

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Denise Bertschi (*1983, Aarau)

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EMPLOYMENT

- 09.2024–06.2025 **Collegium Helveticum, Swiss Institute for Advanced Study**
Post-doc Fellowship ETH Zürich (Sept. 2024–June 2025)
Associate Fellows: Prof. Dr. Philip Ursprung (ETH Zürich), Prof. Dr. Anslem Franke (ZHdK)
- 2022–2024 **SNSF Agora (Where research meets the public)** for "Naming Natures" exhibition
Co-curator (main SNF applicant Dr. Tomas Bartoletti, ETH Zürich)
- 10.2023–02.2024 **EPFL Lausanne (Arts of Sciences Laboratory)**
Doctoral Researcher (Prof. Dr. Nicola Braghieri)
- 2018–2023 **HEAD Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design**
Doctoral Researcher (IRAD–Institut for Art Research) and

Doctoral Teaching Assistant (Visual Arts Department)
(2018–2020) MA Work.Master Contemporary Artistic Practices
(2020–2021) BA Construction art + espace
- 2015–2018 **HEAD Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design**
Teaching Assistant, Visual Arts Department– MA Work.Master Contemporary Artistic Practices

EDUCATION

- June 2024 **Dr. sc. EPFL Lausanne. Architecture Department (Arts of Sciences Laboratory)**
Arts of Sciences Laboratory EPFL Lausanne,
in collaboration with HEAD – Genève (IRAD *Institute for Art Research*)
Supervisor I: Prof. Dr. Nicola Braghieri (EPFL)
Supervisor II: Prof. Dr. Doreen Mende (HEAD–Genève)
Doctoral jury (March 2024);
Prof. Dr. Avery Gordon (University of Santa Barbara, USA),
Prof. Dr. Samia Henni (Cornell University USA),
Prof. Milica Topalovic (ETH Zurich)
- 2015 **MA in Contemporary Artistic Practices**
Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design, Genève (HEAD) – Visual Arts Department
- 2012 **BA in Visual Communication**
Zürcher Hochschule der Künste (ZHdK) – Department Design
- 2011 **ARTeZ Arnhem Institute of the Arts, Netherlands**
BA Exchange semester
- 2005 **Bachelor of Arts for Education**
FHNW Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz

PRIZES/GRANTS/RESIDENCIES

2024–25	Post-doc Fellowship, Collegium Helveticum Swiss Institute for Advanced Study
2024	SWISS ART AWARDS, Bundesamt für Kultur BAK finalist Pro Helvetia work grant for Visual Arts Aargauer Kuratorium project grant
2023	Pro Helvetia Co-creation grant together with Pedro Zylbersztajn (Sao Paulo, Brazil)
2022	Most Beautiful Swiss Books <i>STATE FICTION</i> . Edition CPG, Genève 2021
2021	La Becque, Principal residency program 3 months Pro Helvetia work grant for Visual Arts Aargauer Kuratorium project grant Pro Helvetia promotion of photobooks for <i>STATE FICTION</i>
2020	MANOR Art Prize 2020 Aargauer Kunsthaus CAN Centre d'Art de Neuchâtel 1 year artist residency SNSF Agora (Where research meets the public) "Naming Natures" (with Dr. T. Bartoletti)
2019	59th Venice Art Biennale, Swiss Pavilion shortlisted (with Dunja Herzog) GETTY Research Institute GRI, Los Angeles summer doctora scholarship SWISS ART AWARDS, BAK finalist Most Beautiful Swiss Books <i>WE SAY WE ARE FINE – YOU SAY WE ARE NOT (Bertschi, 2018)</i>
2018	PRO HELVETIA work grant for Visual Arts Aargauer Kuratorium project grant
2017	PRO HELVETIA Southern Africa studio residency in Johannesburg and Cape Town Aargauer Kuratorium project grant
2016	NAB Förderpreis 2016 Aargauer Kunsthaus FUNDAZIUN NAIRS Engadin Contemporary Art Center

