

## KAY ROSEN

Rosen has been exploring the possibilities of words as images for over 50 years. She delights in the small shift; the subtle change that subverts meaning and reveals the unexpected. In her paintings, drawings, wall works, collages and editions she has used varied visual, grammatical, and typographical strategies to challenge the way people see and understand the words they read. For someone whose ammunition is the painted word she is also a very visual artist, using colour to articulate her ideas in a way that is often humorous, sometimes shocking, and frequently profound.

### Biography

1943 Born Corpus Christi, Texas, USA

Currently lives in Gary, Indiana and New York, USA

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 *Kay Rosen: New Work 2020-2021*, Sikkema Jenkins & Co, New York, USA
- 2021 *SORRY*, a commission by Kay Rosen for the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC, USA
- 2020 *Kay Rosen: 202020...*, Lora Reynolds Gallery, Austin, USA
- 2019 *Kay Rosen: Gravity of Language*, Osmos Station, New York, USA
- 2018 *One Wall, One Work*, Krakow Witkin Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- 2017 *Kay Rosen: Stirring Wirds*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY, USA  
*Kay Rosen: Jumbo Mumbo*, Lora Reynolds Gallery, Austin, Texas  
*Kay Rosen: H Is for House*, Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut
- 2016 *Kay Rosen: Baroken*, PPC Contemporary, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2015 *This Means War...* Billboard for Edinburgh, public art project, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2014 *Map of the World*, Entrance Court project, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
*Kay Rosen*, Sikkema Jenkins & Co, New York City, USA  
*Kay Rosen*, Galerie Zilberman, Istanbul, Turkey  
*Kay Rosen: On the Wall*, Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, USA
- 2013 *Cutout*; a windows project, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC, Canada, curated by Jenifer Pappararo
- 2012 *Here Are the People and There Is the Steeple*, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Christchurch, New Zealand  
*PEEK/KEEP*, Future Home Site, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, Colorado, USA  
*Kay Rosen: Wide and Deep*, Sikkema Jenkins & Co, New York, USA
- 2011 *GO DO GOOD*, *Kay Rosen: Art Loop*, State Street, Chicago, USA  
*Mañana Man*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA  
*Kay Rosen: On the Off Ramp*, Taubman Museum of American Art, Roanoke, Virginia, USA

- 2010 *Kay Rosen: Black and White and Read All Over*, Barbara Krakow Gallery, Boston, USA
- 2009 *Kay Rosen: You and Your Landscapes!* Galerie Klosterfelde, Berlin, Germany  
*Kay Rosen*, Gallery 400, University of Illinois at Chicago, Learning Modern, Sullivan Galleries, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA
- 2008 *Kay Rosen: Huen*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*Kay Rosen: Scareful!* Yvon Lambert Gallery, New York, USA  
*Kay Rosen: Alone and Together*, Yvon Lambert Gallery, Paris, France  
*No Noose Is Good Noose*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, USA
- 2007 *Kay Rosen: Editions and Multiples*, Helga Maria Klosterfelde Edition, Berlin, Germany
- 2006 *Kay Rosen: Wall Paintings and Drawings 2002-2006*, Yvon Lambert Gallery, New York, USA
- 2005 *Gray Kapernekas Gallery*, New York, USA  
*Kay Rosen: (No) Comment*, Galerie Klosterfelde, Berlin, Germany
- 2004 *Kay Rosen: Big Talk*, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, New Zealand  
*New Word Order: Kay Rosen*, Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA
- 2003 *Kay Rosen*, The Suburban, Oak Park, Illinois, 2003-4 "Kay Rosen: Rooms," Galerie Friedrich, Basel, Switzerland
- 2002 *Kay Rosen: Collages 1999-2002*, The Drawing Center, New York, USA
- 2001 *Rooms*, Paul Morris Gallery, New York, USA  
*Kay Rosen: Up and Down*, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, USA
- 2000 Paul Morris Gallery, New York, USA  
 Ten in One Gallery, New York, USA
- 1998 *Kay Rosen: Lifeli[k]e*, Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) and Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, USA  
*Kay Rosen: Girl Talk*, Ten in One Gallery, Chicago, USA  
*ABC (At Beaver College)*, Beaver College Art Gallery (now Arcadia University), Philadelphia, USA
- 1997 *Kay Rosen: Short Stories/Tall Tales*, M.I.T. List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA  
 Galerie Michael Cosar, Dusseldorf, Germany
- 1996 *Short Stories*, Helga Maria Klosterfelde, Hamburg, Germany, Art: Concept, Nice, France  
 Unlimited Contemporary Art, Athens, Greece
- 1995 Galerie Erika + Otto Friedrich, Bern, Switzerland  
 Paul Morris Gallery, New York, USA
- 1994 *Kay Rosen: Home On the Range*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA  
 Richard Telles Fine Art, Los Angeles, USA  
*Kay Rosen: Back Home In Indiana*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, USA
- 1993 Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK  
 Feature, New York, USA
- 1992 Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, USA  
 Laura Carpenter Gallery, Sante FE, USA  
 Feature, New York, USA
- 1991 Shoshona Wayne Gallery, Santa Monica, USA  
 Feature, New York, USA

