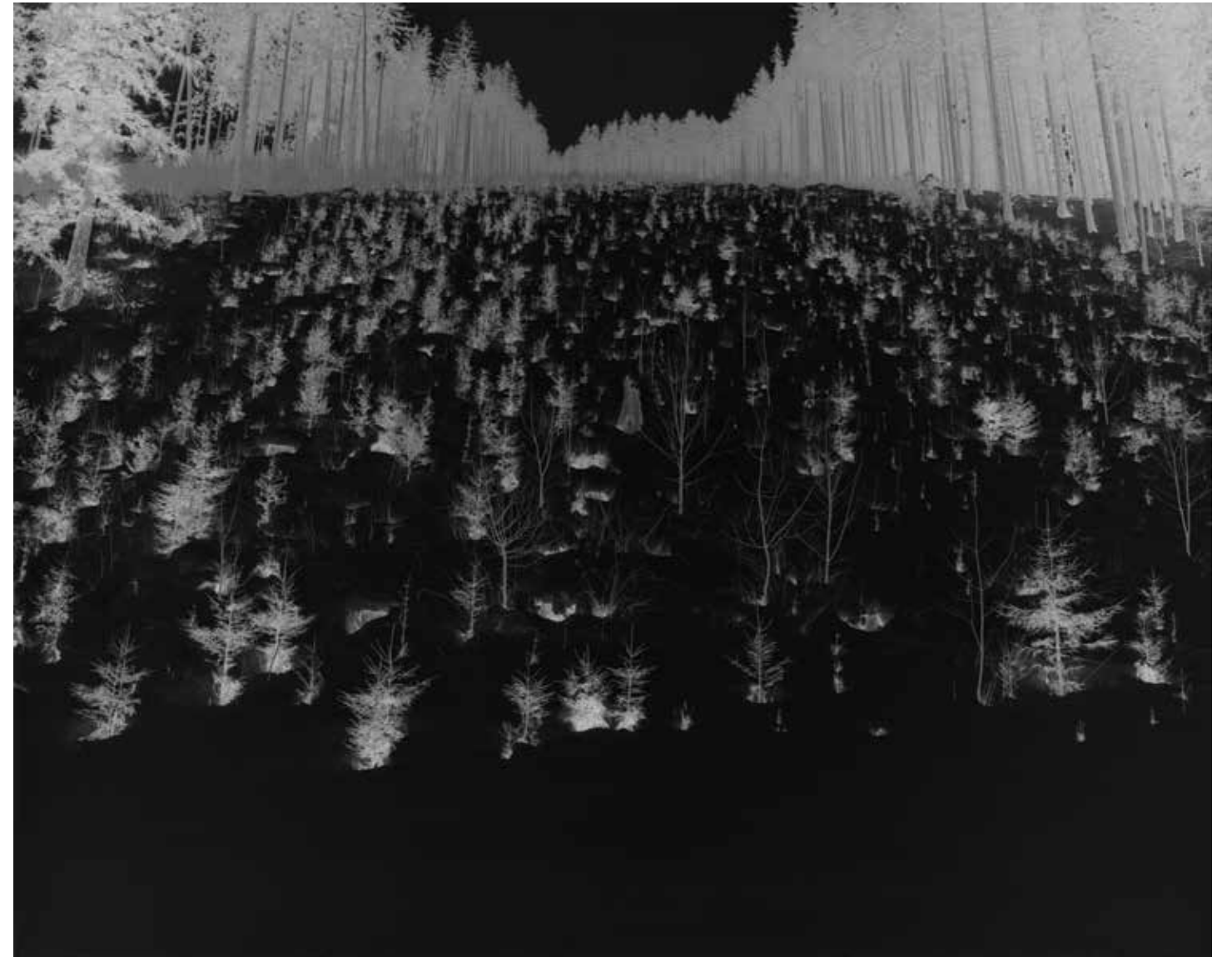
In her work, a new space forms behind the actual landscape and the visible surface of the print, creating a shift in the understanding of image and place. The viewer is motivated to look deeper and deeper uncovering rich details, subtle coherences, and connections. For the artist, landscape, as a process-generated artwork, is shaped by human activity and the responsive action of nature. Papco writes of it exquisitely, *“What is fragmented must be connected in the oneness of the moment.”*

Lucia Papco

Lucia Papco invites one to enter a fathomless forest where myths reside and dissolve into an extension of all the lush surroundings. It is a dark but shimmering space. The artist explores nature’s complexity, history, and perception of reality seeking ecstatic illumination of truth.

