

MELISSA LEANDRO

American, b. 1989

Lives and works in Chicago, IL

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 ANDREW RAFACZ, 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
Frieze Viewing Room, Frieze Art Fair, New York, NY
Jungle Room, The University Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Dream Weaver, Union League Club 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 *Recuerdos de Un Paseo*, Wright Museum of Art, Beloit College, Beloit, WI

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Through the Needle's Eye*, Gardner Center for Arts, South Shore Arts, Gary, IN
- 2024 Art Toronto, ANDREW RAFACZ, Toronto, Canada
Agency: Craft in Chicago from the 1970s-80s and Beyond, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, IL
Beyond: Tapestry Expanded, The Peeler Art Center, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN
Dallas Art Fair, ANDREW RAFACZ, Dallas, TX
- 2023 NADA Miami, ANDREW RAFACZ, Miami, FL
Not Another Pretty Face, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
Ingress Gallery, Soho House, Chicago, IL
Stitched & Dyed, Dunedin Fine Art Center, Dunedin, FL
EXPO Chicago, ANDREW RAFACZ, Chicago, IL

- 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
- Artadia Booth, EXPO CHICAGO, Chicago, IL
- 2021 Frieze Viewing Room, ANDREW RAFACZ, Frieze Art Fair, NY
- 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, The Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2017 *The Unsolicited Sideshow*, Chicago Architectural Biennial, Chicago Athletic Association, Chicago, IL
- Untitled Art, ANDREW RAFACZ, Miami, FL
- Topographical Drift*, ANDREW RAFACZ, Chicago, IL
- MFA Thesis Exhibition, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL

RESIDENCIES AND AWARDS

- 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

- 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,' New City, Chicago Art & Culture.
'Spotlight on Women Artists,' Intersect Palm Springs Design & Art Fair.
- 2022 Kerry Cardoza, 'Art Top 5: April 2022,' New City, Chicago Art & Culture.
- 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 show to catch before they're gone,' Chicago Tribune.
- 2019 Kerry Cardoza, 'Fall Art Preview 2019: Spotlight on Latin America,' New City, Chicago Art & Culture.
- 'Time Share Review Monaco Gallery,' New Art Examiner.
- Magazine Cover Image, New City, Chicago Art & Culture.
- Interview with Artist, Contratiempo Publication.
- 2018 'Shared loneliness,' Pen Incest Publication. Gallery 062.
- Erin Toale, 'Break out Artist of the Year,' New City, Chicago Art & Culture.
- 'Chicago Style Makers Profile,' Luxe Magazine, Interior and Design.
- Welcome to Melissa Leandro's Miami. Chicago Tribune. {KT Hawbaker} Chicago, IL.
- 'Top Five Weekend Picks 1/25-1/31,' Bad at Sports.
- 2017 'Top 10 things to do in Chicago this week,' Chicago Magazine, Chicago Tribune.
- MFA Edition, No.129 issue, New American Paintings.
- 'The Collective Gap: Que Pasa USA,' Charlotte Street Foundation.
- 2016 'Featured Project: Yearbook TextielLab,' Textiel Museum.
- 'Present Standard" Review,' CRITICS' PICKS. Art Forum.
- Lori Waxman, 'Good looking: A survey of contemporary Latino art,' Chicago Tribune.
- 2015 '[BUT] THREE'S A CROWD at Efrain Lopez Gallery,' Elnuevodia.
- '[BUT] THREE'S A CROWD at Efrain Lopez Gallery,' ArtViewer.
- 'Mom & Pops Review, Arts Incubator,' New City, Chicago Art & Culture.
- Stacia Yeapanis, 'Featured Artist,' Other Peoples Pixels.
- 'Dimensions of an Artist Grant: Feature FNews Magazine,' School of the Art Institute.
- 'Dimensions of an Artist Exhibition: Video Interview, EXtv,' School of the Art Institute.
- 'Textile Technology Research Group Presentations: Shapiro Center Symposium,' School of the Art Institute.
- Kate Sierzputowski, 'Beyond the Wall: LULA CAFÉ,' Rabbit Hole Magazine.
- 2014 Lynnette Miranda, 'Featured Artist,' Make Space.
- Brandon Johnson 'Featured Artist,' ArtCrush Magazine.
- 2012 Lynnette Miranda, 'Featured Artist, Weavermaker Pro: New Woven Works. Make Space.