

Watkin_Mel_Artist's Bio

Condensed resume available at melwatkin.com

ART BIOGRAPHY: Mel Watkin's **solo** exhibitions include: Franklin Furnace, New York, Illinois State Museum-Chicago, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Addison Ripley Gallery in Washington, D.C. and Philip Slein Gallery, St. Louis, among others. Her **group exhibitions** include shows at American University in Washington, D.C., The Grand Rapids Art Museum in Michigan, The Sheldon Galleries and Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis, Longue Vue House, New Orleans, Salina Art Center, Salina, Kansas, and Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, Missouri. **Reviews of her work** have appeared in *New American Painters #83*, *Grand Rapids Press*, *Art in America*, *The Washington Post*, the *Riverfront Times*, and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, among other publications. Her artwork is included in private collections in Istanbul, Turkey, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles, and St. Louis and in the **public collections** of the Saint Louis Art Museum, Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis, Spencer Museum of Art in Lawrence, Kansas, Illinois State Art Museum, Chicago and Springfield. Her **artist's books** are collected by the Museum of Modern Art Library, New York, Special Collections at the New York Public Library and the Fine Arts Library at the Fogg Museum of Art at Harvard University. She has been awarded four **grants** from the Illinois Arts Council, a Critical Mass Creative stimulus Grant, St. Louis, a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Fellowship and an Artist's Space Grant, New York. Her **artist's residencies** include: Palazzo Rinaldi, Noepoli, Italy, Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, Illinois and Ucross Foundation, Clearmont, Wyoming. Ms. Watkin was also one of 9 artists **commissioned** to create permanent **public artwork** fabricated in collaboration with Franz Meyer of Munich, Germany for the "C" Concourse at Lambert St. Louis International Airport. She is **currently working** on two separate commissions for the Hyde Park Art Center's "Not Just Another Pretty Face-COVID-19 edition" exhibition to open in late March 2021—live or virtually.

WORK BIO*: Since graduating from Bennington College in 1978 and getting an MFA from the University of Montana in 1981, Watkin maintained a serious art practice while also working full time or free-lance. While she began organizing exhibitions of other artist's work after graduating from college, her first major **curatorial** job was with The Brunswick Gallery in Missoula, Montana. She was hired by Jock Reynolds at the Washington Project for the Arts in Washington, D.C. in 1984 and held a curatorial position from 1986-1991. She worked under Betsy Millard at the Forum for Contemporary Art, (now the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis) from 1992 to 2003. In 2004 she **founded** the Public Policy Research Center's Photography Project at the University of Missouri St. Louis, a **community-based** photography program. She has also written numerous **catalog essays and reviews** for arts organizations, as well as, *Art in America* and *Art Papers*. In 2013 she expanded her studio practice to full time.

*Full listing of exhibitions/programs curated or organized available on request.