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SERENA JV ELSTON

b. 1987, American

Lives and works in Chicago, IL

SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Lingering Bodies*, ANDREW RAFACZ, Chicago, IL

2024 *Ancient Futurism*, Lancaster Museum of Art & History, Lancaster, CA

2023 *A Devil and a Witch Make a Nail*, with Vince Phan, Watershed Art & Ecology, Chicago, IL

2021 *Jubilee*, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Los Angeles, CA

Fruitful Bodies, Dream Farm Commons, Oakland, CA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 Ignite Fund, Patchwork Farms, Chicago, IL

2024 *Your Addiction Is the Message*, G99 & Brno AIR, Brno, CZ

Goat Dungeon Spa, The Palace Collective, Berlin, DE

2023 *SPACORE*, Co-Prosperity, Chicago, IL

The Ground Between US, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL

MFA Thesis Exhibition, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2022 *Memories of Tomorrow's Sunrise*, Cal State LA Fine Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2021 *Spoke Art Presents: GATS*, Wood Street Encampment, Oakland, CA

2020 *Myth of Plenty*, VideoDrome Paris & S.O.F.A., Lucca, IT

Bay Area Visual Artist Exhibition, Ever Gold [Projects], San Francisco, CA

ART FAIRS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

2018–Present Performance Vessel, *Siren Island*, San Francisco, CA & Chicago, IL

2026 Felix Art Fair, ANDREW RAFACZ, Los Angeles, CA

2025 NADA Miami, ANDREW RAFACZ, Miami, FL

2024 NADA NY, ANDREW RAFACZ, New York, NY

2022 *SPACORE*, MDW FAIR, Mana Contemporary, Chicago, IL

2019–2021 Live Performance, *Apotheosis* on *Siren Island*, San Francisco, CA

2019 Interactive Instillation, *Locus Standi*, Gray Area, San Francisco, CA

2015–2019 Permanent Land Instillation, *Priorities*, Oakland, CA

2014 Interactive Installation, *Haunted House*, Pier 10, San Francisco, CA

ARTIST TALKS AND APPOINTMENTS

2025 Artist Talk, ANDREW RAFACZ, Chicago, IL

2024 Artist Talk, Lancaster Museum of Art & History, Lancaster, CA

Artist Workshop and Talk, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL

Artist Talk, Watershed Arts and Ecology, Chicago, IL

2023 Artist Talk, Co-Prosperity, Chicago, IL

2022 Artist Talk, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2021 Artist Talk, Dream Farm Commons, Chicago, IL

2019 Artist Talk, Mills College, Oakland, CA

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

2025 Curator is Residence, Chicago Arts Coalition, Chicago, IL

2024 Midwest Award for Artists with Disabilities, Arts Midwest

Ignite Fund Recipient (Regranting Program for The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts)

Individual Artist Award, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE)

Curator in Residence, SPACORE, The Palace Residency, Pałac Gorzanów, PL

2022 Artist in Residence, ACRE, Steuben, WI

2021 Pritzker Family Foundation Scholarship

Artist in Residence, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Los Angeles, CA

Artist in Residence, Dream Farm Commons, Oakland, CA

2020 Artist Grant, Ever Gold [Projects] & The Internet Archive's Bay Area

EDUCATION

2023 MFA, School of Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2009 BFA Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2025 Gabriel Chalfin-Piney-Gonzáles, 'Community or Mushroom Tea: A Review of Serena

JV Elston at Andrew Rafacz Gallery,' Newcity Art.

2024 Rudolf Lingens and Serena JV Elston, 'SPACORE MAGAZINE,' Issue 1.

2023 Annette LePique, 'Serenity, NOW,' Chicago Reader.

Ryan Fazio, 'Learning From Fungi: A Review of Terrain Biennial,' Newcity Art.

2022 Joan Roach, 'MDW Art Fair at Mana Contemporary,' Sixty Inches from Center.

2021 Jack Revell, 'Mushroom Art Exploring Violence Against Women,' The Latch

2019 Gregory Thomas, 'Review Ephemerisle Festival,' San Francisco Chronicle.

Prisca Meslier, 'The Myth of Plenty,' Videodrome Paris.

Anna Guth, 'Siren calls coming to a bay near you,' Point Reyes Light.