

CRYSTAL DRAKE

 crystaldrake.art

 hello@crystaldrake.art

 Chicago, IL

Through textiles, I examine how stories are held, remembered, and collected. My background in art therapy informs my practice by seeking to engage personal and collective narratives. Centering relational frameworks, I invite reflection on how stories inform our connections to ancestry, identity, and creation of possibilities beyond colonial systems and structures.

EDUCATION

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| 2027 | MFA (pending), Studio Arts, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM (expected May 2027) |
| 2018 | MA, Art Therapy, Fiber Art, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL |
| 2013 | BS Distinction Psychology, Concentration Human Anatomy and Physiology Research, Minor Studio Art, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, MI |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| 2018 | Substitute Teacher, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL |
| 2012-2013 | Teaching Assistant, Psychology, Statistics, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
| 2012 | Research Assistant, Psychology Department, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, MI |

EXHIBITION HISTORY

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| 2026 | "Roots," All My Relations Gallery, Minneapolis, MN |
| 2026 | Community Gallery, Center for Native Futures, Chicago, IL |
| 2026 | "Expressions," SHFT Behavioral Health, Chicago, IL |
| 2026 | "Instructions for Care," Gallery Wrightwood, Chicago, IL |
| 2025 | "Quilts," Interfacing Studios, Chicago, IL |
| 2024 | Community Gallery, Center for Native Futures, Chicago, IL |
| 2018 | MAAT Thesis Exhibition, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL |
| 2017 | "Art of Connection," Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL |
| 2017 | "Soft Touch, Hard Emotions," Leroy Neiman Center, Chicago, IL |
| 2015 | "Material Worlds," Canvas, Chicago, IL |
| 2014 | "Student Show," Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
| 2014 | "Sunrise 5x7," Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, MI |

SOLO EXHIBITION

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| 2013 | "Pure Imagination," Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, MI |
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COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

2026	"Modes of Transit//Locomotives of Queer Utopia," (textiles made in collaboration with Queer and Trans Artists)
2025	"Transmissions Quilts," Berkely, CA, (textile made in collaboration with Trans Artists)
2025	"Elisa Harkins: Wampum," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (performance in collaboration with Elisa Harkins)
2024	"Conceptual Art THERAPY," Bambi Kunst @ Pandora Art Gallery, Berlin (performance in collaboration with Bambi Kunst)

ARTIST TALKS

2026	Invitation to Imagine, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
2024	Legacy, Art, & AIDS, Erie Family Health, Chicago, IL
2024	The AIDS Quilt, Erie Family Health, Chicago, IL
2024	Community, Connection, and Creativity, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2017	Stitched Together: Art, Grief, and the Therapist, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2016	Grief, Loss, and Ritual, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

WORKSHOPS

2026	Studio Practice & Zines, Center for Native Futures, Chicago, IL
2025	Zines: Importance of Storytelling, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
2025	Zines: Future Visions, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2025	Indigenous Storytelling and Zine Making, Indigeneity and the Arts Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2024	Art Therapy Open Studio, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL
2024	HIV & AIDS & ART, Erie Family Health, Chicago, IL
2024	HIV & AIDS & Zines, Erie Family Health, Chicago, IL
2024	Slow Stitch, For Real Therapy, Chicago, IL
2024	Indigenous Futurism: Printmaking Workshop, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2023	Zines: A Grief Group, For Real Therapy, Chicago, IL
2019	Introduction to Weaving, West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT), Grand Rapids, MI

LICENSURE

2022	Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Illinois
2025	Art Therapist, Registered (ATR)

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Sit, T. J., Drake, C. R., Herrara, V. M., & Houpt, K. J. (2019). On Water Lily Pond. Self Published.

"Stitched Together: Art Making as a Tool for Understanding Grief," thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Art Therapy, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, May 2018

"The Influence of Art-Making on Anxiety and Emotional Responsivity in University Students." American Journal of Applied Psychology, v. 2, no. 3, (2014): 69-72

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

2026 Center for Native Futures, Chicago, IL (January 1-June 30)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2024-2025 Student Group Advisor, Indigenous Students Association (ISA),
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL