

Elizabeth Jordan

Elizabeth Jordan is an artist working primarily in sculpture and whose work uses multiple materials to produce unique, organic forms. In addition to a solo and group shows at Ivy Brown Gallery, she has exhibited at The American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Nassau County Museum of Art, The Cornell Art Museum in Delray Beach, Florida and the New York Artists Equity Gallery. In 2023, she received a 2023 Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts in sculpture, and in 2022 was awarded the Alex J. Ettl Grant from the National Sculpture Society. She was born in New Jersey and has lived in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Florida and New York, and currently resides and has a studio in Bayonne, NJ.

elizabeth@enjordan.com

917-922-4662

293 Avenue A

Bayonne NJ 07002

www.enjordan.com



Exhibitions

- 2023 **Altered Realities**, National Sculpture Society Gallery, New York NY
- 90th Annual Awards Exhibition**, the National Sculpture Society and Brookgreen Gardens, Murrells Inlet, SC and the National Sculpture Society Gallery, New York NY
- 2022 **Annual Members Invitational**, New York Artists Equity Gallery, New York, NY
- Other Worlds than This: The Supernatural in Art**, group exhibition at the Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, NY
- 6,200 Thoughts**, group exhibition at Ivy Brown Gallery, New York, NY
- 2021 **How Do I Measure My Gratitude?**, group exhibition at The American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York NY, curated by Souhad Rafey
- Can you hear the silence?**, group show at Ivy Brown Gallery, New York, NY
- 2020 **The Children in the Wood, or a Trip to the Madhouse**, solo exhibition, Ivy Brown Gallery, New York, NY
- 2019 **Wherefore Art**, Village West Gallery, Jersey City, NJ
ArtFair14c, Jersey City, NJ, courtesy of Village West Gallery
- 2018 **Ancien Régime**, Village West Gallery, Jersey City, NJ
- 2017 **Et Tu, Art Brute?**, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
The Phantom Forest: Allen Hansen and Elizabeth Jordan, Carter Burden Gallery, New York NY
- 2016 **WILD**, The Cornell Museum of Art, Delray Beach FL, curated by Melanie Johanson
- 2014 **CURRENT: Gowanus**, Gowanus Loft, Brooklyn NY, curated by Benjamin Sutton
- THAW**, Dorsky Gallery, Long Island City, NY, curated by Jill Conner
- 2013 **Pop-Up Group Show**, AS | Artists Studios, 111 Front Street, Dumbo Galleries, Brooklyn NY
Annual Gowanus Artists Open Studios, Brooklyn, NY
AS | Artists Studios, **Boom & Bloom**, The Phatory, New York, NY
Real Time, Pop-Up Show, hosted by AS | Artists Studios, New York, NY
- 2012 **GoBrooklyn Open Studio Weekend**
Annual Gowanus Artists Open Studios, Brooklyn, NY
- 2009 **A Book About Death: A tribute to Ray Johnson and Emily Harvey**, Queens Museum, NY
Wish You Were Here 8, A.I.R. Gallery Exhibition and Benefit, New York, NY
Annual Gowanus Artists Open Studios, Brooklyn, NY

Elizabeth Jordan

elizabeth@enjordan.com

917-922-4662

293 Avenue A

Bayonne NJ 07002

www.enjordan.com



- 2008 **Annual Gowanus Artists Open Studios**, Brooklyn, NY
- 2006 **Wish You Were Here 5**, A.I.R. Gallery Exhibition and Benefit, New York, NY
- 2004 **Art Auction Benefit**, Little Red Schoolhouse & Elisabeth Irwin High School
New York, NY
- 2003 **Closet Time**, installation in the Hallway Space at PS 122 Gallery, New York, NY
- 2000 **Everything Must Go**, 59 Harrison Street, Brooklyn, NY
- 1999 **In the Hands of an Artist**, Wilmer Jennings Gallery, New York, New York,
juried by Howardena Pindell, sponsored by The Collage/Assemblage Society, Inc.
and Kenkeleba House
- 1989 **The Return of the Cadavre Exquis**, The Drawing Center, New York, NY
- 1988 **Visiting Artists Exhibition and Lecture Series**, University of Wisconsin Center,
Marshfield, WI
Contemporary Interpretive Landscape, Rice University, Houston, TX
- 1984 **Elizabeth Jordan, Oil on Paper**, Mason Gross School of the Arts,
Rutgers University, NJ
Director's Choice, 7 Guest Artists, Terry Dintenfass Gallery, New York, NY
Retrospective, Florida Center for Contemporary Art, Tampa, FL
The Third Coast Exhibition, Midtown Art Center, Houston, TX
Masters Thesis Exhibition, Teaching Gallery, University of South Florida,
Tampa, FL
Seven Walls & Ten Artists, Artist Alliance Gallery, Tampa, FL