- 1990 Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK  
Witte de With (Center for Contemporary Art), Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 1989 Feature, New York, USA
- 1988 Feature, New York, USA  
Feature, Chicago, USA
- 1987 Feature, Chicago, USA
- 1983 *Kay Rosen: Lines On Lines*, Bertha Urdang Gallery, New York, USA
- 1981 *Kay Rosen- Stair Walking: Notations/Diagrams*, Bertha Urdang Gallery, New York, USA
- 1980 *Kay Rosen: Photographic Performances*, Franklin Furnace, New York, USA
- 1979 *Kay Rosen: Photo-texts and Performances*, Bertha Urdang Gallery, New York, USA

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2020 *Robert Indiana: A Legacy of Love*, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, USA  
*Yesterday's Tomorrow: Selections From the Rose Collection 1933-2018*, Rose Art Museum, Waltham, USA  
*Catalyst: Art and Social Justice*, Gracie Mansion Conservancy, New York, USA  
*We Fight To Build a Free World: An Exhibition by Jonathan Horowitz*, Jewish Museum, New York, USA  
*Energy In All Directions*, The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, New York, USA
- 2019 *IN/SITU*, EXPO CHICAGO, Chicago, USA  
*OVERRIDE*, EXPO CHICAGO, Chicago, USA  
*Out of the Retina, Into the Brain: The Art Library of Aaron and Barbara Levine*, Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, USA  
*Zombies: Pay Attention!* Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, Colorado, USA
- 2018 *DO I HAVE TO DRAW YOU A PICTURE?* The Heong Gallery, Downing College, Cambridge University, UK
- 2015 *Colorwheel*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
*Artists' Recipes*, publication by Admir Jahic and Comenius Roethlisberger, Basel, Switzerland  
*25 Years of Fun*, A celebration of Edition Helga Maria Klosterfelde's 25th anniversary, Berlin  
*Softly Override*, Ha Ha Gallery, Southampton, UK, curated by Lulu Nunn and HOAX, UK  
*Re(a)d*, Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York City, USA, curated by Ryan Steadman  
*Over and Under*, Sikkema Jenkins & Co, New York City, USA  
*Once Upon a Time and Now*, The LGBT Community Center, New York, USA curated by Ian Alteveer  
*Assisted*, Kavi Gupta Gallery, Chicago, USA, curated by Jessica Stockholder in conjunction with her exhibition *Door Hinges*
- 2014 *Take My Word For It*, Art Museum at the University of Kentucky, USA, curated by Stuart Horodner  
*I Was a Double*, Tang Museum at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, USA, curated by Ian Berry and David Lang  
*The I-70 Sign Show*, Highway I-70 near Columbia, Missouri, USA, curated by Anne Thompson
- 2013 *For the Time Being: Wall Paintings-Painted Walls*, Kunsthalle Bielefelde, Bielefelde, Germany, in collaboration with Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, curated by Friedrich Meschede  
*ABCDEFGHII*, Marabouparken, Sundbyberg, Sweden, curated by Bettina Pehrsson
- 2012 *Postscript: Writing After Conceptual Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Denver, USA, curated by Andrea Andersson and Nora Burnett Abrams, *Travels to The Power Plant*