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2024	ETH Zurich D-ARCH, Prof. Mariam Issoufou Mahamadou Lecture and final crits in semester course: <i>Imagining futures for post-restitution Museums</i> ETH Zurich D-ARCH GTA, Prof. Dr. Tom Avermaete Lecture in semester course: <i>Swiss Coloniality and Its Industrial Architectures</i> INSTITUTE ART. GENDER. NATURE. Basel Academy of Art and Design FHNW Semester Workshop, invited by Chus Martinez University of Zürich History Department, Lecture in the course: <i>Art as a Means of Historical Inquiry</i>
2023	HEAD – Genève. Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design. MA Fine Arts Lecture in MA semester course: <i>(Swiss) colonialism and artistic methods</i> Berner Fachhochschule, Architektur, Holz und Bau Lecture: <i>Unearthing Traces. Dismantling imperialist entanglements of the built environment</i>
2022	EPFL – ENAC School of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Environmental Sciences EAST (Laboratory of Elementary Architecture and Studies of Types)

ETH Zurich

D-ARCH GTA, Dr. Hollyamber Kennedy

Autumn semester: *(Un)settling Territory: Land, Landscape and the Climates of Colonization*
Lecture in: *Colonial Switzerland, Tropicality, and the Naturalist Gaze*

ETH Zurich

D-ARCH LUS, Dr. Nitin Bathla

Lecture in International workshop *Film, Architecture and Urbanism*

ETH Zurich

D-ARCH LUS, Prof. Milica Topalovic

Lecture series: *Sessions on Territory: Urbanism and Countryside*

Respondant to Sahar Qawsmi & Nida Sinnokrot's lecture

Restorative Agriculture practices and the Contemporary Arts (declined due to maternity leave)

ETH Zurich

D-ARCH, LUS Institute of Landscape Architecture

Doctoral Methods seminar *Landscape and Urban Research of a different kind:*

Towards sensory, imaginative, and creative approaches

Lecture: *Camera-walks with the subject – Sensorial memories of Swiss colonial traces in Helvécia (Brazil)* – (declined due to maternity leave)

ETH Zurich

D-ARCH, Prof. Maarten Delbeke, Chair of History and Theory of Architecture

Workshop in the course *Exotic Architecture in Switzerland* (declined due to maternity leave)

2021

Swissuniversities Doctoral Course (EDAR/EPFL & University Lausanne)

Unearthing Traces. Dismantling the Imperialist Entanglement of Archives and the Built Environment

Initiated by Denise Bertschi (LAPIS/EPFL) and Julien Lafontaine Carboni (ALICE/EPFL)

Supported by *swissuniversities* and hosted at EDAR *Doctoral School of Architecture & Sciences of the City*, EPFL – and the *Center of International History and Political Studies of Globalization*, University Lausanne. Invited speakers: Samia Henni, Léopold Lambert, Françoise Verges, Doreen Mende, Shourideh C. Molavi, Rohit Jain, Jovita dos Santos Pinto, Michelle Caswell, Hollyamber Kennedy

2020

HEAD Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design Genève

Bachelor Art Visuels

Lecturer of semester BA course *Traces & Places*,

with study week in the city of Neuchâtel (in collaboration with CAN Centre d'Art Neuchâtel)

ETH Zurich

D-ARCH IEA, Maria Conen

Semester invitation (*Story I*): lecture and workshop, mentoring of semester works & final crits

ZHdK Zurich University of the Arts

MA Fine Arts. Contemporary Art Research

Lecture *Artistic research methods of Haunting Home*, in Dr. Uriel Orlow semester course

University of Lausanne

Faculty of Social and Political Science

Lecture in MA course *Colonial-/Post-colonial Switzerland"*

Invited by Dr. Prof. Thomas David, Dr. Prof. Nicolas Bancel

ETH Zurich

D-ARCH, LUS Institute of Landscape Architecture

Lecture *Archive Methods. Material traces of Swiss colonialism*

in Doctoral Program in Landscape and Urban Studies

Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst FHNW

Institut Kunst, Basel

Guest lecturer in *Art Taaaalkssss*, invited by Alexandra Navratil & Elise Lammer