Grants | Awards

- 2023 Edith H. and Richman Proskauer Prize of \$300 at National Sculpture Society's
90th Annual Awards
New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship in Sculpture
- 2022 Recipient of the Alex J. Ettl Grant, National Sculpture Society
- 2017 artistgrant.org, first grant recipient from the organization
- 2016 workingartist.org grant recipient

Education

- 1984 Master of Fine Arts, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, University of South
Florida, Tampa FL
- 1979 Tamarind Master Printer, Tamarind Institute of Lithography, Albuquerque NM
- 1977 Bachelor of Arts, Departmental Honors, Douglass College,
Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ
- 1974 Penland School of Crafts, Penland NC
- 1973 Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia PA

Elizabeth Jordan

elizabeth@enjordan.com

917-922-4662

293 Avenue A

Bayonne NJ 07002

www.enjordan.com



The Lives of Birds” is an installation composed of a multitude of hand-made birds depicted as organic, expressionistic forms. The forms are both representational and abstract, and making them has become a meditation on the transitory and ephemeral nature of life. They symbolize the spiritual experience of my participation with nature, and give visual form to the confrontation of beauty and horror witnessed in the lives and deaths of all beings.

The gallery’s dimensions, walls and ceiling will come into play with the direction and flow of the installation. The birds range in size from 4” wall hangings to 72” ceiling hanging. The shape and direction of the flow comes from an old memory of watching birds migrate in the thousands over our childhood home. Sadly those numbers have dwindled; soon maybe we’ll only have the memories of birds and animals.

My work always involves multiple materials and obsessive processes. I’m attracted to the raw awkwardness of wood chips, wire, screen, papier-mâché, clay and plaster, especially as they depict fragile, elegant animals. In groups they create syntax through scale, gesture and proximity, forming narrative tableaux as the birds interact with each other and the viewer. The idea of the sublime co-existing with grisly reality, of life, death and regeneration, is embodied in through contrast of material and form. It is an echo of the notion of art as alchemy, turning base metals into gold. Much of the winged-shaped wood has been scavenged from beaches and parks, and the eccentricities of the materials have endless possibilities. Since the process feels inexhaustible, the structure and themes of “The Lives of Birds” reflect the depth of my obsession.

Finally, it is typical of my work that there exists many parts, that every object can interact with another object, and that all elements are part of one larger work. The idea that each piece engages with others, executed over a period of time, comes out of instinct rather than planning. “The Lives of Birds” is a work that invites interaction with the viewer. I hope that the NYAE Galleryt will become a new and exciting passage in this story.

List of Works

elizabeth@enjordan.com
917-922-4662
293 Avenue A
Bayonne NJ 07002
www.enjordan.com



