

Annual Report 2017-2018

*“We humanize what is going on in the world and in ourselves only by speaking of it, and in the course of speaking of it we learn to be human.”*

*-- Hannah Arendt, Men in Dark Times*

Dear Friends,

For over sixteen years, we have sought to uphold Hannah Arendt’s commitment to thinking in public as a mechanism for humanizing the world and ourselves, and the importance of civil disobedience in holding institutions accountable in matters of public interest. Through our programming, Slought has provided a vibrant and inclusive platform for people in Philadelphia, the world and the cloud, and affirmed the power of dialogue to change social conditions through creative action. Thank you for your continued support of this mission and our efforts to build networks for collaboration and solidarity across our communities.

This past year, Slought substantively expanded its programming and partners by working at a series of intersections, including the arts and social work, the arts and health, and the arts and social justice. Alongside a series of dynamic exhibitions and discursive events, we hosted courses, film festivals, student and community groups, after-school programs, welcome home parties for returning citizens, and so much more. To support these efforts, we made significant improvements to our galleries as well as our digital presence. We also launched a Fiscal Sponsorship program, which will help independent artists and small cultural organizations to apply for grants and receive donations. And we laid the groundwork for a Community MicroFund which will support individuals, families, and small organizations in Philadelphia with urgent financial needs pertaining to health, artistic and cultural production, and social welfare. We invite you to join us in supporting the MicroFund with a gift of any amount.

Our Health Ecologies Lab, a collaboration with Penn Social Policy & Practice, continues to offer a variety of public conversations and film programs that critically examine health as it is understood across disciplines, institutions, and social systems. Our programs are inspired by Detroit-based philosopher Michael Stone-Richards and his reflections on the importance of caring for oneself and community, as well as the role of art and ethnography in recognizing the mutual interconnectedness of environments, nature, and people.

This year we will also launch a new cultural exchange initiative engaging a broad network of civic institutions in the former Eastern Bloc and beyond. Entitled *On the Other Side of Elsewhere*, our project will support people-to-people exchange and direct dialogue, and engage cultural actors and organizations that are invigorating civil society. In the coming year, we will also be launching *Photographies of Conflict*, an exhibition series that brings together artists and artist collectives who use photography to contest dominant visual narratives of conflicts across different geopolitical coordinates and scales. We will open with *Collaboration: A Potential History of Photography*, a project with Ariella Azoulay, Wendy Ewald, Susan Meiselas, Leigh Raiford, and Laura Wexler.

Finally, we wish to thank the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Social Policy & Practice at the University of Pennsylvania for their longstanding support and continued collaboration, as well as the Surdna Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund for their major contributions.

Sincerely,

Aaron Levy  
Executive Director

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<u>ASSETS</u>	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 150,809
GRANTS RECEIVABLE	175,000
DONATED RENT RECEIVABLE	60,417
INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT	259,200
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	<u>8,703</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS	 <u>\$ 654,129</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>	
LIABILITIES	
ACRRUED EXPENSES	<u>\$ 4,903</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES	 <u>4,903</u>
NET ASSETS	
UNRESTRICTED	222,153
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	357,046
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	<u>70,000</u>
 TOTAL NET ASSETS	 <u>649,199</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	 <u>\$ 654,129</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
SUPPORT & REVENUE				
FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$ 3,500	\$ 310,000	\$ -	\$ 313,500
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	8,582	0	0	8,582
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	1,417	0	0	1,417
IN-KIND DONATIONS	110,000	0	0	110,000
SERVICE FEES	666	0	0	666
MISCELLANEOUS	1,136	0	0	1,136
INTEREST	7,463	0	0	7,463
UNREALIZED LOSS ON INVESTMENTS	(12,857)	0	0	(12,857)
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION	<u>72,239</u>	<u>(72,239)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
 TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	 <u>192,146</u>	 <u>237,761</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>429,907</u>
EXPENSES				
PROGRAM SERVICES	94,344	0	0	94,344
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	54,768	0	0	54,768
FUNDRAISING	<u>17,472</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17,472</u>
 TOTAL EXPENSES	 <u>166,584</u>	 <u>0</u>	 <u>0</u>	 <u>166,584</u>
 CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	 25,562	 237,761	 0	 263,323
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>196,591</u>	<u>119,285</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>385,876</u>
 NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	 <u>\$ 222,153</u>	 <u>\$ 357,046</u>	 <u>\$ 70,000</u>	 <u>\$ 649,199</u>

# Slought at the University of Pennsylvania

For over 16 years, Slought has benefited from our placement on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania and close proximity to its expansive academic communities. Our commitment as an organization to dialogue, and our responsiveness to student and faculty initiative, guides the development of our programming.

