

## HELEN MAURENE COOPER

### Lives and works in Chicago

#### EDUCATION

- 2007            **School of the Art Institute of Chicago** Master of Fine Arts in Photography
- 2003            **Bard College** Bachelor of Arts in Photography and Africa and African Diaspora Studies

#### ADDITIONAL EDUCATION & INDEPENDENT STUDIES

- 2016            **George Eastman House International Museum of Photography & Film**  
Intensive Workshop on Digital Negative and Salt Printing
- 2014            **George Eastman House International Museum of Photography & Film**  
Intensive Workshop on 35-mm Daguerreotype
- George Eastman House International Museum of Photography & Film**  
Intensive Workshop on Dry Plate Gelatin
- 2013            **France Scully Osterman**  
Intensive Workshop on Ambrotype and Tintype: Collodion Process

#### MONOGRAPH

*Paint & Polish: Cultural Economy & Visual Culture from the West Side*, Onomatopee Press, Eindhoven, Netherlands 2017.

#### EXHIBITIONS

##### SELECTED SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2018            Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago IL, *Blue Angel*.
- 2017            Space Mountain, Miami, FL. *Reinas Del Azucar*, with Rosemarie Romero.  
Studio 3, Fayetteville, AR. *Where There's Smoke*.  
Onomatopee, Eindhoven, Netherlands. *Paint & Polish*.
- 2016            Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL. *Other Waters: the Aquatic Valley*.  
Washington Park Arts Incubator, Chicago, IL. *Runway to Reality*, with Suzette Opera.  
Polish Academy and Nail Boutique (site-specific photographics with custom photographic wallpaper), Chicago, IL. *Polish*.
- 2014            Nailicious Salon (site-specific and commissioned work with custom hand drawn wallpaper), Chicago, IL. *#Nailbait*.  
Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL. *Raiment In Horto*.
- 2013            Van Buren St. Commuter Rail Station (Department of Cultural Affairs), Chicago, IL. *Junk and Jam*,  
Public Art Billboard.  
The Water Tower (Department of Cultural Affairs), Chicago, IL. *Nailed: Handwork*, City Gallery.  
Chicago Artists' Coalition, Chicago, IL. *Thirteen Ways*, Baccara, collaboration with Madeleine Bailey.
- 2012            Electricity is Magic Gallery, Toronto, ON. *White Noise Syndrome*, Baccara, collaboration with Madeleine Bailey.
- 2010            Midwives Gallery, Philadelphia, PA. *Bedazzled*: selections from Hoodwink & Hard Candy. President's Gallery Harold Washington  
College, Chicago, IL. *Hard Candy*.  
O'Conner Gallery, Dominican University, River Forest, IL. *Recent Works by Helen Maurene Cooper and Maria Gaspar*.

##### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017            Tiger Strikes Astrid at Satellite Fair, Art Basel Miami. Body Switchers.  
Ralph Arnold Gallery at Loyola University, Chicago, IL. Human Human.

Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Chicago, IL. *I Have Vivid Memories of Lighting*.

- 2015** Women Made Gallery, Chicago, IL. *Feminism (n.): Plural*.  
Girls Club, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. *Esthetic Theory*.  
Soap Factory, Minneapolis, MN. *The Party's Over*.
- 2014** Claremorris Gallery, Claremorris, Ireland. *Christmas Show*.  
VUE, National Contemporary Art Fair, Claremorris Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.
- 2013** Studio Flats, Chicago, IL. *American Dream: (W)holy Grail*. curated by Tricia Van Eck.  
Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL. *Inventory*.  
Co-prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL. *Level Eater 3*.
- 2011** Los Caminos Gallery, St. Louis, MO. *Romantic Notions*.  
Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL. *New Acquisitions*.  
Antenna Gallery, New Orleans, LA. *Mixed Messages*.  
Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY. *Collectors' Guide to New Art Photography*, curated by Vanessa Kramer.  
  
David Weinberg Gallery, Chicago, IL. *The Collective*.  
  
Center for Government and International Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. *Remember Then...*
- 2010** Blue Star Contemporary, San Antonio, TX. *This is Not a Photo Show*.  
  
David Weinberg Gallery, Chicago, IL. *Art Chicago*.  
David Weinberg Gallery, Chicago, IL. *Alumni*, Noelle Allen, Helen Maurene Cooper, Amy Mayfield, & Michael Ratulowski.  
Hendershot Gallery, New York, NY. *Trying Them On*, Andrea Robbins and Max Becher, Michael Bühler-Rose, Helen Maurene Cooper & Claire Beckett.  
Barbara & Barbara Gallery, Chicago, IL. *Four Names*, Helen Maurene Cooper, Grant Ray & Eric Bessel.
- 2009** Claremorris Gallery, Claremorris, Ireland. *December Group Show*.  
Antenna Gallery, New Orleans, LA. *Deep. Down. Dirty*.
- 2008** Claremorris Gallery, Claremorris, Ireland. *PROTAGONIST - Contemporary Art from America*, Helen Maurene Cooper, Jenny Kendler & Alisha Wessler.  
Third Ward, Brooklyn, NY. *31 Under 31, Young Women in Art Photography*.

