

MELISSA LEANDRO

b. 1989, American

Lives and works in Chicago, IL

SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Auto Alejamiento*, ANDREW RAFACZ, Chicago, IL
- 2024 *Solo Exhibition*, Astor Club, Chicago, IL
- 2022 *Dickson Window Space*, Waubensee Community College, Aurora, IL
Paradiso, ANDREW RAFACZ, Chicago, IL
- 2021 *Behind the Fields*, University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE
- 2020 *Prairie Dive*, ANDREW RAFACZ, Chicago, IL
Jungle Room, The University Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Dream Weaver, Union League of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2019 *The Patio*, Ignition Project Space, Chicago, IL
5 Minute Drift, Rockford University Gallery, Rockford, IL
- 2018 *Selected Work*, Gensler Architecture Firm, Chicago, IL
After Glow, Chicago Artist Coalition, Chicago, IL
Trop-i-cal, Efrain Lopez Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2015 *Selected Work*, President/Provost Office, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Recuerdos de Un Paseo, Wright Museum of Art, Beloit College, Beloit, WI
- 2014 *Explosiones Locales*, Autotelic Studios, Chicago, IL
Pequenos Pasos, Intelligentsia, Chicago, IL
- 2012 *Rooftop Flag Instillation: Winter Artist*, Lillstreet Art Center, Chicago, IL

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Her Space*, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL
Through the Needle's Eye, Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts, Gary, IN
DARKROOM 2025, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL
- 2024 *Agency: Craft in Chicago from the 1970s-80s and beyond*, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, IL
Beyond: Tapestry Expanded, The Peeler Art Center, DePaul University, Chicago, IL
- 2023 *Not Another Pretty Face*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL

- Ingress Gallery*, Soho House, Chicago, IL
- Stitched & Dyed*, Dunedin Fine Art Center, Dunedin, FL
- Blossom*, Kent State University Galleries, Kent, OH
- Friendship's Death*, ANDREW RAFACZ, Chicago, IL
- Rekindled Promise*, Pentimenti Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 *Inaugural Exhibition*, Artruss Gallery, Chicago, IL
- Chicago Textile Week*, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL
- Radiance Booth, Work in Progress*, Chicago Artist Coalition, Chicago, IL
- LATINXAMERICA*, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN
- Alma, Art and Interiors*, 3636 S. Iron St., Chicago, IL
- 2021 *LatinXAmerican*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL
- 2019 *Remember Where You Are*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL
- Entrelazar. Arts of Life Inc.*, Circle Contemporary, Chicago, IL
- SOFT*, Chicago Print Makers Collaborative, Chicago, IL
- Kantoor*, Degroot Fine Art, Chicago, IL
- Threaded*, MCC Art Gallery, Mesa, AZ
- Art of the Neighborhood*, EQ Office and Franklin Lobby, Willis Tower, Chicago, IL
- Time Share*, Monaco Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- Nibble*, Ignition Project Space, Chicago, IL
- The Poetics of Relation*, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Chicago, IL
- 2018 *Through Her Eye*, Mana Contemporary, Chicago, IL
- By Way of the Matrix*, Praxis Fiber Workshop, Cleveland, OH
- The Event of the Thread*, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL
- Ground Floor*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- Network of Escape*, Tile Blush Gallery, Miami, FL
- Under Construction*, The Metropolitan Capital A Universal Bank, Chicago, IL
- Expansive Threads*, Latino Arts Inc., Milwaukee, WI
- 88th Members Exhibition*, Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2017 *The Unsolicited Slideshow*, Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago Athletic Association, Chicago, IL
- Preview 7*, Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago, IL
- Topographical Drift*, ANDREW RAFACZ, Chicago, IL
- MFA Thesis Exhibition*, Sullivan Galleries, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2016 *Que Pasa USA*, Las Esquina Gallery, Kansas City, MO
- New Work*, Sullivan Galleries, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- The Annual, Paddle8*, Chicago Artist Coalition, Chicago, IL
- Docó Collective*, Design and Art Series #9, Chicago, IL