We receive creative and sustaining support for our programs from numerous schools and departments at the University, including Arts and Sciences, the School of Social Policy & Practice, Annenberg School of Communication, and Facilities and Real Estate Services. Together, we have developed a unique partnership that crosses disciplines, and public programs that extend beyond the classroom and the campus into Philadelphia, the world, and the cloud.

## ON CAMPUS

Our public programs highlight the integration of knowledge—especially across the humanities—and result from collaboration among faculty, students and schools.

These programs have been instrumental in recruiting students and faculty in the humanities to this campus, and invigorating campus life and civic discourse.

## IN PHILADELPHIA

We foster exchange between University faculty, students and West Philadelphia communities, as well as with arts, social service and civic organizations in the region.

## IN THE WORLD

Our programs at institutions such as the United Nations, the Venice Biennale, and museums and universities worldwide have led to international exposure for the University.

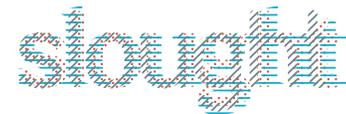
## IN THE CLOUD

We produce multiple publications and offer elaborate online archives that make academic enterprises at the University as broadly available as possible.

## GET INVOLVED

Are you part of the Penn community and have an idea for a project with Slought? We welcome new proposals from individuals and organizations who share our values and our commitment to dialogue.

Contact us if you are interested in learning more about our Faculty Advisory Committee, which facilitates collaborative programming with students and scholars at Penn and beyond.





In 2018, Slought and Penn School of Social Policy & Practice presented *Photographic Memory*, an exhibition of archival imagery by Maurice Sorrell (1914-1998), the first Black member of the White House Photographers Association. Photo: Constance Mensh.

# Exhibitions

We are committed to developing exhibitions and installations in dialogue with local and regional artists, communities, and institutions. Together, we seek to develop projects that encourage inclusiveness, advocacy, and the sharing of knowledge. Our commitment to collaboration and shared values guides us in the development of these projects, and enables us to foster an intimate civic space for local cultural and intellectual exchange. Recent examples include:

## MORE THAN PRIVATE

An exhibition of the photographic and video work of New York-based artist Carrie Schneider, curated by art historian Kaja Silverman. Her work gravitates to objects, activities, experiences and conditions that are saturated with private meanings, such as “solitude,” “intimacy,” and “interiority.” This was the first exhibition of Schneider’s work in Philadelphia, and her largest solo show to-date on the East Coast.

## PENSER L’AFRIQUE

An exhibition and study program with artist Christian Nyampeta, a visual artist and researcher who works across art, design, and theory. The project explored African intellectual histories and the task of “thinking Africa.” The program included an exhibition at Slough and a translation working group and related seminar dedicated to postcolonial aesthetics and theory.

## OURS TO LOSE

A visual record by Vincent Feldman of places in West Philadelphia at risk of being altogether forgotten. The exhibition also documents historic sites and landmarks from West Philadelphia which are in a position to be preserved if the challenges of community organizing and political representation are met.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

An exhibition of archival imagery by Maurice Sorrell (1914-1998). Maurice Sorrell captured the story of the civil rights movement using his camera. He preserved in pictures such notable events as the march from Montgomery to Selma, Alabama, and the historic March on Washington. In 1961, Sorrell joined the White House Photographers Association, becoming the first black to gain admission to that prestigious organization.

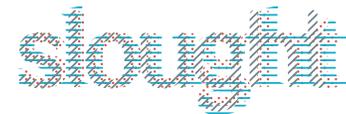
## BROADCASTING: GUERRILLA MEDIA

An exhibition of collectivist media from the 1970s to the present, organized with the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania (ICA) and Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI). This exhibition explored the activist strategies of media collectives such as DCTV, DIVA TV, Paper Tiger TV, Radical Software Group, Squat Theatre, TVTV, Video Venice News, and X-PRZ and revisited the notion of Guerrilla Television as a way of activating television and exploiting it for non-commercial purposes.

## COLLABORATORS

Penn Social Policy & Practice, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the History of Art Department at the University of Pennsylvania

Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI)  
Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)  
Sachs Program for Arts Innovation  
Soul Sanctuary  
Tyler School of Art at Temple University





A series of dialogues with curator Stephanie Renée about the importance of preserving history and archiving as a political and cultural project. Participants included Dr. Charles L. Blockson, Dr. Deborah Willis, J. Michael Harrison, host of "The Bridge" on WRTI 90.1, and Daryl DeBrest and Mike D of Reelblack. Photo: Constance Mensh.