Contemporary

- Art Gallery in Toronto, Canada, The Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University,  
East Lansing, Michigan, USA  
*Don't Smile*, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz, Liechtenstein, curated by Christiane Meyer-Stoll  
*Plane Text*, Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, USA, curated by Adam Shopkorn  
*Ecstatic Alphabets/Heaps of Language*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA, curated by Laura Hoptman  
*A Thousand Words and Counting*, Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu, USA, curated by Jay Jensen  
*Girl Talk: Women and Text*, CAM Raleigh, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, curated by Elysia Borowy  
*Beasts of Revelation*, DC Moore Gallery, New York, USA  
'=,' mfc-michèle didier gallery, Paris, France  
*Project Projects: Test Fit*, Art Institute of Chicago, curated by Project Projects, New York, USA
- 2011  
*Brainbodygame*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, USA, curated by Hudson  
*About Painting*, ABC Art Berlin Contemporary, Berlin, Germany, curated by Rita Kersting  
*In Other Words*, Lewis Glucksman Gallery, Cork, Ireland  
*Seeing Is a Kind of Thinking: A Jim Nutt Companion*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA  
*Gravity's Rainbow*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*Nod Nod Wink Wink: Conceptual Art in New Mexico and Its Influences*, Hardwood Museum of Art, Taos, New Mexico, USA  
*Playtime (works from the Klosterfelde Family Foundation)*, LAC - Lieu d'Art Contemporain Narbonne, Sigean, France  
*Mixed Messages*, La Mama La Galleria, New York, USA  
*De-Building*, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Christchurch, New Zealand
- 2009  
*Third Thoughts*, CCA Andratx, Mallorca, Spain  
*We Between the Lines*, Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York, USA  
*Che Cosa Sono Le Nuvole?* (*The Enea Righi Collection*), Museion, Bolzano, Italy  
*A to B*, MKG127, Toronto, Canada
- 2007  
*Just What Are They Saying?* Jonathon Ferrara Gallery, New Orleans, USA  
*Rich Text*, Fleisher-Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia, USA  
*Broken Thorn*, Sweet Blackberry, Sikkema Jenkins Gallery, New York, USA  
*Archeology of Longing*, Kadist Art Foundation, Paris, France  
*Political Corect*, Blondeau Fine Art Services, Geneva, Switzerland  
*Idiolects*, Brown Gallery, London, UK  
*In the Beginning: Artists Respond to Genesis*, Contemporary Jewish Museum, Inaugural Exhibition, San Francisco, USA  
*Always There*, Max Hetzler Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
*La parola nell'arte*, Mart-Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Rovereto Trento, Italy  
*Words Fail Me*, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD), Detroit, USA  
*Emerging Wor(l)ds*, Billboard Projects for Tina B, The Prague Contemporary Art Festival 2007, Prague, Czech Republic  
*Sign Language*, Des Moines Art Center, Iowa, USA  
*Been Down So Long It Looks Like Up To Me*, Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver, Canada  
*numerica*, Palazzo delle Papesse - Centro Arte Contemporanea, Siena, Italy
- 2006  
*Gaylen Gerber*, Foundation Musee d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg  
*No Lemons*, No Melon, David Krut Projects, New York, USA  
*Under the Skin: Tattoos and American Culture*, Asheville Art Museum, North Carolina, USA
- 2005  
*General Ideas*, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, USA  
*A Thousand Words*, Inman Gallery, Houston, USA  
*Very Early Pictures*, Luckman Gallery at California State University, Los Angeles; Arcadia University Art Gallery, Philadelphia, USA  
*How To Read* as part of *Collection Remixed*, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, USA
- 2004  
*Between Letters and Abstraction*, 3°W Gallery, Wordsworth Trust, Grasmere, UK  
*Unclosed Stories*, Unlimited Contemporary, Athens, Greece