- Present Standard*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL
- 2015 *[But Three's A Crowd]*, Efrain Lopez Gallery, Chicago, IL
Mom & Pops. Art Incubator, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Visual Arts Exhibition: Luminarts Cultural Foundation, Union League, Chicago, IL
Dimensions of an Artist, Leroy Neiman Center, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Leandro & Amaral Snow – New Works, The Franklin, Chicago, IL
Over Under: Lula Walls, Lula Cafe, Chicago, IL
- 2014 *Transcending Boundaries: Fiber Artists*, Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, IL
TTRG Research Exhibition, President/Provost Office, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
One Foot X One Foot, VP Fiber Arts Club, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
Small Works, National Association of Women Artists, New York, NY
"Lilliputians March" Small Works Exhibition, Purdue University Galleries, West Lafayette, IN
FLY, Flag Installation, Gallery 400, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Small works: online exhibition, Todd Art Gallery, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- 2013 *Group Exhibition*, Stairway Studios, Chicago IL
Continue: Recovering after sexual assault, Both sides Gallery, Chicago, IL
ArtWork6, Sullivan Galleries, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2012 *Young Blood: Homecoming*, ArtSeen Gallery, Miami, FL
Weave Maker Pro, The Plains Project Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2011 *Shape, Shift, Substitute, Advanced Fibers*, Tom Robinson Gallery, Chicago, IL
BFA Fall Undergraduate Exhibit, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Young Blood- New World School of the Arts, Flagler Art Space, Miami, FL
Chain Letter, Golden Parachutes Gallery, Berlin, Germany

ART FAIRS

- 2026 EXPO Chicago, Solo Presentation, Curated by Essence Harden, ANDREW RAFACZ, Chicago, IL
- 2025 Untitled Art Fair, ANDREW RAFACZ, Houston, TX
- 2024 Dallas Art Fair, ANDREW RAFACZ, Dallas, TX
- 2023 NADA Miami, ANDREW RAFACZ, Miami, FL
EXPO Chicago, ANDREW RAFACZ, Chicago, IL
- 2022 EXPO Chicago, Artadia, Chicago, IL
- 2021 Frieze "Viewing Room," Frieze Art Fair, ANDREW RAFACZ, New York, NY

2020 Frieze "Viewing Room," Frieze Art Fair, New York, NY

2017 Untitled Art Fair, ANDREW RAFACZ, Miami, FL

ARTIST TALKS AND APPOINTMENTS

2018–Present Lecturer, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2025 Artist Talk, Driehaus Museum, Chicago, IL

Artist Talk, Downers Grove Public Library Foundation, Downers Grove, IL

Artist Talk, Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts, Gary, IN

Artist Talk, Skokie Public Library, Skokie, IL

2021–2024 Low-Res MFA Mentor, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2024 Artist Panel, Terra Foundation for American Art, South Asia Institute, Chicago, IL

2023 Resident Artist Talk, Art Bar, Memphis, TN

Artist Panel, A Digital Weaving Conference

2022 Artist Talk & Workshop, Waubensee Community College, IL

2021 Artist Talk, University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE

Artist Talk, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Artist Talk, Joan Mitchell Lecture Series, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Artist Talk, Weaving Guild of North Shore, Chicago IL

2020 Artist Talk, The University Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Artist Talk, Downers Grove Public Library, Downers Grove IL

Artist Panel, DePaul Art Museum Chicago, IL

2019 Faculty, Ox Bow School of Arts, Saugatuck, MI

Radio Interview, Contratiempo Publication, Chicago, IL

2018 Podcast Interview, Comfort Station, Chicago, IL

Artist Talk, Harold Washington College, Chicago, IL

2017 Resident Workshop Leader, Envision Studios/The Weaving Mill, Chicago, IL

Artist Panel, Chicago Athletic Association, Chicago, IL

Artist Talk, After School Matters, Chicago, IL

Artist Panel Discussion, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2016 Artist Residency Presentation, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Artist Talk, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Artist Panel, Shapiro Spring Symposium, LeRoy Neiman Center, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Artist Talk, Chicago Cultural Center. Chicago, IL

2015 Graduate Teaching Assistant, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Artist Talk, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Artist Talk, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

- Artist Talk, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2014 Visiting Artist Talk, Sulzer Regional Library, Chicago, IL
- 2013 Assistant Director of Fiber Material Studies Department, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2012 Assistant Manager of Fiber Material Studies Department, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Instructor, LillStreet Art Center, Chicago, IL