- 2019 **EPFL – ENAC**
School of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Environmental Sciences
 Lecture *Mapping Economic History: A Swiss coffee plantation*
 in Dr. Bárbara Maçães Costa's MA semester course *Critical Cartography*
- University of Lausanne UNIL**
Faculty of Social and Political Science
 Lecture *Helvécia, Brazil. A Swiss colonial history*
 in MA course *Colonial-/Post-colonial Switzerland* by Prof. Thomas David, Prof. Nicolas Bancel
- HEAD Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design Genève**
MA CCC Artistic research master
 Lecture *The plantation Helvécia: Swiss Coloniality revisited by artistic research*
 in Prof. Gene Ray's MA semester course *Plantanocene, Anthropocene*
- 2018 **HEAD Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design Genève**
MA Contemporary Artistic Practices
 Lecturer MA course *Ghostly Matters. Ghosts Matter (spring semester)*
- 2005–2009 **Schweizerische Volksschule**, Kanton Aargau

EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 **Aargauer Kunsthau**
MODELL NEUTRALITÄT. group exhibition, curated by Katharina Amman & Bassma El Adisey
- 2024 **Kunsthau Zürich**
Apropos Hodler. group exhibition, curated by Cathérine Hug and Sandra Gianfreda
- Landesmuseum Zürich, Swiss National Museum**
colonial. Switzerland's global entanglements. historical exhibition.
- CAN Centre d'Art Neuchâtel**
SPATIAL CONVERS(I)OR, solo exhibition based on EPFL doctorate
 (in collaboration with Brazilian artists Aline Motta and Pedro Zylbersztain)
- SWISS ART AWARDS**
 Finalist, BAK Bundesamt für Kultur der Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft
- 2023 **Nieuwe Institute Rotterdam/Netherlands**
Colonial Endurance, group exhibition, TOK curators
- Aargauer Kunsthau**
Stranger in the Village – Rassismus im Spiegel von James Baldwin, group exhibition
 curated by Céline Eidenbenz, among works by Kader Attia, James Bantone, Marlene Dumas,
 Sasha Huber, Uriel Orlow, Ceylan Öztrük
- 2022 **Landesmuseum Zürich, Swiss National Museum**
Im Wald –Eine Kulturgeschichte Cultural history exhibition *Helvécia, Brazil (2017/21)*
- International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Geneva**
Equilibre Préquaire, group exhibition (Olafur Eliasson, Nina Haab, Nicolas Cilins)
- IMAGES VEVEY Visual Arts Biennale**
 Along works by Marina Abramovic, Lebohang Kgyange, Thomas Strutt, Martin Parr, et. al.
- MOST BEAUTIFUL SWISS BOOKS**
 Helmhaus Zürich, BAK Bundesamt für Kultur

