

NATALIA VELEZ

Ph.D. Candidate, Philosophy, Aesthetics, and Art Theory | +1-727-488-2677 | nvelez@idsva.edu

Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy, Aesthetics, and Art Theory with teaching and museum-education experience in ethics, philosophy of art, visual culture, art history, and public humanities. Local St. Petersburg educator, artist and art curator with proven ability to engage diverse learners through object-based and discussion-driven pedagogy.

Education

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| 2022-Present | Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, United States. Ph.D. Candidate, Philosophy, Aesthetics, and Art Theory. Expected 2027 |
| 1993-1997 | Saint Petersburg State University for Culture and Arts, Russia. M.A. / B.A. in Public and Cultural Activity (Humanities) |

Areas of Expertise

- Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art
- Ethics, Art, and Politics
- Contemporary Art Theory and Visual Culture
- Museum Pedagogy and Object-Based Teaching
- Art Under Political Oppression; Art, Truth, and Propaganda
- Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Modern, and Contemporary Art Contexts
- Community-Based Arts Education

Courses Prepared to Teach

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Ethics • Introduction to Philosophy • Philosophical Topics: Art, Ethics, and Politics • Philosophical Topics: Knowledge, Freedom, Power, and Visual Culture • Aesthetics. Philosophy of Art • Art Appreciation. • Introduction to Visual Culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art History Survey: Renaissance to Contemporary Art • Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Art • Women in Art. Gender, Representation, and Visual Culture • Humanities Seminar: Art, Power, Censorship, and Public Life • Museum-Based Learning and Critical Thinking Through Art |
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Sample Course Proposals Available

- Art, Ethics, and Politics
- Art in the Age of Alternative Truth
- Path to Success for Artists-Philosophers
- Introduction to Ethics
- Seeing Sounds. Genealogy of Synestia: Kandinsky, Cage, Davis, Banisadr
- Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art
- Art Appreciation: Visual Culture and Public Life

Other Training

- 2025 DeVos Institute of Arts Management, University of Maryland. Certificate: The Cycle: Management of Successful Arts and Cultural Organizations.
- 2024 AASLH Certificate: Introduction to Fundraising.
- 2023 AASLH Certificate: Accessibility for Historical Organizations.
- 2022 SmithsonianX / National Gallery of Art. Certificate: Teaching Critical Thinking through Art.

Academic Teaching and Museum Education

- Spring 2026 **Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts (IDSVA)**
Teaching Assistant, *PHIL 804: Towards Ethico-Aesthetic*, with Professors Simonetta Moro, David Webb, and Arne De Boever.
Supported postgraduate-level instruction in philosophy, aesthetics, and art theory; led and assisted seminar discussions connecting visual art, ethics, politics, and critical theory; provided student support on readings, research development, and written assignments; prepared discussion questions and teaching materials for interdisciplinary study of art and philosophy.
- 2025 **Grace College**, Winona Lake, Indiana
Invited lecturer for graduate students: *The Pomegranate: Reflection on a Symbol of Hospitality, Abundance, and Relationship with the Other*. Lecture and Art Practice.
- Summer 2025 **Beat Music Academy**, St. Petersburg, FL.
Instructor, *Seeing Sound*. Developed and taught interdisciplinary curriculum integrating visual arts and music to cultivate aesthetic awareness and critical thinking.
- 2024 **Eckerd College**, St. Petersburg, FL.
Guest Presenter, ASPEC Foreign Affairs Group. Presentation: *Art in the Age of Alternative Truth and Spin Dictatorships*, May 10, 2024. Groys, Foucault, Vattimo, Zabala.
Guest Presenter, ASPEC Foreign Affairs Group. Presentation: *The Consequences of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine: An Orphanage's Journey*. May 17, 2024.
- 2023-Present **Museum of Fine Arts**, St. Petersburg, FL.
Museum educator and presenter. Educate groups and individuals on art on display; develop gallery talks connecting historical art, contemporary practice, philosophy, and public life.
- 2023-2024 **University of Tampa**, College of Arts and Letters.
Invited lecturer for graduate students. Presentations: *Art Under Political Repression; Philosophy, Advertising, and Ethics*.
- 2016-2025 **Our Savior Lutheran School**, St. Petersburg, FL.
Art Educator and Gallery Art Curator. Taught visual arts and connected students with contemporary artists and community-based exhibitions.
- 2002-2003 **Teaching Personnel**, LLC, London, UK.
Supply Teacher in British elementary schools.

