

SUSAN EISENBERG

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EDUCATION

M.F.A. Poetry, MFA Program for Writers, Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC, 1997

B.A. Women's Studies, Residential College, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 1971

UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND APPOINTMENTS

Director, On Equal Terms Project, and Resident Artist/Scholar, Women's Studies Research Center, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, 2007 - present.

Lecturer, half- and full-time, College of Public and Community Service (Creative Writing, Labor Studies, Women's Studies), University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA, 1998-2007

International Research Associate, Women's Studies, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, 1991-1992

AWARDS, GRANTS, HONORS

Selected as 2016 Twink Frey Visiting Social Activist, Center for the Education of Women, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Grant, 21st Century International Ladies Garment Workers Union Heritage Fund, 2014

Firman Houghton Award, New England Poetry Club, 2014, 2011 and 2010

Grant, Poets & Writers, 2013

Grant, Berger-Marks Foundation, 2013

Residency fellowships, Hedgebrook, Whidbey Island, WA, 2013, 2010 and 2003

"Liberty and Justice for All" grant, Mass Humanities, for On Equal Terms installation, 2007-2009

We'll Call You If We Need You optioned by MGM; feature film screenplay developed, 2003-2005

Nominated to National Team, Minority and Women Recruitment and Retention Project, AFL-CIO Center to Protect Workers' Rights, Washington DC, 1999

Welcomed by the Honorable Secretary of Labor, Alexis Herman; broadcast live on C-Span. Keynote, Lunch Forum, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Washington, DC, on the 20th anniversary of affirmative action, 1998

We'll Call You If We Need You selected as New York Times Book Review Notable Book, 1998

Nominated to Planning Committee, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) First National Women's Conference, Washington DC, 1997

Samuel Gompers Union Leadership Award, Graduate Program, City University of New York, 1992

Master Electrician's license, 1983 to present. Graduated apprenticeship, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 103, in first class to include women, 1982

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS: NONFICTION

We'll Call You If We Need You: Experiences of Women Working Construction. Ithaca: Cornell, 1999. (Paper) —1998. (Cloth)

BOOKS: POETRY

Perpetual Care. Poetry with photographs. Boston: Third Rail, (forthcoming) 2015.

Blind Spot. Omaha: Backwaters Press, 2006.

Pioneering: Poems from the Construction Site. Ithaca: Cornell, 1998.

It's a Good Thing I'm Not Macho. Boston: Whetstone Press, 1984. Foreword, Denise Levertov.

STUDIES/POLICY WRITING

Move the Decimal Point, blog, <http://OnEqualTerms.wordpress.com>, 2010-present.

Full Speed Ahead: Making the Workforce Work for Women: A Framework for the 21st Century. Washington, DC: Wider Opportunities for Women, 2003.

BOOK CHAPTERS

“Poet’s Ear, Poet’s Voice: My Engagement with Denise Levertov.” Denise Levertov, In Company. Donna Hollenberg (accepted, forthcoming California).

“Marking Gender Boundaries: Piss, Porn, Power Tools.” Chapter 5 of We’ll Call You If We Need You reprinted in: Global Perspectives on Gender & Work. Jacqueline Goodman. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2010. Part VII, Ch. 30: 417-431. Gender and Work in Today’s World: A Reader. Nancy Sacks and Catherine Marrone. Boulder: Westview/Perseus, 2004. Feminist Frontiers, Fifth Edition Laurel Richardson, Verta Taylor and Nancy Whittier. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000. Sect. 6: Ch 27.

“Still Waiting After All These Years: Women in the US Construction Industry.” Women in Construction. Linda Clarke et al. Netherlands: Reed Elsevier, 2004. 188-201.

“‘Changing Waters Carry Voices’: ‘Nine Poems for the unborn child.’” ‘How Shall We Tell Each Other of the Poet?’: The Life and Writing of Muriel Rukeyser. Anne Herzog and Janet Kaufman. New York: St. Martins, 1999. 184-192.

“Ballet Touché!” Feminist Frontiers, Volume 4. Laurel Richardson, Verta Taylor, and Nancy Whittier. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1997. Ch 19: 174. Reprinted from: Feminist Parenting. Dena Taylor. Freedom, CA: Crossing Press, 1994. 96-98.

“Hard-Hatted Women.” Modern American Women, 2nd Edition. Susan Ware. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1996. 324-330. Reprinted from: “Electrician.” Hard-Hatted Women. Molly Martin. Seattle: Seal Press, 1988. 216-224.

SELECTED POEMS IN BOOKS

“Full Lunar Eclipse, October.” *Voices from the Porch*. Maureen Sherbondy. Charlotte, NC: Main Street Rag, 2013. 16.

“The Elder” and “Following the Blueprints.” *Eating the Pure Light: Homage to Thomas McGrath*. John Bradley. Omaha: Backwaters Press, 2009. 81, 130.

“First Day on a New Jobsite,” “Hanging In, Solo,” “Homage,” and “Wiretalk.” *American Working-Class Literature*. Nicholas Coles and Janet Zandy. New York: Oxford, 2006. 784-789.

“Parties Must Be Appropriately Dressed.” *Proposing on the Brooklyn Bridge: Poems About Marriage*. Ginny Lowe Connors. West Hartford: Grayson, 2003. 168-169.

“Hanging In, Solo” and “Subway Conversations.” *Literature, Class, and Culture*. Paul Lauter and Ann Fitzgerald. New York: Addison Wesley Longman, 2001. 131, 57.

“Losing Baseball, the 1950s.” *Whatever It Takes: Women on Women’s Sport*. Joli Sandoz and Joby Winans. New York: Farrar, Straus, 1999. 229.

“Tell Me.” *And What Rough Beast: Poems at the End of the Century*. Robert McGovern and Stephen Haven. Ashland: Ashland Poetry Press, 1999. 49-50.

“Pioneering.” *Commonwealth of Toil/Chapters in the History of Massachusetts Workers and Their Unions*. Tom Juravich, William Hartford and James Green. Amherst: Univ of Massachusetts, 1996. 168.

“To a Single Mother.” *For Crying Out Loud!/Women’s Poverty in the United States*. Diane Dujon and Ann Withorn. Boston: South End Press, 1996. 17.

“First Day On a New Jobsite.” *Matters of Gender*. Greta Nemiroff. Ontario: McGraw-Hill, 1995. 162-4.

“Through the Ceiling, Maiden Voyage,” “Hanging In, Solo,” “First Day On a New Jobsite,” “Asbestos,” and “Warningsigns.” *Paperwork: Contemporary Poems from the Job*. Tom Wayman. British Columbia: Harbour, 1991. 75-77, 79-81, 169, 217.

“The Appointed Day,” “Exposure,” and “Nuclear Medicine Clinic.” *1 in 3: Women with Cancer Confront an Epidemic*. Judith Brady. Pittsburgh: Cleis Pres, 1991. 12, 88, 137.

“Battleground.” *Angels of Power and other reproductive creations*. Susan Hawthorne and Renate Klein. Melbourne: Spinifex, 1991. 62.

“First Day On a New Jobsite” and “It’s a Good Thing I’m Not Macho.” *Calling Home*. Janet Zandy. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1990. 240-44.

SELECTED ESSAYS/ARTICLES

“Women in Trades Still Waiting for Fairness,” Op Ed distributed nationally through McClatchy-Tribune Information Services by Progressive Media. 3 April 2013.

“We Must Tackle Gender Discrimination in Construction Trades,” Labor Day Op Ed distributed through McClatchy-Tribune Information Services by Progressive Media. 3 September 2012.

- “Caution: Women at Work.” The Progressive 75.9 (September 2011): 26-29.
- “Isolation of Tradeswomen Melts at Rare Conference.” Womensenews. 27 May 2011.
- “30th Anniversary — What Are We Celebrating?” On Equal Terms catalogue essay, Women’s Studies Research Center, Brandeis University (October 2008): 2-6.
- “Misogyny Hurts Craft Labor.” Engineering News-Record 247.16 (15 October 2001): 55.
- “The Voice of a Major Poet at Death’s Interruption.” Review of The Great Unknowing: Last Poems by Denise Levertov. Sojourner (December 2000): 39.
- “Women’s Work.” The Boston Globe. Labor Day editorial column, (7 September 1998): A20.
- “The Art of the Food Swap.” Working Mother (September 1996): 76-77.
- “Choosing Ballet.” Utne Reader 71 (September-October 1995): 42-44. Reprinted from:
 “Ballet! Touché!” Mothering 75 (Summer 1995): 78-81.
- “Welcoming Sisters into the Brotherhood.” Sojourner 18.2 (October 1992): 20-21.
- “The New Worker: Women Hard Hats Speak Out.” The Nation (18 September 1989): 272-276.

VISUAL ARTS

CURATORIAL

Co-Curator with Karin Rosenthal, Vivian Maier: A Woman’s Lens, first Boston-area exhibition of Vivian Maier photographs, Kniznick Gallery, Brandeis University (2013)

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS: SOLO

On Equal Terms, mixed-media art installation (poetry, audio, found object, historical document, 3-D mixed media, photography) about women in the construction industry, Abrazos Gallery, Clemente Soto Velez Cultural and Educational Center, New York, NY (2013)

On Equal Terms, virtual exhibition of selected installation elements, Bobst Library, New York University. <http://www.laborarts.org/exhibits/on-equal-terms/> (2013 - ongoing)

On Equal Terms, Main Gallery, Michigan State University Museum, a Smithsonian Institution affiliate, East Lansing, MI (2012)

On Equal Terms Shortform, selected elements of full exhibition, Curry College, Milton, MA (2012)

On Equal Terms, Adams Gallery, Suffolk University, Boston, MA (2009)

On Equal Terms, Women’s Studies Research Center Kniznick Gallery, curated by Wendy Tarlow Kaplan, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA (2008)

Perpetual Care, photography exhibit with poems, on the theme of chronic illness, Marran Gallery, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA (2008)

Perpetual Care, Newton Free Library, juried, Newton, MA (2007)

Perpetual Care, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Boston, MA (2007)

Not on a Silver Platter, installation about women in the construction industry, Civic Center, Kansas City, MO (1994)

Not on a Silver Platter, AFL-CIO George Meany Center for Labor Studies, Silver Spring, MD (1993)

PHOTO PUBLICATION

“Sometimes Lucky, Sometimes Not.” Six-photo essay. Bridges 11.1 (Spring 2006) 50-54.

SELECTED LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

“Perpetual Care,” patient perspective on medical relationships through poems and visual image, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, 2014.

“Using Art to Shape Historical Memory”, Labor and Working Class History Association conference, New York, NY, 2013.

“On Equal Terms,” Schweiger McNellis lecture, Housing Studies Program, College of Design of the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, 2012.

“On Equal Terms,” Keynote, IBEW District 6 (IN, IL, MI, MN, WI) Progress Meeting and Women’s Conference, Green Bay, WI, 2012.

“Move the Decimal Point,” First Women Build the Nation Conference, sponsored by AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Division, Oakland, CA, 2011.

“Women’s Art for Changing Times: On Equal Terms,” 15th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Amherst, MA, 2011.

“Move the Decimal Point: Opening Careers to Women On Equal Terms,” Keynote, Women in Non-Traditional Careers Symposium, Dubuque-Area Labor Council, Peosta, IA, 2011.

“Women and Brotherhood in the Electrical Industry,” Womensenews Headquarters, New York, NY, 2011.

“Remembering the Triange Factory Fire 1911/2011,” Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, 2011.

“On Equal Terms: the Opportunities of Art Installation,” New England American Studies Association Conference, Boston, MA, 2010.

“The Activist Potential of Gallery Exhibitions: On Equal Terms,” Working Class Studies Association biannual conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 2009.

“Creating On Equal Terms: a Three-Dimensional Poem about Uncomfortable History,” Institute for Women and Work, Cornell University, New York, New York, 2009.

“The Patient-Centered Medical Narrative,” Master of Arts in Women’s Health Program, Suffolk University, Boston, MA, 2009.

“Social Accountability and the Creative Experience” Rose Art Museum, Waltham, MA, 2008.

“Politics of Women’s Health,” Lesley University, Cambridge, MA, 2008.

“Are ‘Non-Traditional’ Jobs Still Worth the Fight?” Linking Research to Action, Wider Opportunities for Women 40th Anniversary Public Policy Seminar, George Washington University, Washington DC 2004.

“Still Waiting After All These Years: Women in the U.S. Construction Industry,” Economic and Social Research Council Seminar, University of Westminster, London, England, 2004.

“Investing in Women,” Keynote, Symposium on Diversity, Del E. Webb School of Construction, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, 2002.

“What is an appropriate role for women in the construction workforce?” Tripartite meeting on the construction industry, International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 2001.

“Women and Work: the Construction Trades, 1964-1994,” SUNY/Binghamton, sponsored by History Department and Women’s Center. Binghamton, NY, 2000.

“Cinderella and the Magic Workboot,” Keynote, 45th annual convention of National Association of Women in Construction, Reno, NV, 2000.

“Equity for Women In the Construction Industry,” Cornell University, sponsored by Women’s Studies Department and ILR School. Ithaca, NY, 2000.

“Good Jobs for Women in the Trades,” Working Women 2000, AFL-CIO national conference. Chicago, IL, 2000.

“Gathering Uncomfortable History.” University of Michigan Dorothy McGuigan Lecture, sponsored by Women’s Studies Department. Ann Arbor, MI, 1999.

“On the Twentieth Anniversary of Affirmative Action.” U.S. Dept. of Labor, Washington, DC, Welcomed by the Hon. Secretary of Labor, Alexis Herman; broadcast live on C-Span, 1998.

“The Fair Workplace: Getting the Job Done.” International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers First National Women’s Conference, Hyatt Hotel, Washington DC, 1997.

SELECTED POETRY READINGS

Clemente Soto Velez Cultural and Education Center, New York, NY, 2013.

Medical Humanities Series, Boston Medical Center Residency Program, Boston, MA, 2012.

Plenary, 2nd Annual Women Build the Nation Conference, Sacramento, CA, 2012.

Creole Gallery, Lansing, Michigan, 2012

New England Poetry Club, Boston, MA, 2011.

Massachusetts Poetry Festival, Lowell, MA, 2009.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Women’s Health Forum, Boston, MA, 2007.

Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives, Tamiment Library, New York University, New York, NY, 2002.

Peoples Poetry Gathering, co-sponsored by City Lore and Poet's House, NY, NY, 2001.

Museum of Labor and Industries, Youngstown, OH, 2001.

AFL-CIO/United Association for Labor Education Joint Education Conference, Boston, MA, 2001.

Union Women's Summer School, Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA, 1999.

Washington Women in Trades Fair, Civic Center, Seattle, WA: 1999 and 1991.

AFL-CIO George Meany Center for Labor Studies, Silver Spring, MD, 1998.

"Made by Hand," a program of Wisconsin Public Radio, 1998.

Split Shift Colloquium, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Sponsored by Kootenay School of Writing and Vancouver Industrial Writers' Union, 1986.

100th Anniversary of the 8-Hour Day, Faneuil Hall, Boston, MA. Sponsored by Mass. AFL-CIO and Boston Building Trades Council, 1986.

SELECTED REVIEWS/INTERVIEWS/QUOTED

Crary, David. Few Women In Construction; Recruiting Efforts Rise. AP Big Story, 30 August 2014. <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/few-women-construction-recruiting-efforts-rise>

Diaz, Von. "Dangerous Sexism." Colorlines, 30 October, 2013. http://colorlines.com/archives/2013/10/women_in_construction_35_years_after_affirmative_action.html Review of On Equal Terms with slide show of images.

Feeney, Mark. "Brandeis Exhibits showcase Andy Warhol and Vivian Maier." Boston Sunday Globe, 16 November 2013: N1.

O'Farrell, Brigid. "Women Working Hard." Women's Review of Books (September/October 2013 30.5: 22-24.

Thirty-minute interview by Matthew Rothschild, "The Progressive Radio Show." Distributed through Wisconsin Public Radio, Madison, WI, 2011.

Dickinson, LaVerne. "On Equal Terms." Houston Construction News April 2009: 19-20.

Byrnes, Terry. "Playful Take on the Trades." Boston Sunday Globe, 1 March 2009, City Weekly section: 8.

Sands, Ian. "Interview: Artist, construction worker Susan Eisenberg." The Boston Phoenix 9 February 2009: <http://thephoenix.com/Boston/Arts/76416-Interview-Artist-Construction-worker-Susan-Eisen/>

"Blind Spot." Kirkus Reviews/Kirkus Discoveries 12 December 2006.

Moskow, Shirley. "'Blind Spot' Sheds Light." The Jewish Advocate 197.41, 13 October 2006: 29-30.

Thirty-minute interview, "Voices at Work," KPFT 90.1 FM, Houston Texas, 2006.

Spalding, Kirsten Snow. Review of We'll Call You If We Need You. Industrial and Labor Review 53.3 (April 2000): 528-529.

Gunnarsson, Ewa. Review of We'll Call You If We Need You. Economic and Industrial Democracy: An International Journal (Stockholm, Sweden) 21.02, May 2000.

Berik, Gunseli. Review of We'll Call You If We Need You. Feminist Economics 5.2 (July 1999).

DeVault, Ileen. Review of We'll Call You If We Need You and Pioneering: Poems from the Construction Site. Journal of American History 86.1 (June 1999): 331-332.

Cooper, Pat. "A foot in the door." Review of We'll Call You If We Need You. The Women's Review of Books, XVI.2 (November 1998): 24-25.

Samuel, Leah. "Wimps Need Not Apply." Review of We'll Call You If We Need You. The Progressive 62.9 (September 1998): 40.

Florman, Samuel. "Hard Hatted Women." Review of We'll Call You If We Need You and Pioneering: Poems from the construction site. The New York Times Book Review, 26 April 1998: 37.

Brudney, Juliet. "A chronicle of sweat, toil, abuse of female builders." The Boston Globe, 31 March 1998, Business section: D-6.

Review of We'll Call You If We Need You and Pioneering: Poems from the Construction Site, Publishers Weekly (30 March 30 1998): 79.

Smith, Thomas R. Review of Pioneering: Poems from the Construction Site. (Minneapolis) Star/Tribune 17 May 1998.

AFFILIATIONS

PEN American Center

New England Poetry Club

Massachusetts Tradeswomen's Association, advisory board

National Taskforce on Tradeswomen's Issues, founding member

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), member since 1978

WORKS IN PREPARATION

Stanley's Girl. Poetry book focused on women construction workers, under review by publishers.

High Voltage Women. Oral history-based book about women working as high voltage lineworkers in the utility industry, proposal stage.