# Talks and Conversations

Our mission is to engage publics in dialogue about cultural and socio-political change in Philadelphia, the world, and the cloud. Our programs take the form of polycentric conversations that aim to build relationships and social trust through collaboration and the exchange of ideas. Recent events include:

## *Autobiography of a Disease*

A conversation with Patrick Anderson and Kaja Silverman about autoethnography and literary representations of illness and medicalization, organized with the Center for Digital Health

## *Photographic Memory Talks*

A conversation series with Stephanie Renée featuring Dr. Charles L. Blockson, Dr. Deborah Willis and others in dialogue about the importance of preserving history and archiving as a political and cultural project

## *Talking Back: Dance Response Project*

A conversation with Kyle Abraham, Carrie Schneider, and Kaja Silverman, exploring choreography, film, and the politics of intimacy

## *Identification, Desire, Mutuality*

A conversation between Carrie Schneider and Kaja Silverman exploring relations and figures in photographic space

## *The Modernist Wound*

A conversation about injury as an aesthetic principle in modernist literature and film, with Ian Fleishman and others in conversation

## *Against Conquest*

A conversation on history as insurgency with Sandra de la Loza, Fran Ilich and Jennifer Ponce de León in dialogue

## *Into Unknown Parts*

A film program and conversation with Lisa Stevenson about indigenous life under colonialism and the politics of care, organized with organized with the Health Ecologies Lab and Haverford College

## *Folded Into Lives*

A conversation with João Biehl and Kristen Ghodsee about the politics of listening and ethnography as an unfinished practice, also organized with the Health Ecologies Lab

## *Poetry, Disability, and Resilience*

A conversation with poet Andrea Applebee about the relation between writing, loss, and survival

## *Radical Imaginaries*

A conversation on transformative politics and aesthetics with with Gabriel Rockhill and others

## *The Explosion*

A conversation exploring oral testimonies from the May '68 uprising and its aftermath, featuring writer and translator Mitchell Abidor with Jean-Michel Rabaté

## *A kind of ball that is not a ball*

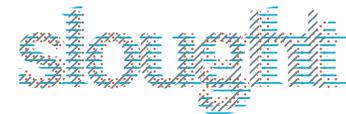
A conversation with poet and author Michael Coffey exploring Samuel Beckett's relationship to political violence

## *Assembling Marker*

A conversation with film scholar and curator Jean-Michel Frodon about the process of archiving and exhibiting the work of filmmaker Chris Marker, organized by Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania

## *State of Risk*

A conversation with Robert Aronowitz and Lance Wahlert about medicine's obsession with risk control and anticipatory treatments, organized with the Health Ecologies Lab





In 2018, Slought presented *Penser l'Afrique*, an exhibition and transdisciplinary program of study about African intellectual histories. Two of Christian Nywampeta's films were staged at Slought alongside an open dossier of questions, commentaries, fictions, annotations, accounts, and documents of learning.

# Symposia

Slought seeks to foster intellectual exchange, research and advocacy around the world. We work closely with a diverse community of scholars, students and advocates who share our commitment to developing discursive platforms for research and the sharing of knowledge. These programs continually expand our network of communities, and enable new forms of collaboration. Recent programs include:

## ENVIRONMENTS OF MODERNITY

A two-day symposium investigating cultural and political agency in an era of global climate change. The program explored how culture and aesthetic representations shape our understanding of environmental forces. How do cultural practices not only represent but also produce the environments of modernity?

## CONTESTED BODIES

A conference about bodies, identities and spaces in post-Soviet territories. Through a variety of talks, this program explored what it means to be a 'post-Soviet person' today and what happened to people's lives after the dissolution of the USSR. How did its sudden collapse affect the cultural sphere, language, and artistic production?

## SPECULATIVE FEATURES

A symposium exploring creative practices in health, technology and medicine in the global South. Through three panel presentations and a public discussion and roundtable, this program examined contemporary and historical forms of scientific and medical speculation in the global South.

## COLLABORATORS

Department of Global Studies & Modern Languages, and the Center for Science, Technology & Society at Drexel University

Wolf Humanities Center and the Departments of History and Sociology of Science, Russian and East European Studies, and English at the University of Pennsylvania





In 2018, Slought presented *Broadcasting: Guerrilla Media*, an exhibition of collectivist media from the 1970s to the present. The exhibition extended beyond the physical walls of the gallery to engage the street through a nightly screening of works by Squat Theatre in our storefront. Photo: Constance Mensh.