- 2021 **Paris Centre Culturel Suisse CCS**
Solo exhibition *OASIS OF PEACE. Neutral Only on the Outside*, curated by Claire Hoffmann
- Fotomuseum Winterthur**
Film screening *State Fiction. Neutral Only on the Outside* (2021)
- Bündner Kunstmuseum**
LANDLIEBE. Kunst und Landwirtschaft, group exhibition, curated by Damian Jurt
- SALTS Basel**
Quilombo, group exhibition, in collaboration with WAZA Art Center Congo.
Curated by Samuel Leuenberger (Art Basel Parours), Benedict Wyss
- Super Dakota Gallery, Brussels**
Ecosystems of Relation, group exhibition, along works by Jeremy Deller, Tenki Hiramatsu,...
- 2020 **Aargauer Kunsthaus MANOR ART PRIZE**
Solo exhibition, curated by Yasmin Afschar
- 2019 **Swiss Art Awards**
Finalist, BAK Bundesamt für Kultur
- MOST BEAUTIFUL SWISS BOOKS**
Winner with self-published artist-book *We Say We Are Fine. They Say We Are Not*.
Helmhaus Zürich and international traveling exhibition organized by BAK
- 2018 **Pro Helvetia Southern Africa, Johannesburg**
Group exhibition in the frame of the 20th anniversary of Pro Helvetia Southern Africa,
With installation *NEUTRALITY AS AN AGENT* (2018)
- *ALTEFABRIK. Gebert Stiftung für Kultur, Rapperswil**
FOREVER OR IN A HUNDRED YEARS –
Denise Bertschi (CH) and Inas Halabi (Palestine)
Duo exhibition, curated by Josiane Imhasly
- MKG Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg**
MOBILE WELTEN. Oder das Museum unserer transkulturellen Gegenwart.
Group exhibition, curated by Roger M. Buerger and Sophia Prinz

INVITED TALKS/CONFERENCES

- 2024 **Swiss Geoscience meeting, scnat akademie der naturwissenschaften**
Scientific panel: Human Geography, Perspectives from the Margins.
- ETH Zürich, gta Institut für Geschichte und Theorie der Architectur**
Conference: *Territories of Technology Practices of the Pastoral*
by Prof. Dr. Laurent Stalder, Prof. Milica Topalovic (ETH Zurich)
- Collegium Helveticum, Advanced Studies Institute**
Workshop *Climate Crisis and the Humanities* organised by
Prof. Dr. Debjani Bhattacharyya (History of the Anthropocene, Uni Zürich)
- CAN Centre d'Art de Neuchâtel**
Round-table proposed by Denise Bertschi in solo exhibition **SPATIAL CONVERS(I)OR**
Moderated by Christoph Keller, with Dr. Denise Bertschi (Collegium Helveticum), Dr. Zainabu Jallo (Uni Basel), Chantal Lafontant Valloton, Aline Motta, Larissa Tiki Mbassi (Uni Fribourg), Dr. Fernando Túlio (ETH Zürich), Pedro Zylbersztajn.
- Museum of Art and History MAHN, Neuchâtel**
Discussion: **L'art contemporain et l'histoire coloniale**
in conversation with Dr. Céline Eidenbenz (Aargauer Kunsthaus), moderation: Dr. Chonja Lee