Course Competencies

- Ethics and applied ethics through contemporary social issues, censorship, civil rights, war and peace, and public culture.
- Ethics of technology, visual media, digital culture, propaganda and idea of truth.
- Philosophy of art and aesthetics with emphasis on beauty, representation, interpretation, spectatorship, and judgment.
- Art appreciation and visual culture through museum objects, contemporary art, political imagery, and historical context.
- Art history topics including Renaissance and Baroque art, Medieval studies, modern/contemporary art, and cross-cultural art collaborations.
- Discussion-based, research-centered, object-based, and community-engaged teaching for liberal arts students.

Selected Teaching Presentations and Public Lectures

- 2026 Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL. Spotlight Series gallery talks: *Masculine Beauty in Baroque and Contemporary Contexts, with contemporary sculptor Brett F. Harvey.*
- 2026 OLLI at Eckerd College. St. Petersburg, FL. *Deconstruction of the formalist mindset in the Way We Look at a Work of Art.* March 5
- 2026 Treasure Island Community Center. St. Petersburg, FL. Invited lecture: *Renaissance Babies: Rethinking Beauty in Art.* February 14
- 2025 Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL. Spotlight Series gallery talks: *Renaissance Babies and Images of Motherhood, with author and artist Lauren Amalia Redding.*
- 2023 BayTree Assisted Living in St. Petersburg, FL. Art Lecture. *Bringing Museum Experience Home.* Focus on accessible museum-based learning experiences for seniors and people with physical and/or cognitive challenges.
- 2021 PACE Center for Girls. St. Petersburg, FL. Teach-in, Artist. PACE is a community response to the lack of female-specific programs in the juvenile justice system.

Conference Participation

- 2026 Presenter, Derrida Today Conference, **Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris.** Paper: *Forgiveness: Art of Resistance and the Impossible Unconditional.* Jankelevitch, Derrida. July 13-17.
- 2026 Presenter, 61st **International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University.** Paper: *What Does It Make You Wonder About? The Art of Asking Questions: Adapting Museum Practices for Teaching Medieval Studies.*
- 2026 Presenter, 61st International Congress on Medieval Studies. Roundtable. *Medieval Cross-Cultural Art Collaborations through the Lens of Gianni Vattimo's Hermeneutics.* May 16.
- 2025 Presenter, 60th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University. *The Pomegranate: Reflection on a Symbol of Hospitality, Abundance, and Relationship with the Other.*

- 2025 Presenter, 11th vivo **Dubrovnik Conference on the Philosophy of Art, Croatia**. Paper: *Art in the Age of Alternative Truth and Spin Dictatorships*.
- 2024 Participant. **Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts**. International Webinar Conference Series of *The Blazing World, or the Climatological Imperative*.
- 2023 Participant. **Harvard Women Alumni Global Conference: Ideas that Inspire**. *Exploring how women artists use their work to give voice to marginalized experiences and to challenge stereotypes, assumptions, and prejudices*.

Selected Publications

- Velez, Natalia, Hammer, Sam. *Natalie Velez and Sam Hammer: The Conversation about the Essence of Place*. Art Exhibition Catalogue. Self-published and printed in the United States of America. 2025
- Velez, Natalia. *A Conversation with Luis Seixas...Art Conservator*. St. Pete Life Magazine, July/August 2024, pp. 64-65.
- Velez, Natalia. *Cycladic Figurines: In Conversation with Contemporary Art*. IDSVa Fall Newsletter, <https://www.idsva.edu/articles/cycladic-figurines-in-conversation-with-contemporary-art> 2024.
- Velez, Natalia. *Morocco, Beyond the Beautiful: The Role of Women in Defining Amazigh Identity*. IDSVa Spring Newsletter, <https://www.idsva.edu/articles/morocco-beyond-the-beautiful-the-role-of-women-in-defining-amazigh-identity> 2024.
- Velez, Natalia. *From St. Petersburg to St. Petersburg*. St. Pete Life Magazine, March 1, 2023, pp. 71-72.
- Velez, Natalia. *Work of Art: Offices with Art Pay Dividends in Productivity*. St. Pete Life Magazine, March/April 2019, pp. 32-33.
- Velez, Natalia. *Beauty Happens When Fashion is Inspired by Art*. St. Pete Life Magazine, May/June 2018, pp. 50-51.