## LECTURES AND PANELS

### 2018

"Color Theory: Chicago Street Style, from the land of Lady Hustlers," Royal Art Academy, The Hague, Netherlands.

### 2017

"Paint & Polish, Chicago Street Style, from the land of Lady Hustlers, with Roula Selkaly, Jackee Blue, Glynnus Alexander and Freek Lomme," PS1, Queens, New York.

"Economy of Beauty," Fayetteville Underground with NWA Fashion Week, Fayetteville, AR.

"Paint & Polish: Design, Community and Collaboration," Helen Maurene Cooper, Jackee Blue and Glynnus Alexander in Conversation with Chequita Najjar (Dean of ABKM Maastricht), Onomatopee, Eindhoven Netherlands.

"For Profit Colleges and Student Debt" with Rashayla Marie Brown, Open Engagement Conference, Chicago, IL

"Paint & Polish Book Release," Helen Maurene Cooper with Jackee Blue, Yara Ruiz and Glynnus Alexander. Moderated by Ryan Blocker and Roula Seliki, Reunion, Chicago.

### 2016

"Runway to Reality," in Conversation with Joy Bivins, Dr. Jason LaHood and Camille Morgan, Arts Incubator, Chicago, IL

"Runway to Reality," Artist Talk with Hamza Walker, Arts Incubator Chicago, IL "Community and Practice," North Park University, Chicago, IL

"Paint & Polish," DePaul University, Chicago, IL

## 2013

"Hard Candy," Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL

## 2010

Current Work, Palo Alto College, San Antonio, TX AIR lecture, Oxbow, Saugatuck, MI

Panel, The case for gender specific exhibitions in fine art photography, Next Art Fair, Chicago, IL

"Bedazzled," conversation with curator Elizabeth Smith, Midwives Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

"Hard Candy," Harold Washington College. Chicago IL

Helen Maureen Cooper and Maria Gaspar, O'Conner Gallery, Dominican University, Chicago, IL

## SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

### 2017

**Travel Grant**, Department of Cultural Affairs Chicago, *Paint & Polish Exhibition*, Eindhoven, Netherlands

**Faculty Research Grant**, Lake Forest College

**Stipend**, Paint & Polish Exhibition, Cultural Council, Eindhoven Netherlands

### 2016

**Individual Artist Grant**, Department of Cultural Affairs Chicago, for artist monograph: *Paint & Polish*)

**Production Grant**, *Runway to Reality*, Arts Incubator, University of Chicago

### 2014

**Individual Artist Grant**, Department of Cultural Affairs Chicago, for study at the George Eastman House

### 2013

**Stipend and honorarium**, for *Nailed: Handwork*, Department of Cultural Affairs, Chicago

### 2012

BOLT, **artist in residence** as the collaborative *Baccara* with Madeleine Bailey, Chicago Artists' Coalition (with support from the Andy Warhol Foundation), Chicago, IL

### 2011

**Fulbright Germany**, Semi-finalist, *Nostalgia & Gender Performance in Turkish Berlin*

**DAAD**, Semi-finalist, *Nostalgia & Gender Performance in Turkish Berlin*

**Chancellor Grant**, Semi-finalist, *Nostalgia & Gender Performance in Turkish Berlin*

### 2010

**Fulbright Germany**, Semi-finalist, *Nostalgia & Gender Performance in Turkish Berlin*

**Residency**, Ox-bow School of Arts, Saugatuck, MI (Summer)

## INTERVIEWS

Hopkins, Jill. Interview with Helen Maureen Cooper and Glynnus Alexander. *Vocalo*. 30 March 2017.

<https://soundcloud.com/vocalo/photographer-helen-maureen-cooper-discussing-nail-art-and-culture-in-the-west-side>

Hopkins, Jill. Interview with Helen Maureen Cooper and Suzette Opara. *Vocalo*. [soundcloud.com/vocalo/runaway-to-reality](https://soundcloud.com/vocalo/runaway-to-reality). 24 March. 2016.

<https://soundcloud.com/vocalo/runaway-to-reality>.

White, Jen. "Photographing Prom Culture on Chicago's South Side." *Morning Shift* (WBEZ). 25 March 2016.