# Mediatheque

Launched in September 2017, Slought's Mediatheque is a screening room dedicated to programming about media arts and activism. Today, images are circulated and consumed at an ever-increasing rate. Images mediate all facets of our experience, including our relation to self and society. The Mediatheque reflects and resists these conditions of mediation. Drawing on diverse media formations—from independent cinema and community media to mainstream news and productions—our weekly programs explore visual strategies that critically engage art, politics and public life. Recent programs include:

## METABOLIC RIFT (2018)

A film festival about social justice and environmental activism. These documentaries highlighted contemporary scenes of social and environmental violence, and how ecology also intersects with inequality, global trade, and geopolitics.

## THE PRISON IN TWELVE LANDSCAPES (2017)

A film program about the hidden geographies of the contemporary prison-industrial complex, with a conversation with director Brett Story, scholar TJ Ghose, and Reentry Think Tank fellow Jym Baker. Story's film harnesses the power of cinema in order to highlight the invisible presence of the prison.

## 13 ESSENTIAL RULES FOR UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD (2018)

A film program organized in conjunction with the Environments of Modernity symposium, featuring work by Basim Magdy's work destabilizes rationalist constructions of "knowledge," "nature," and "environment." With absurdist humor, Magdy interrogates contemporary approaches to social engagement.

## LISTENING FOR DEMOCRACY (2017)

A workshop exploring the methods and politics of field recording with composer Tod Machover and sound-studies scholar Naomi Waltham-Smith, in conjunction with the Penn Music Department and Machover's commission from the Philadelphia Orchestra.

## NICHOLAS ISHERWOOD (2017)

A demonstration by vocalist Nicholas Isherwood about new possibilities for vocal music with the American Composers Forum Philadelphia. Isherwood introduced the Electric Voice project, and discussed his work with overtone and multiphonic singing, including his recent field research in Mongolia.

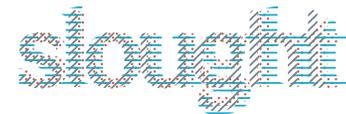
## SEA OF IMAGES (2017)

A program of short films that investigates the visual geopolitics of oceans. The program features work by artists and researchers including Forensic Oceanography, Emilija Škarnulytė, Ayesha Hameed, Filipa César and Louis Henderson that consider the connections between visual technologies of maritime surveillance, borders and migration, historical memory and witnessing.

## COLLABORATORS

American Composers Forum Philadelphia  
Center for Carceral Communities  
Concordia University  
Yale Environment 360  
Reentry Think Tank  
Philadelphia Orchestra  
Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

Departments of Art History, Cinema Studies and English at the University of Pennsylvania





In 2018, Slought exhibited in the Mediatheque a series of seven short improvised dance videos featuring the work of choreographer/dancer Kyle Abraham. The films, part of the *Dance Response Project* (2013-2014), were made in collaboration with Carrie Schneider. Photo: Theo Mullen.

# Upcoming Initiatives

We recognize the transformative power of all contributions, and gratefully acknowledge the support of Surdna Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and the Trust for Mutual Understanding, who have boldly invested in our upcoming initiatives in Philadelphia, the world, and the cloud. These include:

## REMEDiate

A national fellows program and media hub developed in partnership with Monument Lab and generously funded by Surdna Foundation, to support dialogue and action about the changing monumental landscape of the United States. We are invested in serving artists, activists, planners, and students working across the country in their local contexts, who are part of a national movement to update and critically engage the monumental landscape.

## PHOTOGRAPHIES OF CONFLICT

A two-year exhibitions series, generously funded by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, that seeks to make evident the refractive lens through which we see conflict, skewed as it always is by historical contingencies, race, class, and gender. Our goal is to posit photography and photojournalism as a means of engaging, recording, and perhaps helping us imagine how we might overcome conflict, or at least understand it better.

## ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ELSEWHERE

This cultural exchange initiative, generously funded by the Trust for Mutual Understanding, will engage a broad network of civic institutions in the former Eastern Bloc and beyond. Our project will support people-to-people exchange and direct dialogue, and engage cultural actors and organizations that are invigorating civil society. Working together with regional partners in Bratislava, Cluj, Sarajevo, Sofia, Tirana, and Ulaanbaatar, we will interact with their informal economies, networks of interdependence, and modes of survival.



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