1. Thylacine Moon, 2021, wood, chicken wire, wire mesh, wire, plaster wrap, Paperclay, twine, burlap, wire hangers, gouache, chalkboard paint, H28.25 x L35 x D14
(plus detail)
2. Wren Day, 2021, window frame, wire, Cinefoil, low-voltage tacks, Paperclay, gouache, looking-glass paint, H33" x W20.5" x D4"
(plus detail)
3. The Children in the Wood, or a Trip to the Madhouse, Installation, 2020, wood, chicken wire, wire mesh, wire hangers, wire, plaster, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, burlap, cheesecloth, canvas, twine, window chain, key chain rings, spring snaps, size varies
Children in the wood, detail 1, H27 x W 7 x D23"
Children in the wood, detail 2, H18" x W15" X L36"
4. St. Sebastian, 2020, wood, wire, chicken wire, plaster, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, canvas, twill tape, H68 x W33 x D10
(plus 2 details)
5. When the grackles took over, 2020, wood, wire, Paperclay, gouache, shellac, straight pins, H13 x W14 x D6.5
(plus detail)
6. Gate Valve, 2019, chicken wire, wood, wire, mesh, wire hangers, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cable wire, faucet, H28 x W11.5 x D20 (tail 36)
(plus detail)
7. Jersey Devil III, 2019, wood, chair, cloth, chicken wire, wire mesh, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cheesecloth, H44.5 x W17 x D34
(plus detail)
8. Federal Pacific, 2018, wood, wire, mesh, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, lead sinker, electrical panel box, H30" x W5" x D14"
(plus detail)
9. Possum Kingdom, 2019, wood, truck parts, chicken wire, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cheesecloth, telephone cable, H13" x W9" x D10"
(plus detail)
10. A Night Without Stars, 2019, wood, wire, wire mesh, chicken wire, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cedar shingles, H10.75" x L15.875" x D9.5"
(plus detail)
11. The Argonne Forest, 2019, wood, wire, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, H18" x W11" x D7"
(plus detail)
12. Let go and let God, 2016, wood, window chain, chicken wire, wire mesh, Paper Clay, gouache, wire, twine, H43" x W25" x D14"
(plus detail)
13. O Tannenbaum, 2015, hangers, wire mesh, wire, Christmas tree, burlap, Paper Clay, India Ink, gouache, Christmas tree stand, H78" x W18" x D18"
(plus detail)
14. A Grim Fairy Tale, 2016, chicken wire, Claystone, twine, burlap, plaster, joint compound, India Ink, watercolor, gouache, wood, wire, cans, aquarium stand, H45" x W12" x L30"
15. Boney Bird, 2014, wood, telephone wire, PaperClay, India Ink, gouache, L22" x W6" x H8"

Elizabeth Jordan

elizabeth@enjordan.com

917-922-4662

293 Avenue A

Bayonne NJ 07002

www.enjordan.com



Artist Statement

My studio is a haven where I leave life and reality behind. It is a place of expression, solitude, emotions, playfulness, tedium, escape, lightheartedness, devotion and obsession. No rules exist in this sanctuary. In this quiet environment, I am able to carry on a conversation with my work. The conversation is private, between me and my materials, and would likely not be understood by an outsider. Ultimately this results in answers to the secrets that are hidden in the potential of those materials. I think this is true for anyone who engages in the creation of a handmade object...the secrets are really revealed only to the maker.

My work involves using animal figures reminiscent of characters in a fable, though they don't necessarily present ethical or moral themes. As introspective observers of the world, they are both feral and timid. Their appearance can be ominously harsh looking while still creating their own definition of beauty. Their gestures and poses mimic the strengths and weaknesses of human beings. During the process of constructing them, I try to relinquish control, letting day dreams evolve into forms whose species are sometimes hard to pinpoint. By letting go of preconceived ideas, the works lead me to unpredictable places. Sometimes interactions occur between two forms, like characters telling a strange and vague story. In other instances, a single form is bound awkwardly to its environment, looking both uncomfortable and yet safely secured. Their gestures portray the culmination of my interests in classic fairy tales, horror films from the fifties and sixties, ghost stories, the human-like behavior of animals, birds and insects, odd found objects, store mannequins, and handmade signs. They evolve from the inside out, using processes that include repetitive winding, wrapping, layering, distorting, altering and scarring. A wide vocabulary of materials and ideas are interwoven: teeth, bird wings, bones, barbed wire, metal cans, etc., evolve into hares, goats, wolves and birds. Their anthropomorphic nature coaxes the viewer into finding their own intimate connection to each piece. The animals may seem dark, but they are not humorless. They have a request: please pay attention to their gestures, positions, cuts and scars. Through them they portray animals living in a human world. Their appearance tells of the moment of surrender to the inevitable, and it reveals their secret stories of the ephemeral nature of life.

