

MARTIN LENCLOS

Brooklyn, New York

[Email](#) · [Studio-Lab Website](#) · [LinkedIn](#) · [ORCID](#) · [PhilPeople](#)

RESEARCH PROFILE

Practice-based artist, designer, and doctoral researcher working at the intersection of philosophy of perception, consciousness studies, phenomenology, and design research. Founder of L'Enclos, an independent studio-lab developing design-led perception experiments through artworks, objects, participatory studies, philosophical exercises, and structured field inquiry.

Current research investigates how perception, identity, attention, and decision-making are shaped by the first reading of a situation, and what changes when that reading is interrupted, reframed, or tested.

EDUCATION

California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA
PhD, Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness, 2026–present

Proposed doctoral research:

Ordinary Life as Philosophical Experiment: The Design of a Method for Investigating Perceptual Shifts Under the Hypothesis That Consciousness Is Primary

The Cooper Union, School of Art, New York, NY
Exchange Program, 1999-1999

École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France
Master's Degree, Visual Communications, 1996-2002

ENSAAMA, Paris, France
BTS, Industrial and Product Design, 1994-1996

AREAS OF RESEARCH

Primary: Perception and phenomenology; philosophy of mind; philosophy of consciousness; design as philosophical method

Additional: Metaphysics and ontology; first-person methods; contemplative studies; idealism; philosophy of art; practice-based research; experimental and public philosophy

CURRENT RESEARCH

The Dreamer Project

Founder and Principal Researcher, 2026–present

A three-year, secular, practice-based investigation into what changes when the possibility that consciousness is primary is tested in ordinary life. The project uses designed practices, perceptual cues, assignment conditions, occasional randomization, and structured logging to examine changes in attention, reactivity, identity, and relationship.

The research distinguishes among phenomenological observation, interpretive framing, and ontological claim. Its broader methodological question is whether a first-person research architecture can become philosophically rigorous, collectively usable, and adaptable across different conceptual and symbolic frameworks.

We The Dreamer

Founder and Researcher, 2026–present

An evolving philosophical inquiry into identity, shared experience, and the possibility of treating apparently separate subjects as expressions within a common field of consciousness. The project includes essays, thought experiments, practices, and public-facing research materials.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Belonging Without Faith: A Day-to-Day Experiment in Awakening”

Program for the Evolution of Spirituality, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, September 2026

“The First Reading Is Not the Final Truth”

Vision Lab Collective, July 2026

SELECTED PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Ordinary Witness Objects, 2026–present

A developing body of objects and installations investigating how designed forms can hold, interrupt, or reframe public memory, mourning, violence, and collective attention.

Daily Allocator, 2026–present

A research instrument using timed or randomized assignment conditions to reduce preference-driven selection within first-person inquiry.

What Now, 2026–present

A non-instrumental perceptual exercise designed to observe how attention, expectation, and interpretation organize an ordinary situation.

LeafHead, 2024–present

A participatory perception study using concealment and altered visual identity to investigate social reading, projection, recognition, and interpersonal response.

Paradox of the Typical Atypical Device, 2022

A participatory design experiment examining hesitation, categorization, and the perceptual instability of an apparently familiar object.

SELECTED PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

“Could Ordinary Life Become a Laboratory for Consciousness?”

L’Enclos, 2026

“Perception Is the First Creative Act”

L’Enclos, 2026

“Ordinary ↔ Dreamer Mode”

Journal annotation, L’Enclos, 2026

EDITORIAL AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Guest Editor, Waking Up Stories, 2026

Developed and curated a public exploration of perception, identity, consciousness, and contemplative experience for the Waking Up platform.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Founder and Director, L’Enclos, New York, NY

2024–present

Independent studio-lab conducting practice-based research through design, sculpture, installation, participatory experiments, and public writing.

Previous professional work includes more than twenty-five years in media, interactive design, virtual reality, entrepreneurship, and strategic design, including projects and collaborations connected with institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art, Magnum Photos, and the Museum of the Moving Image.

SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Board Member, Dark Sky Land, 2026–present

Advisory work concerning attention, place, darkness, cultural programming, and public engagement.

Member, PhilPeople, 2026–present

LANGUAGES

French, native
English, fluent