

Mel Watkin

Short Bio

1/25/26

Mel Watkin's work has been shown nationally with **solo exhibitions** at Franklin Furnace Archives, New York; Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago; Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis; and A.I.R. Gallery in Brooklyn. Her most recent solo exhibition took place at ARC Gallery in Chicago in February 2025. Recent **group exhibitions** include the American University Museum of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Michigan; and Longue Vue House and Garden, New Orleans. In 2023, the Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago exhibited three **commissioned** map-based works, and the Southern Illinois Cancer Institute commissioned eight small works on paper. Watkin's artwork is represented in the **collections** of the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas at Lawrence, the Book Art Collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Franklin Furnace Archives, among other institutions. A permanent **public artwork** fabricated in collaboration with Franz Mayer of Munich, Germany can be viewed on the "C" Concourse at St. Louis International Airport. **Grant awards** include a 2024 Franklin Furnace/Xeno Artists Book Prize, 2000, 2022 and 2025 Illinois Arts Council Fellowships, a Critical Mass grant, a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Fellowship, and a Pyramid Atlantic artist's book award. **Residencies** include the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming, Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, Illinois, and Palazzo Rinaldi, Noepoli, Italy. **Notebook of Notes**, a new artists' book in progress funded by the Illinois Arts Council consist of thoughts, quotes, and sketches, primarily on environmental issues, kept over many years from many sources: readings, podcasts, documentaries, and conversations. To access a full resume, please go to melwatkin.com.