Elizabeth Jordan

Elizabeth Jordan is an artist working primarily in sculpture. Her work uses multiple materials to produce unique, organic forms. She was born in New Jersey and has been a resident of New York, Pennsylvania, New Mexico and Florida. After living in NYC for 30 years, she currently resides and has a studio in Bayonne, NJ. Her sculptures, along with artists books and prints—can be seen at www.enjordan.com

LIST OF WORKS

1. Jersey Devil III, 2019, wood, chair, cloth, chicken wire, wire mesh, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cheesecloth, H44.5" x W17" x D34"
2. Jersey Devil III, reverse view, 2019, wood, chair, cloth, chicken wire, wire mesh, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cheesecloth, H44.5" x W17" x D34"
3. Federal Pacific, 2018, wood, wire, mesh, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, lead sinker, electrical panel box, H30" x W5" x D14"
4. Federal Pacific, detail, 2018, wood, wire, mesh, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, lead sinker, electrical panel box, H30" x W5" x D14"
5. Prepare Thyself to Follow Me, 2019, wood, cloth, chicken wire, wire mesh, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cheesecloth, H19" x W12.75" x L38.5"
6. Prepare Thyself to Follow Me, detail, 2019, wood, cloth, chicken wire, wire mesh, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cheesecloth, H19" x W12.75" x L38.5"
7. Gate Valve, 2019, chicken wire, wood, wire, mesh, wire hangers, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cable wire, faucet, H28" x W11.5" x D20" (tail 36")
8. Gate Valve, detail, 2019, chicken wire, wood, wire, mesh, wire hangers, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cable wire, faucet, H28" x W11.5" x D20" (tail 36")
9. A Beautiful Nightmare, 2019, wood, wire, chicken wire, wire mesh plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, aluminum cans, wire hangers, H24" x W14" x L31"
10. A Beautiful Nightmare, detail, 2019, wood, wire, chicken wire, wire mesh plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, aluminum cans, wire hangers, H24" x W14" x L31"
11. Possum Kingdom, 2019, wood, truck parts, chicken wire, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cheesecloth, telephone cable, H13" x W9" x D10"
12. Possum Kingdom, detail, 2019, wood, truck parts, chicken wire, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cheesecloth, telephone cable, H13" x W9" x D10"
13. A Night Without Stars, 2019, wood, wire, wire mesh, chicken wire, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cedar shingles, H10.75" x L15.875" x D9.5"
14. A Night Without Stars, reverse view, 2019, wood, wire, wire mesh, chicken wire, plaster wrap, Paperclay, watercolor, gouache, cedar shingles, H10.75" x L15.875" x D9.5"
15. Philosophy of the world, 2019, wood, fence pickets, chicken wire, wire mesh, Paperclay, plaster wrap, wire hangers, canvas, gouache, watercolor, window chain, L70" x W24" x H19"
16. Philosophy of the world, detail, 2019, wood, fence pickets, chicken wire, wire mesh, Paper-

elizabeth@enjordan.com

917-922-4662

293 Avenue A

Bayonne NJ 07002

www.enjordan.com



Elizabeth Jordan

elizabeth@enjordan.com

917-922-4662

293 Avenue A

Bayonne NJ 07002

www.enjordan.com

clay, plaster wrap, wire hangers, canvas, gouache, watercolor, window chain, L70" x W24" x H19"

17. Beyond the door, 2018, wood, wire mesh, chicken wire, plaster wrap, Paperclay, canvas, India Ink, watercolor, nails, twine, H14" x W12" x L62"

18. Beyond the door, detail, 2018, wood, wire mesh, chicken wire, plaster wrap, Paperclay, canvas, India Ink, watercolor, nails, twine, H14" x W12" x L62"

19. Let go and let God, 2016, wood, window chain, chicken wire, wire mesh, Paper Clay, gouache, wire, twine, H43" x W25" x D14"

20. Let go and let God, detail, 2016, wood, window chain, chicken wire, wire mesh, Paper Clay, gouache, wire, twine, H43" x W25" x D14"

21. Soul to Soul, 2017, wood, wire hangers, chicken wire, mesh, wire, plaster wrap, Paperclay, gouache, watercolor, telephone wire, H31" x L28" x W12"

22. Soul to Soul, front view, 2017, wood, wire hangers, chicken wire, mesh, wire, plaster wrap, Paperclay, gouache, watercolor, telephone wire, H31" x L28" x W12"

23. The Queen's Beast, 2014, wire, hangers, chicken wire, Claystone, Paper Clay, watercolor, gouache, India Ink, umbrella fabric, burlap, hemp, L42" x W11" x H22", window chain (L97")

24. The Queen's Beast, front view, 2014, wire, hangers, chicken wire, Claystone, Paper Clay, watercolor, gouache, India Ink, umbrella fabric, burlap, hemp, L42" x W11" x H22", window chain (L97")