- Disturbing the Peace*, Danese Gallery, New York, USA  
*The Center Is Anywhere*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Chicago, USA
- 2003  
*Black Companion*, Unlimited Contemporary Art, Athens, Greece  
*Back in Black*, Cohan, Leslie, & Brown Gallery, New York, USA  
*The Greatest Album Covers That Never Were*, Track 16 Gallery, Santa Monica, USA
- 2002  
 Art Basel Miami Beach, Artists Projects, Miami, USA  
*Interstate (Fehrer, Moffet, Rosen, Villareal)*, Texas Fine Arts Association, Austin, Texas, USA  
*Between Language and Form*, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut, USA  
*Henrik Olesen, Gabriel Orozco, Kay Rosen, Arbeiten auf Papier*, Galerie Helga Maria Klosterfelde, Hamburg, Germany  
*Words In Deeds*, Portland Institute of Contemporary Art (PICA), Oregon, USA
- 2001  
*The Game Show*, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Massachusetts, USA  
*Extra-Art: A Survey of Artists' Ephemera 1960-1999*, California College of Art and Crafts, San Francisco, traveled to Minnetonka Art Center, Minneapolis & ICA, London, UK  
*Drawing On Language*, Spaces, Cleveland, USA
- 2000  
*Biennial Exhibition 2000*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA  
*Errant Gestures*, Apex Gallery, New York, USA  
*Words-Objects-Acts*, Museum of the City of Skopje, Skopje, Macedonia  
*Art On Paper*, Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA
- 1998  
*Billboard: Art On the Road*, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (Mass MoCa), North Adams, USA  
*Art In the City III*, ("Kunst in der Stadt III"), with Gaylen Gerber, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria  
*Word*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia  
*Points of Departure: Art On the Line*, Main Line train stations site-specific projects, Philadelphia, USA  
*The Sea, The Sea*, Murray Guy, New York, USA  
*Wallpaintings*, Galerie Helga Maria Klosterfelde, Hamburg, Germany
- 1997  
*In the Beginning*, Murray Guy, New York, USA  
*Video Library*, David Zwirner Gallery, New York, USA  
*A To Z: Language To Be Looked At and/ or Things To Be Read*, The Approach, London, UK  
*Editions: General Idea, Christian Jankowski, Kay Rosen*, Helga Maria Klosterfelde, Hamburg, Germany  
*Pierre Molinier, Kay Rosen, Kara Walker*, Wooster Gardens (Brent Sikkema), New York, USA  
*Critical Images: Conceptual Works from the 1960s to the Present*, Leslie Tonkonow Gallery, New York, USA  
*Point Mort*, Art Concept, Paris, France
- 1996  
*In Chicago: 1945-1995*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA  
*Small Scale*, Joseph Helman Gallery, New York, USA  
*Varietes*, Le Capitou: Art Contemporain Frejus, France  
*Thinking Print: Prints and Illustrated Books 1980-1995*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA  
*50x50x50*, Answering Machines at various sites, London, UK  
*Second Sight: Modern Printmaking in Chicago*, Block Gallery, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, USA
- 1995  
*Temporarily Possessed: The Semi-Permanent Collection*, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, USA  
*Word for Word*, Beaver College Art Gallery, Glenside, Pennsylvania, USA  
*Five Words or Less*, Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, Australia, On Target, Horodner Romley Gallery, New York, USA  
*Altered States*, Forum, St. Louis, USA  
*Pittura-Immedia: Painting in the 90's*, Neue Galerie and Kunstler Haus, Graz, Austria
- 1994  
 Korrespondenzen/Correspondences, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Germany and Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, USA  
 Synesthesia: Sound and Vision In Contemporary Art, San Antonio Museum of Art, Texas, USA  
 The Use of Pleasure, San Francisco, USA