- 2023 **ZHdK Zurich University of the Arts**
Frühjahrsakademie "Sich Verlandschaften. Auf der Suche nach einer relationalen Praxis"
by Prof. Dr. Sigrid Adorf, Prof. Dr. Ines Kleesattel and Léonie Süess
- 2022 **NEXPO. The new Expo (in MEN Musée d'Ethnographie Genève)**
Round table *La Suisse et ses limites*, curated by Dr. Samia Henni, in the frame of
NEXPO – Die neue Expo (Artistic directors: Fredi Fischli und Niels Olsen)
University of Lausanne
Centre of International History and Political Studies of Globalization
Lecture in conference: *Ready for the Past? Decolonizing Swiss Museums in Lausanne*
Invited by Prof. Thomas David, Dr. Bernhard C. Schär (declined due to maternity leave)
- Most Beautiful Swiss Books 2021**
Panel discussion *On Artist's books* with Dr. Susanne Bieri (Swiss National Library)
- Bernisches Historisches Museum**
Colonial Provenance. Swiss museum collections in need of clarification.
Lecture in workshop (with Dr. Tomas Bartoletti) – (declined due to maternity leave)
- Pasquart. Fotoforum Biel/Bienne**
Symposium *PATINA: Decolonizing Archives, Human and Non-Human Narratives*
Curated by Dr. Jana Johanna Haeckel, with Kabelo Malatsie, George Mahashe,
Gesine Krüger, Sophie Junge, Sami Baloji, Bianca Baldi, et. al.
- Alpines Museum Bern**
Film screening "State Fiction" and discussion with Prof. Dr. Patricia Purtschert (Institute for
Gender Studies University of Bern), Jean-Jacques Joss (Ex-head of Neutral
Military mission NNSC in Korea), moderated by Christoph Keller
- 2021 **BSA Bund Schweizer Architektinnen und Architekten General assembly, Davos**
Panel discussion *Polyphonie*, with Jakob Tanner (UZH), Catherine Hug (Kunsthau Zürich),
Marcel Hänggi, moderated by Christoph Keller
- CCS Centre Culturel Suisse Paris**
Artist talk in OASIS OF PEACE. Neutral Only on the Outside
In conversation: Denise Bertschi, Dr. Heonik Kwon (Cambridge University), Dr. Adeena Mey
Featured by EAT Engadin Art Talks series *LONGUE DURÉE* (moderated by Cristina Bechtler)
- CCS Centre Culturel Suisse Paris**
Walk through in OASIS OF PEACE. Neutral Only on the Outside
Discussion together with Dr. Doris Gassert (research curator Fotomuseum Winterthur)
- 2020 **SIK ISEA – Schweizerisches Institut für Kunstwissenschaften**
Villa Bleuler Gespräch with Denise Bertschi and Sally Schönfeld, *Wer schafft Wissen?*
- Aargauer Kunsthaus**
Conversation with Dr. Samia Henni, Denise Bertschi, Yasmin Afschar
Public city walk *Bahia in Aarau*, as part of my solo exhibition
- 2019 **LACA Los Angeles Contemporary Archive**
Artist talk *The Archive as a Resource for Artists*
Moderated and organised by Dr. Pietro Rigolo (Getty Research Institute Los Angeles)
- Swissnex San Francisco**
Artist talk *Revisiting Szeemann's "Visionäre Schweiz" – Findings from the Getty archive*
- University of Lucerne**
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Cultural Studies
Lecture in *Kulturwissenschaftliches Kolloquium*, invited by Prof. Marianne Sommer
- 2018 **ETH Zurich – Institute of Global History, Chair for History of the Modern World**
Lecture in Conference *New Approaches on Swiss Global History*, by Dr. Bernhard C. Schär

AFFILIATIONS

- 2021–ongoing **VISARTE Schweiz** full member
- 2018- 2021 **CCC PhD-FORUM, HEAD-Genève**, led by Doreen Mende and Anselm Franke
- 2018- 2021 **Trans-disciplinary Doctoral Program, "Migration and Post-coloniality meets Switzerland"**
University of Fribourg
- 2020–ongoing **SIKArt Lexicon on Swiss Art**, listed

JURY MEMBER

- 2022–ongoing **SWISS ART AWARDS – Kiefer-Hablitzel-Göhner Prize**
Head of Jury: Claire Hoffmann

ART COLLECTIONS

Kunstsammlung der Stadt Zürich
Aargauer Kunsthaus
Musée d'Art et d'Histoire Neuchâtel
private collections

LANGUAGES

German (mother tongue)
English (proficiency in writing and speech)
French (advanced in writing and speech)

REFERENCES

upon request

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Monographs/ Co-edited volumes

(Ed.) Denise Bertschi, Nitin Bathla, Julien Lafontaine Carboni, **Unearthing Traces. Dismantling the imperialist entanglement of archives and the Built Environment**, EPLF Press (Feb. 2023)

(Ed.) Denise Bertschi, Pedro Zylbersztajn, **EXPORT QUALITY POETRY (1924–2024)**, Center d'Art Neuchâtel, 2024. With contributions by Denise Bertschi & Pedro Zylbersztajn, Dr. Zainabu Jallo, Aline Motta, Daniel Frota de Abreu, Jandir Jr., Walla Capelobo.