Selected Academic Service and Leadership

- 2024-2026 **Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg. Chair, Art Around Us Committee.**
Build connections between the museum's docents, local art communities, and educational institutions. The work was recognized by education department as the *most meaningful contribution* in education initiative and community building.
- 2019-2026 **Our Savior Lutheran Church and School. Art Curator and Educator.**
Connect secular, religious, and educational institutions with contemporary artists and the local community. The art program was named a *powerful practice in the area of community involvement* by the National Lutheran School Accreditation Validation Team.
- 2025 **Radio St. Pete. Interviewee.** Podcast on Art & Inspiration: A Chat with Brenda McMahon.
Link: <https://audioboom.com/posts/8738945-art-inspiration-w-brenda-mcmahon-artist-educator-natalie-velez>
- 2017-2024 **Bella Unica Online Art Gallery and Events, LLC. St. Petersburg, Florida. Founder and Curator.** Hosted lectures on contemporary art. Created, managed and implemented pop-up art events in the Tampa Bay area at Paper Crane, Gilbert Chapel Gallery, Chihuly Museum, and others. Community outreach and fundraising with themed Art, Fashion and Spirits shows. Coordinated, planned, and conducted art events for The Vinoy® Renaissance Resort & Golf

Club, St. Petersburg, Florida and their annual Global Day of Discovery. Also collaborating, curating, and designing exhibitions at the Carrollwood Cultural Center, Sirata Beach Resort FL, and Tampa Zoo.

2004-2016

Study Line Limited Liability Corporation. CEO and Founder.

International Education Abroad Consultant. Connecting students and professionals with educators around the world. Public speaking, one-on-one counseling, educational events planning, and workshop organization. Seminars and trade shows: Russia, Spain, the UK, and the US. Managing event logistics, insurance, and client and educational institutions relations. Instituted individual and group coaching sessions that focused on time management and negotiation skills, thorough documentation, and continuous education.

International Study and Research

- January 2023 IDSVVA PhD Residency, Mexico
Mexico, Mexico City: Focus on Pre-Columbian Art. Mexican Indigenous, Modern, and Contemporary art. Visiting Artes de México, with Alberto Ruy Sánchez and Margarita de Orellana.
- June 2023 IDSVVA PhD Residency, Italy
Italy: Rome, Spinnocchia Castle, Siena and Florence. Focus on Italian contemporary and renaissance art. Visiting artist, Mal Edwards.
- January 2024 IDSVVA PhD Residency. Spain, Morocco.
Topological Studies. Visiting Professor Ilham Ibnou Zahir. History, Philosophy, Architecture.
- June 2024 IDSVVA PhD Residency. Greece, Athens. Italy, Venice. Topological Studies. Venice Biennale 2024.

Art Exhibition Jury

- Treasure Island Community Center. Invited judge for a members group show. February 2026.
- Carrollwood Cultural Center, Carrollwood, Florida. *Glowing in The Dark*. Invited judge for a group show of Tampa Bay artists. October 2019.

Memberships

- American Society for Aesthetics, 2024-Present
- American Association for State and Local History, 2023-Present
- Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, 2023-Present

NATALIA VELEZ

Artist at Studios at 400. Curator. Studio 120. | +1-727-488-2677

Artist's Selected Exhibitions

- 2026 Permanent exhibition at the Studios at 400. Group Show. St. Petersburg, FL.
- 2025 *IN CONVERSATION: Velez & Hammer*. St. Thomas' Art Project. St. Petersburg, FL. Collaborative art show with artist, Sam Hammer.
- 2024-2026 *They Had No Time to Say Goodbye*. Social change initiative and art installation by Dr. Rose Marie Prins. Media: Scratched X-ray film. The cross-border collaborative mixed-media installation about the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women.
- 2023 *Women's History Month: 100 Women in Art History*, St. Joseph's Hospital, Group Exhibition. Tampa, Florida
- 2021 *Project G.O.A.T. Global Offensive Against Trafficking*. Zoo Tampa at Lowry Park, Tampa, Florida
- 2020 Online *#OneArtistOneStory*, Bella Unica Art Gallery, St. Petersburg, Florida
- 2019 *Jose Rodeiro & Natalie Velez*. Art Fridays at the Vinoy, The Vinoy® Renaissance Resort & Golf Club, St. Petersburg, Florida
- 2018 *100th Annual Members Show*, Morean Arts Center, Group Exhibition. St. Petersburg, Florida
- 2017 *Vinoy Place Art Show*, Group Exhibition. St. Petersburg, Florida
- 99th Annual Members Show*, Morean Arts Center, Group Exhibition. St. Petersburg, Florida
- 2016 *Digital Photography*. Davidson Fine Art Gallery, Group Exhibition. St. Petersburg, FL
- 2014 *Mixing Visions*. Gallery 221 HCC, Group Exhibition. Tampa, Florida
- 2014 *Everything Dolce*, Group Exhibition. St. Petersburg, Florida

Selected Curatorial Work

- 2025 *Textile Art* by Alina Sulimova. Solo Art Show. Studios at 400. St. Petersburg, FL.
- 2024 *Textile Art* by Alina Sulimova. Solo Art Show. Narthex Gallery. Our Savior Lutheran Church & School. St. Petersburg, Florida
- 2022 *Unity*. Reflection on contemporary military conflicts.