“For every poet it is always morning in the world, and History a forgotten insomniac night; History and elemental awe are always our early beginning, because the fate of poetry is to fall in love with the world, in spite of History.”

Derek Walcott, The Nobel Prize in Literature 1992



IRA EDUARDOVNA

Born: Tashkent, Former Soviet Union
Education: 2011 MFA Hunter College New York;
2004 Bachelor in Education and Art, Tel Aviv
University.

Selected Awards and Residencies: 2013 Ostrovsky
Family Fund Award; Smack Mellon Hot Picks; Artis grant
recipient; 2012 Ostrovsky Family Fund Award; Triangle Art
Association Workshop.

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

- 2013 *Terminus*, Baruch college, NYC
- 2012 *That. There. Then.* - Momenta Art, Brooklyn NY
The Library Room - Braverman gallery, Tel Aviv,
Israel
- 2008 *Vagabond* - Punch gallery, Seattle WA, USA

Selected Recent Group Exhibitions:

- 2013 *Displaced Visions*, Émigré Photographers of the
20th Century, The Israel museum, Jerusalem,
Israel
Matinee, Lesley Heller gallery, NY,
- 2012 *Migration*, Helen Day Art Center, Stowe Vermont,
Recently seen, Center for Contemporary Art Tel
Aviv
Nothing sound in it and nothing true:
ArtGate gallery, NY (2 person show)
- 2011 Hunter MFA Thesis exhibition, Hunter college
gallery, New York
- 2010 *Signals*, Bat Yam Museum of Contemporary Art,
Israel
Volume, At1 art space, Los Angeles
Site Unseen, Royal College of Art Gallery, London

JAY GOULD

Born: Minneapolis, Minnesota
Education: M.F.A. Photography 2006, Savannah
College of Art & Design; B.F.A. Photography 2004,
University of Wisconsin.

Selected Awards and Residencies: 2011 Second Place
Award Los Angeles Center for Digital Art International
Juried Competition; 2010 Institute for Micromanufac-
turing Faculty Fellowship; 2009 First Place Juror Award
Newspace Center for Photography International Juried
Exhibition; 2008 Honorable Mention Silver Eye Center for
Photography; Merit Award Creative Quarterly Journal;
Summer Research Grant Recipient Louisiana Tech Univer-
sity, 2006 Berenice Abbott Prize for an Emerging Photog-
rapher, The Society for Photographic Education's Jeannie
Pierce Award.

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

- 2013 *Cell Stories*, Wilgus Gallery, Maryland Institute
College of Art, Baltimore, MD
- 2012 *Jay Gould & Jes Schrom*, | Bry Gallery at the
University of Louisiana, Monroe, LA
- 2011 *Interrogations on a Nanoscale*, Enterprise
Center Gallery, Ruston, LA
- 2010 *The Participatory Universe*, SRO Gallery, Texas
Tech University, Lubbock, TX
*Exploded Views: New Artwork by Jay Gould &
Joey Slaughter*, East Bank Gallery, Bossier City, LA
- 2009 *Exploded Views: New Artwork by Jay Gould &
Joey Slaughter*, Enterprise Center Gallery, Ruston,
LA
Inductive Reflections, Livaudais Gallery, Monroe,
LA
- 2008 *A Participatory Universe*, Alabama A&M Universi-
ty, Normal, AL
- 2007 *A Participatory Universe*, University of Notre
Dame, Notre Dame, IN

DANA LEVY

Born: Tel Aviv
Education: 1998 MA Electronic Imaging-Duncan
of Jordanstone College of Art- Dundee, Scotland
1997, BA Graphic Design Camberwell College of
Art, London UK

Selected Awards and Residencies: 2013 Beatrice Kol-
liner Young Artist Award; 2011 Rabinovitz Experimen-
tal Film Fund; 2010 Dumbo Arts Festival Best Studio
Award; Artis Grant Program; 2009 Israeli Lottery Arts
Fund; The Fund for Video-Art and Experimental Cinema
in Israel; 2008 Israeli Ministry of Culture and Sports
Young Artist Award; 2006 Hamburg short film festival
Jury Award "House by the Wall"; The Fund for Vid-
eo-Art and Experimental Cinema in Israel.