***Awarded "Most Beautiful Swiss Books" 2021

Denise Bertschi, **STATE FICTION. The gaze of a Swiss neutral mission in the Korean Demilitarized Zone**, Edition Centre de la Photographie (Genève, 2021)
With texts by Denise Bertschi, Prof. Heonik Kwon, Prof. Hans-Ulrich Jost

Denise Bertschi, **STRATA. Mining Silence**, Aargauer Kunsthau und Edition Fink, Zürich, 2020
Artist monograph with texts by Anselm Franke, Yasmin Afschar, Bernhard C. Schär, André N. Lima

***Awarded "Most Beautiful Swiss Books" 2018

Denise Bertschi, **WE SAY WE ARE FINE – YOU SAY WE ARE FINE**, Mark Petzinger Verlag, Vienna, 2018

Articles/ Book chapters

Denise Bertschi, "**Beobachtende "Neutralität. Bildproduktion der Schweizerischen Delegation der Neutralen Überwachungskommission in Korea von 1953 bis 1980"**" in: Thomas David (ed.) **Histoire mondiale de la Suisse**, Hier und Jetzt Verlag, Zürich (forthcoming 2025)

Denise Bertschi, **Landscapes as critical archival repositories** in: **Working in and against Archives**. (ed. Lara Kothe, Lucie Kolb), Brand-New-Life Journal, (forthcoming '25, peer-reviewed)

Denise Bertschi, "**Revealing economic networks through visual culture in Cape Town's Swiss Club**", in: Chris Walton (ed.), **Cultural relations between Switzerland and South Africa, 1948–1994**, Basler Afrika Bibliotheken, 2025 (forthcoming, peer-reviewed)

Denise Bertschi, **Mapping Architectural Traces of the Swiss–South African Gold Trade in Johannesburg: Film as Investigative Spatial Research** in: Nitin Bathla (Ed.), **Researching Otherwise. Pluriversal Methodologies for Landscape and Urban Studies**. GTA Verlag, Zürich (Mai 2024, peer-reviewed) ***awarded DAM-Book prize 2024

Denise Bertschi, **Helvécia, Brazil**, in: Schweizerisches Landesmuseum (ed.) **colonial. Switzerland's Global Entanglements**, Scheidegger und Spiess, 2024

Denise Bertschi, "**Forestscapes and the plantation. The longue-durée of Swiss coloniality shaping Brazilian and Swiss land**", in: insert. **Journal for Artistic Practices and Visual Inquiries**, 5/2024, Zürich University of the Arts, 2024

Denise Bertschi, "**Gaping Absences. Where is Helvécia?**", in: Denise Bertschi, Nitin Bathla, Julien Lafontaine Carboni, **Unearthing Traces. Dismantling the imperialist entanglement of archives and the Built Environment**, EPLF Press (Feb. 2023)

INES Institut neue Schweiz (Ed.), **Handbuch Neue Schweiz**, Diaphanes Verlag, 2021

Denise Bertschi, Jakob Tanner, Catherine Hug, Marcel Hänggi, Christoph Keller (Mod.), **Polyphonie auf dem Zauberberg. Klimakrise, koloniale Vergangenheit, Enrichissement – Die Verantwortung von Architektur und Architekturschaffenden**, in: WERK. Bau Wohnen, 2022

Schweizerisches Nationalmuseum (Hg.), **Im Wald. Eine Kulturgeschichte**. Scheidegger und Spiess, Zürich 2022

Denise Bertschi, "**PLANTA-tions. Eine Rückkehrvilla zwischen ägyptischen Baumwollplantagen und der Bündner Landwirtschaftsschule**", in: **Über die Liebe zum Land. Kunst und Landwirtschaft**, Kehrer Verlag, 2021

Denise Bertschi, "**Le tracce invisibili dell'oro tra Svizzera e Sudafrica**", ESPAZIUM/ARCHI NR. 02, **Frammenti di Svizzera na Africa**, 2020

Denise Bertschi, Giulia Bini, **An initial Conversation**, ISSUE Journal of Art and Design, HEAD Genève, 2020