Artists Jose Rodeiro, Linda Roberts, Gina White, Dee Perconti and Diane Radel. Narthex Gallery. Narthex Gallery. Our Savior Lutheran Church & School. St. Petersburg, Florida

Florida Kaleidoscope. Curator. The 2022 St. Pete Beach Classic Art Event showcased 15 local artists, showing 30 original works. Juried by Emily Kapes, the Curator of Art at The James Museum of Western & Wildlife. Sirata Beach Resort.

2021 *Project G.O.A.T. Global Offensive Against Trafficking*. Zoo Tampa at Lowry Park, Tampa, Florida Co-Curator. Art Committee.
On Feb. 6, Rob Canton's A+C Foundation held a public art auction to raise money for charities that fight and raise awareness of, human trafficking. Art Committee. Art show planning and installation for Art Auction. Working with more than 100 artworks in different mediums, styles, and levels to create a comprehensive experience for the auction visitors. The event raised \$200,000 for charity. Among the artists on display are Ya La'Ford, Jorge Roldan, Jose Rodeiro, Trisha Shamburger, Jenipher Chandley, Dee Perconti, Dawn Hunt, and Rose Marie Prins.

The Journey by Gina White. Encaustic and Mixed-media exhibition. Narthex Gallery. Our Savior Lutheran Church & School. St. Petersburg, Florida

2020 *Art Blossom. Emerging Artists of Tampa Bay*. (co-curated), Group Art Show. Gilbert Chapel Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL

Contemporary Xylography by José Oscar Torres Pereyra. Solo Show. Narthex Gallery. Our Savior Lutheran Church & School. St. Petersburg, Florida

Online #OneArtistOneStory, Bella Unica Art Gallery, St. Petersburg, Florida

2019 *José Rodeiro: Artist*. (co-curated), Solo Art Show. Gilbert Chapel Gallery, St. Petersburg, Florida

Whimsical Steampunk by Debbie Bright (co-curated), Solo Art Show. Gilbert Chapel Gallery, St. Petersburg, Florida

Creative Farm Art Market and Spoken Word. Group Art Show. In collaboration with Austen van der Bleek and the Open House Conspiracy. Paper Crane, St. Petersburg, Florida

100th Anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Amendment by Suzanne Benton. Solo exhibition and performance. The Vinoy® Renaissance Resort & Golf Club, St. Petersburg, Florida

The Exquisite Corpse Games at The Vinoy. Opening Night of The Exquisite Corpse Exhibition. Coordinator. Chihuly Glass Museum. St. Petersburg, Florida
Displayed artworks created by artists: Lesli Pringle, Frederick Woods, Anita Wexler, Jim Kammerud, Jim Rolston, Rebekah Lazaridis, Nicolas Descharnes, Tomeu L'Amo, Chuck Vosburgh, Geff Strik, Don Gillespie, Amy Ernst.

Caribbean Quarter. Roots. Rhythm. Culture. Ybor City glass mosaics by Maria Ortiz-Haynes. The goal was to introduce the key aspects of Latin culture: music, dancing, food, religion, and spirituality as well as the love for coffee and cigars. The Vinoy® Renaissance Resort & Golf Club, St. Petersburg, Florida

Renaissance Global Day of Discovery. Art Curator. Coordinated, planned, and conducted art installation for The Vinoy® Renaissance Resort & Golf Club and

Renaissance Annual Global Day of Discovery. St. Petersburg, Florida

2018-2019 *Art, Fashion & Spirits*. Art Curator and event co-coordinator. Community event and outreach. Art, Fashion, and Spirits celebrated the revival of St. Petersburg, Florida as a cultural and arts center. In collaboration with Pippa Pelure Fashion Boutique and Kozuba & Son's Distillery. The event hosted more than 300 visitors. St. Petersburg, Florida

2018 *Colors of the Season* (co-curator), Group Exhibition. Exhibition Catalogue Art Director. Gilbert Chapel Gallery, St. Petersburg, Florida

Bella Unica Emerging Artists Show, Group Show. Kozuba and Sons Distillery, St. Petersburg, Florida