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

- 2013 *The Wake*, Wexner Art Center Columbus OH
- 2012 *World Order*, Center For Contemporary Arts Tel
Aviv, Israel
The Wake/ Silent Among Us- Loop Art Fair
Barcelona with Braverman Gallery Tel Aviv
The Fountain, Braverman Gallery Tel Aviv
- 2010 *Wild Thing*, Nicelle Beauchene Gallery NY
- 2009 *Dreams & Disasters*, Habres+Partner Gallery
Vienna, Austria
Re:Collecting, Vox Populi Gallery
Philadelphia
- 2008 *Habitat*, Tavi Dresdner gallery, Tel Aviv
- 2004 *Last Moments*, Haifa Museum of Art;
Back to the Sea, Rosenfeld Gallery Tel Aviv
- 2002 *Sing Me a Song and Tell me Your Story*, with
Marc Lafia Digital Art Lab Holon

ROBERT LOBE

Born: Detroit, Michigan
Education: 1967 B.A. Oberlin College, Ohio;
1968 Hunter College, New York

Selected Awards: 2003 Pollock-Krasner Foundation;
2001 Joan Mitchell Foundation; 1994 Adolph and Esther
Gottlieb Foundation Grant; 1993 Elizabeth Foundation;
1992 Pollock-Krasner Foundation; 1985 Guggenheim
Sculptor in Residence, Chesterwood, MA; 1984 Nation-
al Endowment for the Arts Fellowship; 1982 Creative
Artists Public Service Award; 1979 National Endowment
for the Arts Fellowship.

Selected Recent Solo Exhibitions:

- 2011 *Nature In Nature*, Prospect Park, Brooklyn NY
- 2010 *Robert Lobe*, LUX Art Institute, Encintas, CA
- 2006 *Robert Lobe Sculpture*, Douglas Udell Gallery,
Vancouver
- 2005-6 *The Landscape Transformed: The Sculpture Of
Robert Lobe*, Montalvo Gallery, CA
- 2005 *Ne Cede Malis Stags*, Leap Winery Salon Series,
CA
- 2003-4 *Four Trees*, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ
- 2003 Senior & Shopmaker Gallery, New York, NY
- 2002-3 *Works on Paper and a Sculpture*, Texas Gallery,
Houston, TX
- 2002 *A Clearing In The Woods*, The Katonah Muse-
um, Katonah, NY
- 2001 Nina Freudenheim Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 2000 Senior & Shopmaker Gallery, New York, NY

LUCIA PAPCO

Born: Bratislava, Slovakia

Education: 2012 Mag.Art, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Austria. Studio Martin Guttmann; 2010 B.A. Academy of Fine Arts and Design Bratislava, Slovakia; Academy of Fine Arts, Prague, Czech Republic.

Selected Awards and Residencies: 2013 Residency Unlimited, New York City, USA; 2012 Artist in Residence, AIR Krems, Krems, Austria; 2009, Essl Award CEE VIG.

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

- 2013 *He Who Passes Through That Country*, OPEN Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia
- 2012 *That Country*, Projectroom, Cyprian Majernik Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia
John in Love, Photoport Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia
- 2011 *Bright Side of The Horse*, 35m2 Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic

Selected Recent Group Exhibitions:

- 2013 *Like it!*, Essl Museum - Contemporary Art, Klosterneuburg, Austria
Hans Knoll - selected works from “Knoll talks” in Reality Raum Residenz, Atelier Suterena, Vienna, Austria
Liminal Inversions, Residency Unlimited, New York, NY
Layers, Medium Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia
- 2012 *Weird Scenes Inside The Gold Mine*, Parker’s Box Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2011 *A Youthful Medium, House of Art*, Bratislava, Slovakia
The Picture We Live In, Museum of the City of Usti nad Labem, Czech Republic
All my lovin, Sirius Arts Center, Cork, Ireland

Sarah Walko

Sarah Walko is an independent curator, multimedia artist and filmmaker, writer and the executive director of Triangle Arts Association, a not-for-profit arts organization in Brooklyn, NY that supports emerging and mid-career artists through residencies and exhibitions.

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