



Susan Giles is an artist working in sculpture and video. She has a MFA from Northwestern University and a MA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Giles' work has shown in Chicago at the Museum of Contemporary Art, and The Renaissance Society, among others. She has received several grants, including an Individual Artist Project Grant from DCASE in 2019, 2017, 2015, awards from the Illinois Arts Council in 2014 and 2009, a 2005 Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, and a 1998 Fulbright Grant to Indonesia to conduct research on the intersection of tourism and culture in Bali. Giles is an Assistant

Professor in the Department of Contemporary Practices at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

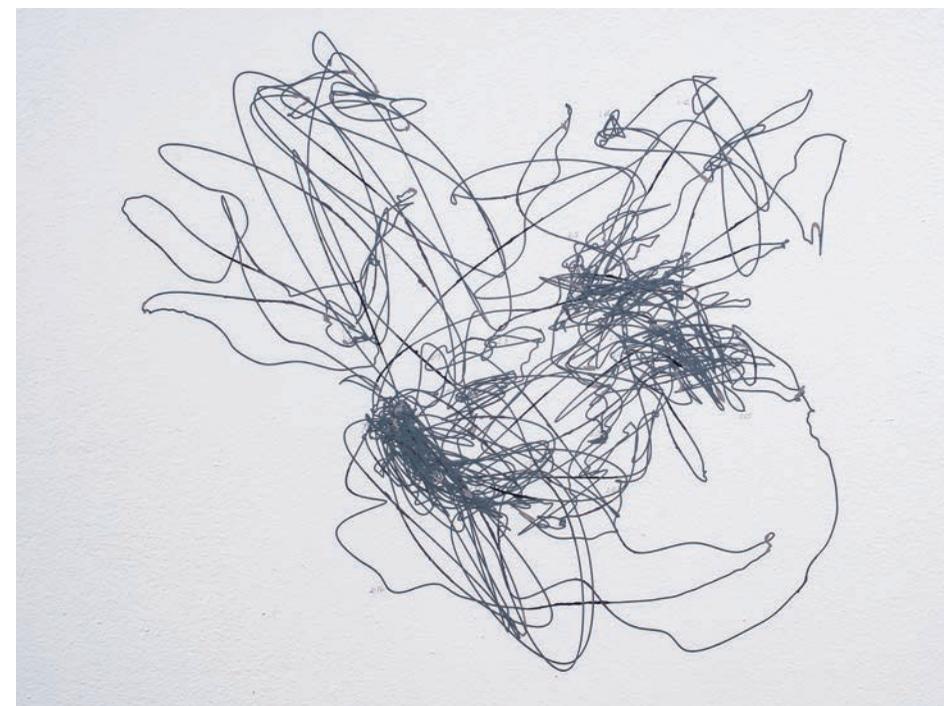
Sally Morfill is an artist and educator. She is a Senior Lecturer in the Textiles in Practice programme at Manchester School of Art, and has recently completed a practice-based PhD, making work that investigates the relationship between drawing and different aspects of language, as found in and between speech, movement and writing. Morfill's practice is cross-disciplinary, often col Since 2007 she has been a member of Five Years, a collaborative artists' project based in Archway, London, sharing responsibility for the programming of events and exhibitions. Morfill has shown both in the UK and internationally; this is the first time she has exhibited in Chicago.



Sally Morfill & Susan Giles

Found Gestures

Gallery 5
April 14 - May 11, 2019



Susan Giles and Sally Morfill, *Tracy Taylor speaks about Sabina Ott's who cares for the sky? at Hyde Park Art Center, February 21 - May 1, 2016 (detail), 2019, cut vinyl and text, 35 x 83 inches. Photography by Susan Giles.*

Related Events

Public Reception

Saturday, April 27, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Hyde Park **ART**CENTER

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 www.hydeparkart.org.
Hyde Park Art Center is a unique resource that advances contemporary visual art in Chicago by connecting artists and communities in unexpected ways. The Art Center is funded in part by the: Alphawood Foundation; Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Field Foundation of Illinois; Harpo Foundation; Harper Court Arts Council; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Joyce Foundation; Leo S. Guthman Fund; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Polk Bros. Foundation; Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust; and the generosity of people like you.

This project is partially supported by an Individual Artists Program Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events, as well as a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency, a state agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.



City of Chicago



“This project is an opportunity to continue to reflect on my own and others’ attachment to this historic and vital institution...”

— artist Susan Giles, 2019

As part of a spring research residency at Hyde Park Art Center, artist **Susan Giles** (exhibiting artist and Jackman Goldwasser Resident 2014-2015) has returned to the Art Center in a collaboration with Manchester-based artist **Sally Morfill** to respond to their shared interest in the visual language of co-speech hand gestures. In this collaboration of *Found Gestures*, Giles and Morfill enact and engage the Art Center’s mission through a visualized oral history.

Using motion-capture technology to record physical movements, the two artists have created a series of visual representations of human gestures in the form of wall and floor drawings, which are presented alongside identifying names and fragments of descriptive quotes. The project calls to attention how distinct moments of interpersonal communication can become as identifying as a fingerprint or a scan of the human eye—yet through an individual’s range of their body. This specificity then becomes linked to individual and collective experiences of one meaningful site, Hyde Park Art Center, when Morfill and Giles prompt people within this community to describe a memory of an exhibition.

Thus, artist and resident Fodayemi Wilson speaks about colleague Jefferson Pinder’s exhibition *Onyx Odyssey* that took place at the Art Center in Winter 2015/2016.



Susan Giles and Sally Morfill, *John Henley speaks about Artist Run Chicago at Hyde Park Art Center, May 5 - July 5, 2009, 2019*, cut vinyl and text, 24 x 30 inches, Photography by Tran Tran.

Rodrigo Lara Zendejas, admired teaching artist in the ceramics studio, speaks about the solo exhibition of his work *Laz Paz* that took place in Spring/Summer 2016. Reaching the youngest members of the community, *Found Gestures* seeks perspectives from the teen programs that occupy the building, such as *Molly Dunson*, *Ethan Larbi*, *Ashley Lazaro* and *Emanuel Wiley* speak about *Fodayemi Wilson’s Dark Matter: Celestial Objects as Messengers of Love in These Troubled Times* at Hyde Park Art Center, March 31 - July 14, 2019.

The Hyde Park Art Center’s mission and history focuses on making space for transparent interaction with artistic processes—inspiring creative exploration, and encouraging exchange between practitioners and publics at every level. Quite complementary, *Found Gestures* functions as both a subject of artistic research and a method of exhibition. Again, the drive of this project is to capture the fleeting gesticulations of longtime community-members—such as Giles is herself—along with newcomers, such as Morfill. In addition to the gesture drawings, the exhibition includes a table of resource materials that document the exhibitions and histories described in the project overall, as well as vintage video footage from an exhibition by Simparch (2000) that eventually travelled to *documenta*, a prestigious art exhibition in Germany.

As part of *Found Gestures*, Giles and Morfill will continue to participate in the Art Center’s Residency Program in Studio 2 through May 2019 to gather research. The Art Center’s residency program is curated based on high potential for cross-cultural exchange; political, social, and interdisciplinary practices; and quality of artists’ work.

A second iteration of *Found Gestures* will be presented at Five Years, London in June 2019.

Asha Iman Veal
Exhibitions & Residency Coordinator