

# MoMA PS1

Volkswagen Fellows Newsletter  
Winter 2018/2019





Photo: Alycia Kravitz.

## Happy New Year!

This is the winter 2018/2019 edition of a digital newsletter featuring excerpts of interviews with Ellie Burck and Harper Jean, the 2018/2019 MoMA PS1 Volkswagen Fellows.

We're ecstatic to share Ellie and Harper's experiences as a part of the unique partnership between The Museum of Modern Art, MoMA PS1, and Volkswagen.

# About the MoMA PS1 Volkswagen Fellows



## **Harper Jean** **VW Special Events Fellow**

Currently based in the Bronx, NY, Harper graduated from the University at Albany, State University at New York where she received a B.A. in Rhetoric and Communication and an M.A. in Interpersonal and Intercultural Communication.

Harper is a creative thinker whose interest in event planning stems from a genuine enjoyment of putting together a shared experience. Her recent work experience includes an internship in Account Management at The Fader's Cornerstone Agency, managing events as a Graduate Assistant at the University at Albany, and an internship in Events Management at The Hive in Cape Town, South Africa.

Most recently, was a member of the MoMA PS1 Visitor Engagement team. Everyone at the Museum is ecstatic to have her on board in this new role.



Photos: Alycia Kravitz.

## **Ellie Burck** **VW Digital Marketing and Media Fellow**

Ellie Burck is from southwest Michigan. She received a B.A. in Media Arts from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Ellie has delved into many different realms of the media world. Her creative work reflects her interests in environmentalism, activism, family folklore, and her own brain. Ellie's background in animation, radio, and documentary filmmaking support her responsibilities, at MoMA PS1, where her responsibilities include assisting with photography and videography of live events, video editing and production, development of social media content, organizing video and photo documentation of VW Sunday Sessions, and developing new protocols for archiving performance documentation.

Ellie is passionate about supporting emerging artists in MoMA PS1's efforts to introduce new audiences to their work.

# Harper Jean

## VW Special Events Fellow



Directing vendors at Night at the Museum, December 2018. Photo: Alycia Kravitz.

### ***Hi Harper! Can you tell us a little bit about your background and how you got into the arts and the creative community?***

Art has always been something that I've been interested in, whether that meant popping into different galleries or cultural events. I want to be a professional creative, and I'm still figuring that out, which is why I appreciate the VW Fellowship as an opportunity to gain experience working in the world of arts and culture.

I love producing events. I love logistics. I like being the person behind the curtains before the show opens up. I especially like to do those things for programs that I would like to attend... I personally really appreciate being on the business and planning side of something that people get to visually see and experience. That's what brought me to MoMA PS1.

### ***How has being so close to art and artists affected your experience at MoMA PS1?***

I love to take any opportunity that I get to hop on exhibition tours. I really like hearing different perspectives on the artwork we have

on view. It's always great to go by yourself and come up with your own responses to the pieces that you're seeing, but I really appreciate the privilege of hearing how certain works came about, and learn about the artist's perspective.

What I really love about MoMA PS1 is just how dynamic the whole space is, how many different things happen all at once. I love how raw our courtyard is, and how much it holds. In the fall and winter, we have the VW Dome and VW Sunday Sessions. In the summer, we have YAP and Warm Up. Seeing how this space evolves at the hands of artists is incredible.



Photo: Alycia Kravitz.



Heading in to the VW Dome during Night at the Museum, December 2018.  
Photo: Alycia Kravitz.

### ***What do you ultimately hope to get out of this experience for your career?***

I definitely just want to sharpen my skills, and know as much as I can about what needs to go into an event in a general sense. What's great about PS1 is, since we are a smaller institution, I get to see large-scale events happen from start to finish. From when an idea is presented in an email the event actually happening. Learning about all those moving parts has been really important to me, because there may be a time where I'm at a larger institution and I may not be able to experience this sort of thing first-hand.

### ***Broadly, what does art mean to you?***

To me, art is any form of creative expression, whether that's painting, drawing, music, or photography. Art is being. How you present yourself daily and what your message is—that's a big component of art as well. There's always something that needs to be said.

### ***What is the best advice that you've ever been given, and what is advice that you would impart to someone working in the arts or starting out in their career?***

The best advice I've been given was from the CEO of *The FADER*, Rob Stone. I told him I liked art, interior design, and photography. I said, "You know, sometimes it's really hard to choose." He said, "Don't. You don't have to choose. Don't ever let anyone make you feel like you have to choose."

The best advice I can give someone is: do what you feel is going to be fruitful for you in your life. Do what you feel is going to give you purpose. Do what you feel is going to be purposeful to other people. If there is a way for you to help people in the work that you're doing, then go for it... And don't forget the people who helped you get where you are.