- 1993 *Beyond Loss: Art in the Era of AIDS*, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington D.C USA  
*Post-Dialectical Index*, Piazza Costanza, Trieste, Italy, La Tuatta Studio, Milan, Italy; Horodner Romley Gallery, New York, USA  
*Substitute Teachers*, Sadie Bronfman Cultural Center, Montreal, Canada  
*Legend in My Livingroom*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, USA  
*Small Talk*, P.S.1 and Postmasters Gallery, New York, USA  
*Painting Culture*, University of California Irvine, California, USA  
*Why Paint?*, Renaissance Gallery at the University of Chicago
- 1991 *Magnum de Tabula*, Shedhalle, Zurich, Switzerland  
*At the End of the Day*, Randy Alexander Gallery, New York, USA  
*Candy Ass Carnival (When Good Things Happen to Loozers)*, Stux Gallery, New York, USA  
*Just What Is It That Makes Today's Homes So Different, So Appealing?* Hyde Collection, Great Falls, New York, USA  
*Awards in the Visual Arts X*, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D.C.; Albuquerque Museum; Toledo Museum, Ohio, USA  
*A New Low*, Claudio Botello Gallery, Turin, Italy  
*Something Pithier and More Psychological*, Simon Watson Gallery, New York, and Bloom Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
*Artists in Words and #s*, Wright State University Museum of Contemporary Art, Dayton, Ohio, USA
- 1990 *Word As Image: American Art 1960-1990*, Milwaukee Art Museum; Oklahoma City Art Museum; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Texas, USA  
*Broken Lines*, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK  
*Your Message Here*, (Billboard Exhibition), Randolph Street Gallery, Chicago, USA  
*The Clinic*, Simon Watson Gallery, New York, USA
- 1989 *AIDS: A Time Line 1979-1990*, Matrix Program at University Museum, University of California, Berkeley; Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut, USA  
*Problems With Reading Rereading*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, USA
- 1988 *From Right to Left*, Churchman Fehsenfeld Gallery, Indianapolis, USA  
*Contention*, New Langton Arts, San Francisco, USA  
*Brave and Cruel*, (Hudson, Lafreniere, Rosen), Randolph Street Gallery, Chicago, USA  
*Text Does Not Explain*, Stux Gallery, Boston, USA  
*The Language of Form, The Form of Language*, Rosa Esman Gallery, New York, USA  
*Romantic Distance*, Jeffrey Neal Gallery, New York, USA
- 1987 *Wet Paint*, Robbin Lockett Gallery, Chicago, USA  
*Summer Group Show*, American Fine Arts Gallery, New York, USA
- 1986 *Cryptic Languages*, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington D.C., USA  
*Spiritual America*, CEPA Gallery, Buffalo, New York, USA  
*Promises, Promises*, Feature, Chicago and C.A.G.E., Cincinnati, USA
- 1984 *Indiana Influence*, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Inaugural Exhibition, Indiana, USA
- 1982 *Artists Tribute to Bertha Urdang*, Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel  
*Tracking, Tracing, Marking, Pacing*, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York; Sherman Gallery, Ohio State University; Anderson Gallery, University of Richmond; Washington Project for the Arts, Washington D.C., USA
- 1981 *Bookworks: New Approaches to Artists Books*, Franklin Furnace, New York, USA  
*Ikons/Logos: Word As Image*, Alternative Museum, New York, USA
- 1980 *New Dimensions: Time*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA
- 1979 *Midway Between Comedy and Art*, Midway Studios, University of Chicago, Chicago, USA

- 1978 *Daley's Tomb*, N.A.M.E. Gallery, Chicago, USA
- 1977 *All Over the Place*, Moming Dance Center, Chicago, USA

### **Selected Collections**

MCA Chicago, Chicago, USA  
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA  
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, USA  
Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin, USA  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA  
Museum of Modern Art, New York City, USA  
New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York City, USA  
Norton Family Collection  
Progressive Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio, USA  
Re Rebaudengo Collection, Turin, Italy  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City, USA

### **Selected Publications**

- 2009 *Kay Rosen AKAK*, Regency Arts Press Ltd., New York
- 2009 *Nau Sea Sea Sick*, Kay Rosen, Four Corners Books, London
- 2007 *Kay Says: Essays and Interviews by Kay Rosen*, Sara Ranchouse Publishing, Chicago
- 2006 *Kay Rosen: 20 Questions - A Project by Matthew Higgs*, Yvon Lambert Gallery, New York
- 2006 *Kay Rosen: Wall Paintings and Drawings*, Yvon Lambert Gallery, New York
- 1998 *Kay Rosen: lifeli(k)e*, MOCA, Otis Gallery, Los Angeles
- 1990 *Kay Rosen, Paintings 1990*, Little Critic Pamphlet Three, Victoria Miro Gallery, London