

## ABOUT TRICIA



Tricia Heuring is a curator, arts organizer and educator living in Minneapolis. She is exploring alternative ways of curating to act as a catalyst, an innovator, and a change agent in support of a more inclusive art world.

Born in Thailand, she spent formidable years in Hawaii, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. As a mixed-race American, the sum of a hybrid identity draws her to relate to diverse peoples and situations and a belief that by accepting our own complexity, we find depth and common ground with others.

She is a co-founder and the curator of Public Functionary, a Northeast Minneapolis based non-profit contemporary art gallery dedicated to openness as a means of fostering varying contexts of diversity and audience development. Open just over three years, Public Functionary has been heralded as the best new gallery in the Twin Cities by numerous publications and called “a fantastic gift to a great art city” by *New York Magazine’s* senior art critic, Jerry Saltz. Heuring has been featured in cover stories by publications such as *Her Life Magazine*, *Star Tribune*, *Pollen Midwest* and *Vita.Mn* and recognized as a “40 under 40” by *Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal*.

As a curator, she disregards a traditional approach, opting instead to expand her practice across contexts, disciplines and genres. She has produced exhibitions with a social justice organization: the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project; commercial galleries: XYandZ Gallery, Co Exhibitions; and most recently with her alternative space: Public Functionary.

Heuring holds a B.A from Macalester College and an M.A. in Arts and Cultural Management at St. Mary’s University of Minnesota. She serves on the board of the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. She teaches arts leaders as an adjunct and frequently speaks at mentorship and professional development conferences in support of artists and creative entrepreneurs.

## ABOUT PUBLIC FUNCTIONARY



Public Functionary (PF) is an alternative art space in Northeast Minneapolis (opened in 2012). The organization was founded to fill a need in the local art community. The approach challenges past paradigms of gallery culture. Public Functionary invites a broader audience reflective of the creative diversity of the Twin Cities to feel welcome, engaged and connected to art.

In pursuit of this goal, PF focuses on creative risk taking, authentic audience engagement, collaborative power and presenting art experiences in an accessible, immersive context. PF's energy is not simply based on what hangs on the walls, but the people who activate and transform the space. On top of producing museum-quality exhibits, PF continually opens the doors to a highly diverse cross-section of both emerging and established creative producers. PF acts as a launching pad for them to explore possibilities through events, performances, installations and dialogue -- often using our exhibits as a backdrop for these explorations. This inclusionary approach leads to new audience development and community investment in a contemporary art space.

**Public Functionary is a non-profit social and arts organization dedicated to:**

- Increasing diverse community engagement surrounding contemporary art.
- Raising awareness of the value and impact that art has on society and our lives.
- Giving emerging creative producers space to experiment, grow and establish.
- Presenting new, functional ways for people to engage, support and identify with contemporary art.

From a dynamic 2500 sq. ft. space in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, PF presents immersive, large-scale exhibitions featuring both out of state and Minnesota-based multi-disciplinary artists. PF also collaborates with others to create and program a dynamic social space where contemporary art is an approachable, shared experience.

## QUOTES / TESTIMONIALS

“Public Functionary is far more than an art gallery. It is a living environment where a variety of creative disciplines have the opportunity to grow and thrive, thanks to the vision and commitment of its curator, Tricia Heuring. I believe that Public Functionary is an endeavor more than worthy of nurturing both as an artistic contribution to the Twin Cities and as an invitation to the global community. Both artist and attendee will find in Northeast Minneapolis a home where creativity and provocative expression serves each with vitality and spirit, providing an opportunity to challenge artistic boundaries and then go beyond them.”

**--Martin Ruben, Arts Supporter**

“For Tricia and her gallery, art is so much more than what’s on the walls. It’s about throwing off old ideas of high art requiring a certain degree of pretentiousness, and choosing cooperation over gatekeeping, parties over ceremonies. It’s about erasing divisions between creators and consumers, including them all as part of one community that ebbs and flows. Most of all, it’s about the people in the room and the experiences they share there, connecting with the art and connecting with each other.”

**--A New Public Space: Meet Tricia Khutoretsky, Pollen Midwest / April 2016**

“Public Functionary came to be on the strength of her “just do it” passion and self-taught eye for up-and-comers. While the gallery’s future isn’t certain, the story is a beacon of hope for the local indie art scene.”

**--Twin Cities Gallery Tries to Spark New Generation of Arts Lovers, Star Tribune / Dec 2014**

“The quality of the work she chooses is high for a not-for-profit gallery. The design of each exhibition always feels fresh. Then there’s the social aspect. They stay open late and create a really nice atmosphere.”

**--Mike Mouw, Digital Project Manager, Mia**

“I trust her. You walk in that space and you could be in Chelsea. It’s so professional, every little detail is above the bar.”

**--Eric Inkala, Artist**

“The setting gives it a feeling of being off on the edge of something and lends a radical touch. I was struck by Tricia’s can-do energy and dedicated drive. I love people in the art world who take matters into their own hands, who learn on the job in public, who don’t wait for the validation of whatever power structures are already in place. If she did it in New York, she’d be noticed like crazy.”

**--Jerry Saltz, senior art critic for New York Magazine**

“The Twin Cities owes Tricia Heuring a debt of gratitude — without her, there’s a lot of art that our cities would never have had a chance to lay eyes upon. Over the past few years, she has been credited for showcasing a range of local and national artists in museum-quality exhibitions with a strong focus on community. That community focus comes through, not only in the art presented — including works from a wide range of cultures — but also in how it is presented and in the audience it attracts. Heuring’s exhibits have been described as having the vibe of a community social space, stripping away some of the ways that art can feel unapproachable.”

**--Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal, 40 Under 40 Awards, Feb 2015**