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/morning-shift/photographing-prom-culture-on-chicagos-south-side/4fbabf60-fb1c-44cd-a010-804a26bccae9>

## SELECTED REVIEWS

Lannin, Kelsey. Paint & Polish Explores the Intimacy and Economics of Nail Art. The Creators. Vice.com. 27 July 2017.

[https://creators.vice.com/en\\_us/article/ywg79w/stunning-nail-art-photo-book](https://creators.vice.com/en_us/article/ywg79w/stunning-nail-art-photo-book)

Rigou, Vasia. "Nailing It Chicago Style: A Photographer's Look at Empowerment, Entrepreneurship, and Intimacy in the Northwest Side's Nail Art Community." *New City*. 27 January 2017. <http://art.newcity.com/2017/02/02/nailing-it-chicago-style/>

Sanci, Elissa. "Look Inside Chicago's Nail Art Scene With These Stunning Photographs." *Bust.com*. 25 January 2017. <http://bust.com/books/18968-helen-maurene-cooper-book.html>

Burr Di Mauro, Emilino. "Prom Meets Pageantry: A New Exhibit at the Arts Incubator Brings the 'Runway to Reality.'" *South Side Weekly*. 5 April 2016. <http://southsideweekly.com/prom-meets-pageantry/>.

Weinstein, Michael. "Helen Maurene Cooper / Bert Green Fine Art." *Newcity Art*. 1 October 2014. <http://art.newcity.com/2014/10/01/review-helen-maurene-cooperbert-green-fine-art/>.

Ise, Claudine. "There is Nothing Cozy about MCA's Homebodies." *Chicago Tribune*. 17 July 17, 2013. [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-07-17/entertainment/ct-ent-0718-homebodies-art-review-20130717\\_1\\_homebodies-mca-wall-naomi-beckwith](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-07-17/entertainment/ct-ent-0718-homebodies-art-review-20130717_1_homebodies-mca-wall-naomi-beckwith).

Foumberg, Jason. "Chicago's Fingernail Art Scene Has an Extravagant, Unique Style." *Chicago Magazine*. 8 June, 2013. <http://www.chicagomag.com/Chicago-Magazine/C-Notes/June-2013/Nail-Art-is-Making-a-Come-back/>.

Julious, Britt. "Nailed It: The History of Race and Class in Chicago's Nail Art." 14 June 2013. [wbez.org/blogs/britt-julious/2013-06/nailed-it-unique-history-race-and-class-chicagos-nail-art-107697](http://wbez.org/blogs/britt-julious/2013-06/nailed-it-unique-history-race-and-class-chicagos-nail-art-107697).

Barone, Laura Elizabeth. "Romantic Notions at Los Caminos." *Temporary Art Review*. 11 November 2012. <http://temporaryartreview.com/romantic-notions-at-los-caminos/>.

Bennett, Steven. "Blue Star Exhibit Explores Tension between Art, Artist, Viewer." *San Antonio Express-News*, September 12, 2010. [http://www.mysanantonio.com/entertainment/visual\\_arts/article/Blue-Star-exhibit-explores-tension-between-art-654343.php](http://www.mysanantonio.com/entertainment/visual_arts/article/Blue-Star-exhibit-explores-tension-between-art-654343.php).

Morris, Jerid Reed. "The Mother Country," *San Antonio Current*, September 8-14, 2010. <http://www.sacurrent.com/sanantonio/the-mother-country/Content?oid=2288903#>.

Simblist, Noah. "This is Not a Photo Show," *Daily Serving*, an International Forum for Contemporary Visual Arts, September 7, 2010. <http://dailyserving.com/author/noah-simblist/page/2/>.

Weinstein, Michael. "Alumni/David Weinberg Gallery," *New City*, March 8, 2010. <http://art.newcity.com/2010/03/08/review-alumnidavid-weinberg-gallery/>.

Weinstein, Michael. "Helen Maurene Cooper/ Harold Washington College," *New City*, February 1, 2010. <http://art.newcity.com/2010/02/01/review-helen-maurene-cooperharold-washington-college-president%E2%80%99s-gallery/>

E.E.B. "Trying Them On," *New York Photo*, 2010. [http://nyphotoreview.com/NYPR\\_REVS/NYPR\\_REV197.html](http://nyphotoreview.com/NYPR_REVS/NYPR_REV197.html) Weinstein, Michael. "Four Names / Barbara & Barbara Gallery," *New City*, January 25, 2010. <http://art.newcity.com/2010/01/25/review-four-namesbarbara-barbara-gallery/>

Weinberg, Lauren. "Hard Candy, Art & Design," *Time Out Chicago*, February 8-10, 2010. Print. Colberg, Jorg. "Conscientious," April 9, 2008. <http://www.jmcolberg.com>.

Subjectify. "the birds of appetite." April 8, 2008. <http://subjectify.blogspot.com/2008/04/birds-of-appetite.html>