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2024 Ox-Bow Residency, Saugatuck, MI
- 2023 Crosstown Arts, Crosstown Arts' Contemporary Art Center, Memphis, TN
- 2022 Residency, Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, IL
- Residency, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
- 2021 Hopper Prize Finalist, Hopper Organization
- The Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation: Chicago Artadia Awardee, Artadia, Brooklyn, NY
- Wingate Artist Fellowship, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
- 2020 Craft Fellowship Recipient, Illinois Arts Council, IL
- 2019 Master Residency, The Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL
- Residency, The Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, IL
- 2018 The Jacquard Center Workshop, Research, Design, & Production, Hendersonville, NC
- Fountain Head Fellowship Finalist, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- 2017 Project Grant, Luminarts Foundation, The Union League Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Toby Devon Lewis Fellowship, The School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL
- Luminarts Fellowship, The Union League Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- BOLT Artists Residency, Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago, IL
- Resident Artist, The Weaving Mill, Chicago, IL

EDUCATION

- 2018 The Jacquard Center Workshop, Research, Design, & Production, Hendersonville, NC
- 2017 MFA, Fiber & Material Studies, School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL
- 2015 Oxbow School of the Arts, Summer Program, Saugatuck, MI
- 2013 Advance Sewing Course, Singer Factory Distributor, Chicago, IL
- 2012 BFA, Emphasis in Fiber Material Studies, School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL
- 2011 Oxbow School of the Arts, Papermaking, Saugatuck, MI

2008 Miami Dade College, New World School of the Arts, Miami, FL

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2025 Shira Friedman-Parks, 'A quiet, dissonant oasis,' Chicago Reader.
- 2023 Alan Pocaro, 'Contrasts and connections, "Friendship's Death" is alive with sensuous form and pleasurable color,' Chicago Reader.
Annette Lepique, 'Freedom in Abstraction: A Review of "Friendship's Death" at Andrew Rafacz,' Newcity Art.
Kerry Cardoza, 'Spotlight on Women Artists,' Intersect Palm Springs Design & Art Fair.
- 2022 Kerry Cardoza, 'Art Top 5: April 2022,' Newcity Art.
- 2021 'What's on your Loom Series,' Digital Weaving Norway Newsletter, Tronrud Engineering.
Kyle MacMillan, 'DePaul Art Museum continues Latinx initiative with galleries-wide exhibition,' Chicago Sun Times.
- 2020 Lori Waxman, 'Four Fantastic art shows to catch before they're gone,' Chicago Tribune.
- 2019 Kerry Cardoza, 'Fall Art Preview 2019: Spotlight on Latin America,' Newcity Art.
'Time Share Review. Monaco Gallery,' New Art Examiner. Magazine Cover Image, Newcity Art.
'Interview with Artist,' Contratiempo Publication.
- 2018 'Shared Loneliness,' Pen Incest Publication.
Erin Toale, 'Break out Artist of the Year,' Newcity Art.
'Chicago Style Makers Profile,' Luxe Magazine, Interior and Design.
KT Hawbaker, 'Welcome to Melissa Leandro's Miami,' Chicago Tribune. 'Top Five Weekend Picks 1/25-1/31,' Bad at Sports.
- 2017 'Top 10 things to do in Chicago this week,' Chicago Magazine.
'MFA Edition,' No.129, New American Paintings.
'The Collective Gap: Que Pasa USA,' Charlotte Street Foundation.
- 2016 'Featured Project: Yearbook TextielLab,' Textiel Museum.
'"Present Standard" Review, CRITICS' PICKS,' ArtForum Magazine.
Lori Waxman, 'Good looking: A survey of contemporary Latino art,' Chicago Tribune.
International Young Textile Art Triennial, The Central Museum of Textiles, Łódź, Poland.
- 2015 '[BUT] THREE'S A CROWD at Efrain Lopez Gallery,' Elnuevodia.
'[BUT] THREE'S A CROWD at Efrain Lopez Gallery,' ArtViewer.
'Mom & Pops Review,' Newcity Art.
Stacia Yeapanis, 'Featured Artist,' Other People's Pixels.
'Dimensions of an Artist Grant: Feature,' FNews Magazine.
Kate Sierzputowski, 'Beyond the Wall: LULA CAFÉ,' Rabbit Hole Magazine.
- 2014 Lynnette Miranda, 'Featured Artist,' Make Space.

Brandon Johnson, 'Featured Artist,' ArtCrush Magazine.

57th Annual Beloit and Vicinity, Wright Museum of Art, Beloit College, Beloit, WI.

2013 *Art of it ALL*, Shy RABBIT Contemporary Arts, Pagosa Springs, CO.

54th Annual Beloit & Vicinity, Wright Museum of Art, Beloit College, Beloit, WI.

International Young Textile Art Triennial, The Central Museum of Textiles, Łódź, Poland.

2012 Lynnette Miranda, 'Featured Artist,' Weavemaker Pro: New Woven Works. Make Space.