

Allen Ball was born in London and received a First Class B. A. (Honours) Degree in Fine Art - Painting, with a Commendation in Printmaking, from Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts in 1984, and an MVA in Painting, from the University of Alberta (supported by a Commonwealth Scholarship) in 1990. He served as the Administrator for Latitude 53 Society of Artists 1992 – 1993, and as Executive Director of Harcourt House Arts Centre from 1993 - 2002.

Allen has taught Printmaking, Drawing and Painting courses at MacEwan University from 1993 – 2002. Also, teaching sessional Painting and Drawing courses at the University of Alberta, Department of Art and Design from and 1997 – 2002. He is currently Associate Professor, Co-ordinator Painting, and Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Art and Design at the University of Alberta. Also, from August 2012 – August 2013, he was the Scholar in Residence for Arts Research in Nanotechnology (SRARN), at the National Institute for Nanotechnology, University of Alberta, Alberta, Canada.

Both his research and teaching philosophy deeply embraces the importance of public art, as evidenced by developing a student program on campus. Consequently, he chaired seven mural project committees, organized through the Faculty of Arts, and funded by Planning and Infrastructure at the University of Alberta. Allen currently serves on the Visual and Performing Arts Committee at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital. Previously serving on the Public Art Committee, at the Edmonton Arts Council, as Chair for The City of Edmonton Percent for Art Program, and as Chair of the Art in Downtown Public Places Program through the Business Council for the Visual Arts.

Over the past 25 years, his work has been grounded primarily in the practice of painting, interrogating the limits of its forms and extending the language of painting into an expanded field of inquiry. He has had a significant history in producing installation in non-traditional exhibition spaces and creating public artworks, such as, *Encompass*. Completed in 2005 for the South Edmonton Police Station (\$66,000) Edmonton, Alberta, funded by the City of Edmonton.

Recent projects include: “*The Wordless Book and other sounds*” (2010), a series of paintings that interrogates the associative power of colour through Baptist preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon’s nonverbal evangelical device the Wordless Book; “*The German Autumn in Minor Spaces*” (2008), a photographic and screen-based collaboration with Dr. Kimberly Mair (Department of Sociology, University of Lethbridge), pertaining to the ideological struggles of the Red Army Faction or Baader-Meinhof Gang.

In 2011 he presented a solo exhibition of large-scale installation of his Canadian military photographic images at The Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada,. Presenting a multi-media project stemming from research conducted as an embedded official Canadian War Artist with Canadian Forces Operation Calumet in the Sinai Peninsula in 2007. Funded by a SHRRC Insight Development Grant, he presented a revised version of this exhibition at the ASC Gallery in London, U.K. in November 2013. In collaboration with Alysha Creighton, they created *Moving on* as part of Boyle Street Projections, co-ordinated by curator Lori Gawryluik and screened at the Boyle Street Plaza, Edmonton, Alberta in 2014. Through a series of still and moving digital video projections *Moving on* explored the history, realities and hopes of a community in transition.

His work can be found in numerous local, national and international, public and private collections.

## EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS:

- 1987 - 1990            Master of Visual Arts - Painting,  
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
Camberwell College of Arts and Crafts, London, England
- 1981 - 1984            Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree Course,  
First Class (1st) Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree in Fine Art - Painting,  
Commendation in Printmaking  
Camberwell College of Arts and Crafts, London, England

## Solo exhibitions 2009 - 2013:

- 2013                    Bridge-Walker, Photography in a State of Exception, ASC Gallery, London, U.K.
- 2013                    *Sight Unseen*, Multicultural Centre, Stony Plain, Alberta, Canada
- 2012                    *The Wordless Book and other deserts*, Gallery 501, Sherwood Park, Alberta,  
Canada
- 2011                    *Ode of Remembrance*, The Blue Curve Gallery, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital,  
Alberta, Canada
- 2011                    *Photography in a State of Exception: Documents of Contemporary War*, The  
Lobby Gallery, The Liu Institute for Global Issues, the University of British  
Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- 2010                    *The Wordless Book and other sounds*.  
The Front Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2009                    *Spectacle in a State of Exception*  
The Works Art and Design Festival, Stanley A. Milner Gallery, Edmonton,  
Alberta, Canada

## Selected group exhibitions 2009 - 2013:

- 2013                    *11 Artists for 11/11*  
Selected artists drawn from the Canadian Forces Artist Program and presented at  
Canada Place as part of their Digital Canvas series of exhibitions. Canada Place,  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- 2012                    *Venerator: Contemporary Art from the AGA Collection*  
Organized by Catherine Crowston and Ruth Burns, Art Gallery of Alberta,  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- 2011                    *Transmission: Pullit*, ASC Projects Gallery, London, U.K.
- 2011                    *Xposition*, The VAAA Gallery, Edmonton Alberta, Canada
- 2009 - 2013            *Abstract Thinking, Touring Exhibition*  
The Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program organized by  
the Art Gallery of Alberta
- 2009                    *Canadian Forces Artist Program Exhibit*, National Defense Headquarters,  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- 2009                    *The German Autumn in Minor Spaces*  
2 person exhibition with Kimberly Mair. Harcourt House Art Centre, Edmonton,  
Alberta, Canada
- 2009                    *Blurring Boundaries Wave Exhibition II*  
Ewha Gallery, Ewha Womens University, Seoul, Korea

## **Selected lectures, symposiums and conferences 2009 - 2013:**

- 2013                    *Sight Unseen: Toward Constructions of Blindness*, presented as part of *Looking at the Looking of Looking: the Uses of Phenomenology Across Disciplines/Penser le voir: réflexion sur les rapports entre la phénoménologie et l'histoire de l'art* session of the Universities Art Association / l'association d'art des universités du Canada 2013 Annual Conference, Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta, Canada, October 17 – 20, 2013.
- 2013                    “*Within the Margins of Erickson’s Liu Institute: Allen Ball*”, presented as part of “*Canada’s Master Architect*”: *Arthur Erickson and the Public Realm* session of The Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada 2013 Annual Conference, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, May 29 – June 1, 2013.
- 2012                    “*The Wordless Book and other deserts*”, Artist talk, Gallery @501, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada
- 2012                    “*Imagining Nanotechnology in Public Space*”, lecture at the National Institute for Nanotechnology, University of Alberta, Alberta, Canada
- 2010                    “*Allen Ball: Back from the Desert*”, Artist talk, organized by the Alberta Society of Artists. Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, November 6, 2010.
- 2010                    “*Photography in a State of Exception: Documents of Contemporary War*”, Screens of Terror: Representations of War and Terrorism since 9/11 in Film, TV Drama & Documentary International Conference. Centre for Media & Culture Research, London South Bank University, London, U.K., September 9 - 11, 2010.
- 2010                    “*Spectacle in a State of Exception*”, Spaces of Exception, Visual Culture Division, Cultural Studies Association, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA, March 18-20, 2010.
- 2009                    “*Spectacle in a State of Exception*”, The Art of Conflict session, Universities Art Association of Canada Conference 2009, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, October 22-24 2009

## **Selected collections:**

The Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
The Edmonton Art Gallery Permanent Collection, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
The University of Alberta Art Collection, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
Glenbow Museum Collection, Edmonton, Calgary, Canada  
The Royal Alberta Museum Permanent Collection, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
The University of Lethbridge Art Collection, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada  
The Misericordia Hospital Permanent Collection, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
Grant MacEwan College Permanent Collection, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts Permanent Collection, London, England

## **Academic positions:**

2002 - present            Associate Professor, Painting, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
1993 - 2002              Sessional Instructor, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
1993 - 2002              Sessional Instructor, Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada