



Visionary Initiatives in Art.



Susan Thompson is the Director of Grantmaking and Curatorial Research of VIA Art Fund, a position she has held since 2023. In this role, Thompson oversees VIA's grantmaking initiatives, including the Artistic Production Grant Program and Curatorial Fellowship Grant Program. Prior to joining VIA, Thompson served as project manager from 2020-22 for [Simone Leigh: Sovereignty](#) presented at the U.S. Pavilion as part of the 59th Venice Biennale. This project included the momentous [Loophole of Retreat: Venice](#) symposium, which gathered 70 presenters and 700 attendees in Venice for three days of talks, performances, film screenings, and conversations. From 2009-2020, Thompson worked as a curator at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, where she organized numerous exhibitions, including the two-part exhibition [Implicit Tensions: Mapplethorpe Now](#), as well as [Simone Leigh:](#)

[Loophole of Retreat](#), [Anicka Yi: Life Is Cheap](#), and [Paul Chan: Nonprojections for New Lovers](#). She also provided curatorial support for several other exhibitions, including *Danh Vo: Take My Breath Away*, *Photo-Poetics: An Anthology*, *Doris Salcedo*, *Carrie Mae Weems: Three Decades of Photography and Video*, *Italian Futurism, 1909-1944: Reconstructing the Universe*, *Rineke Dijkstra: A Retrospective*, *Francesca Woodman*, and *The Luminous Interval*.

Thompson is the author of [Ghada Amer: Painting in Revolt](#), [Daniel Gordon: New Canvas](#), and [Louise Bonnet: Vagabond](#), and has contributed essays to numerous monographs, exhibition catalogues, and scholarly volumes, including *Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living*, *Barkley L. Hendricks: Solid!*, *Curating Fascism: Exhibitions and Memory from Mussolini to Today*, *Black Matrilineage, Photography, and Representation*, *Prospect.5 New Orleans: Yesterday we said tomorrow*, *Mernet Larsen*, *Danh Vo: Take My Breath Away*, *Adam Pendleton: Black Dada Reader*, *Italian Futurism, 1909-1944: Reconstructing the Universe*, and *Maurizio Cattelan: All*, among others. Thompson has also held positions at the Whitney Museum of American Art and in Columbia University's Department of Art History and Archaeology. She holds a BA in art history and political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MA in modern art from Columbia University.