

Biographical Summary, 2022

Faythe Levine's practice is rooted in the DIY ethics she grew up with in the mid-1990s and her influential parents, Suzanne Wechsler and Rick Levine, decisions around her counter culture upbringing. With emphasis on community building her oeuvre spans over 30 years of making, organizing and documenting, beginning in 1993 with the first of many collaborative feminist zines she co-curated with Seattle based artist E.T. Russian. Inspired by the riot grrrl community, Levine went on to cut and paste numerous self-published zines, flyers and hundreds of pieces of mail art. In the late 90s Levine relocated to Minneapolis, MN where she began to organize more elaborate events to photograph her community. The photographs were exhibited in community spaces that included local bands playing the opening night. These happenings became a string of art openings, themed parties and events that became the foundation to her diverse body of work and way of engaging with other creatives.

In 2001, Levine moved to Milwaukee, WI where she was based until 2015. During this prolific time she established three non-traditional gallery spaces; Flying Fish (2002-2003), Paper Boat (2005-2009), Sky High (2010-2013), and also founded Art vs. Craft (2003-2013), and with collaborator Aaron Polansky she curated the Temporary Mural Project from (2011-2013). During this period she also directed her documentary films *Handmade Nation: The Rise of DIY Art, Craft, and Design* and *Sign Painters*, publishing companion books with Princeton Architectural Press under the same titles.

Between 2015-2017 Levine lived in rural middle Tennessee in queer community where she spent time recharging. It was here she met Merrill Mushroom, proud lesbian and the author of numerous books, essays and plays. Mushroom wrote her one-act play *BAR DYKES* in the 1980s about dyke bar culture of the 1950s. Levine recognized not only the cultural importance of the play but of

Merril's life story and published the play along with an edited oral history she conducted with Merrill at her kitchen table with Pegacorn Press in 2016. From 2017-2021, Levine moved to Sheboygan, WI where she was the director of the Arts/Industry program at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, WI where she administered the residency hosted at Kohler Co. in addition to curating related exhibitions at the Arts Center and Art Preserve.

With her varied experiences Levine has amassed a wide reaching web of amazing humans in her life along with a large collection of zines, artwork and ephemera from her 30 years participating in radical creative queer community. Her goal is to continue to follow her passion working with archives looking for unseen histories and share these resources and stories while doing various types of consulting and programming. Her devotion to promoting creative empowerment, cultivating inspiration and being the conduit between people continues to motivate her daily existence.