Heading in to the VW Dome during Night at the Museum, December 2018.  
Photo: Alycia Kravitz.

# Ellie Burck

## VW Digital Marketing and Media Fellow



Documenting VW Sunday Sessions, December 2018. Photo: Anna Luisa Vallifuoco.

***Hi Ellie! Can you tell us a little bit about your background and how you got into the arts and the creative community?***

I grew up in Southwest Michigan. I was just an hour outside Chicago, but it was a very rural area... We lived on a little farm, in the middle of soybean and corn fields. My mom actually decided to homeschool me, so I had a bit of a non-traditional upbringing in that sense. I definitely believe this taught me to self-direct, and really helped to develop my creative side.

I grew up drawing all the time, and painting. My dad's a writer. I'm a musician. My mom is a musician. [Creativity] was just folded into my life... I remember when I first got a little camera, just a point and shoot. I'm a very visual person, so it felt natural to work with photography at a young age.

***What would you say are some of the most memorable moments or unexpected things that have happened so far?***

The best thing about VW Sunday Sessions that I very much love is how broad it is. It's not just performance art. It's not just dance, or choreography, it's so much more. [The programs] can be discursive. They can be panels, or films, or a live video shoot.



Photo: Alycia Kravitz.

One VW Sunday Session particularly that I found very fun and very interesting as a filmmaker was when Marie Losier came to the VW Dome to not only show her documentaries on 16-millimeter film, but to have a live video shoot (*The Man with the German Haircut: Marie Losier with Felix Kubin*, Sunday, November 11, 2018).

The fact that Marie Losier was directing on stage, with film, in front of an audience was amazing. I can't imagine the guts it took to do that. It was a very long program. Every moment of it, I was documenting her, and also watching her and seeing how she controlled the stage, her dancers, and the musician. How everybody was having fun at the same time was very, very cool.



Editing footage from Sarah Kinlaw, *Unboxing The Compass, Bending The Axis*, December 2018. Photo: Alycia Kravitz.

***Can you talk about the “Sarah Kinlaw, Unboxing The Compass, Bending The Axis” the VW Sunday Session that we experienced yesterday? It was great to see you jump in with the filming, multitasking and obviously doing a lot of different things. How do you prepare for a performance like this?***

This one was a very special instance where there was a single performance. A lot of the VW Sunday Sessions are really multifaceted, where there's small performances or music happening throughout the building culminating in a larger performance in the VW Dome.

Sarah had been in the VW Dome for 10 days preparing and practicing with her cast. It was extensive, almost like a play production.

I was able to sit in on the dress rehearsal on Friday. I called our videographer to come in so we could strategize how to best capture this performance, especially because there was only one. We decided on where we wanted our platforms, where we wanted the cameras, and how many cameras were needed.

I was also fortunate to be able to interview Sarah for various projects around her commission. She's a very cool person, and is able to make herself very vulnerable and emotionally available on stage—enacting tragedies, happinesses, and sadnesses that have happened to her. That's pretty amazing. I loved seeing the work as many times as I did.

***Why do you think it is important for museums to offer live and participatory community-based programming like VW Sunday Sessions?***

As a person who is an artist and always trying to see how other people make their art in the now, working with our culture and our society, seeing live performance and live art feels very important to me. VW Sunday Sessions brings together artists from all different areas and all different types of performance. It helps harbor new artists and supports new work. That support is really awesome and unique. It's also important to bring together audiences that may not have overlapped previously. This is so visible at VW Sunday Sessions.

## The Partnership

A series of exhibitions and programs at The Museum of Modern Art and MoMA PS1 is supported by a partnership with Volkswagen of America.

Since 2011, Volkswagen Group of America has been a major partner of The Museum of Modern Art and MoMA PS1, providing crucial support for MoMA's groundbreaking digital learning activities, a wide range of more than 30 exhibitions, award-winning educational programs, special event programming, and other initiatives. They've given MoMA the chance to reach a truly worldwide audience of learners, connect visitors with living artists, leverage emerging technologies, and further illuminate the richness of MoMA's collection. Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. (VWGoA) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Volkswagen AG, one of the world's leading automobile manufacturers and the largest carmaker in Europe.

# MoMA PS1

# MoMA



**Volkswagen**

## The MoMA PS1 VW Fellows

In 2018, MoMA PS1 launched the third iteration of a Fellowship Program made possible by Volkswagen of America. MoMA PS1 received more than 1,000 applications from around the world for these positions, from which the following candidates were selected:

### **VW Fellow, Development Events**

Harper Jean (Bronx, USA)

### **VW Fellow, Digital Marketing and Media**

Ellie Burck (Michigan, USA)