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## **SELECTED SOLO AND TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS**

- 2022 **Mel Watkin: Trees Bark**, (works on paper) Kranzberg Gallery, Kranzberg Arts Foundation, St. Louis, MO  
**Revolving**, (a 46-foot-long work on paper) The Sheldon Galleries, St. Louis, MO
- 2018 **Mel Watkin: Mighty Chrysanthemum Tree**, (25 foot long work on paper), Haertter Performing Arts Center, John Burroughs School, St. Louis, MO
- 2017 **Personal and Social Views of Nature: Mel Watkin & Marie Bukowski**, Mitchell Museum /Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, Mt. Vernon, IL
- 2014 **Mel Watkin: Fallen Trees**, (two person show—works on paper), Quincy Art Center, Quincy, IL
- 2013 **The True Scale of Trees**, (two person show—works on paper), William & Florence Schmidt Gallery, SWIC, Belleville, IL
- 2011 **Fallen Mast**, (38' long work on paper), Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis  
**Trunk Show**, (works on paper), Philip Slein Gallery, St. Louis
- 2010 **Focus 4: Works on Paper**, Illinois State Museum—Chicago and Southern Illinois Art Center, Whittington, IL—CATALOG
- 2009 **Cycle**, (a sidewalk drawing—21' x 5'), Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis
- 2007 **New Work**, (works on paper), Phillip Slein Gallery, St. Louis  
**Insurgency**, (works on paper & drawing installation), Sheldon Galleries, St. Louis  
**Reclamation**, (works on paper & drawing installation), Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago
- 2005 **Terrible Beauty**, (works on paper & drawing installation), Salina Art Center, Salina, Kansas
- 2003 **Compass Rose**, (works on paper), Bonsack Gallery, St. Louis
- 2001 **Recent Work**, (drawing installation and works on lace & tea towels), New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, New Harmony, IN
- 1999 **Arsenic and Old Lace**, (drawing installation and works on lace & tea towels), A.D. Brown, St. Louis
- 1997 **A Doll's House**, (drawing installation), commissioned by Artemisia, Chicago  
**A Doll's House: Quiet & Dark**, (drawing installation), Fine Art Gallery, Webster University, St. Louis  
**Domestopia: Books and Cases**, (works on pillowcases, sheets and coverlets), Rose Amarillo, San Antonio
- 1992 **Small Change**, (drawing installation) Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC
- 1991 **Black and Blue: Hearts and Minds**, (drawing installation), Franklin Furnace Archives, New York—documented with Pyramid Atlantic ARTISTS' BOOK  
**Mel Watkin: Works on Paper: 1987–1991**, University of Texas at San Antonio
- 1990 **Black and Blue: Them & Us**, (drawing installation), Montpelier Cultural Art Center, Laurel, MD  
**Black and Blue: Living Room**, (drawing installation), Ellipse Gallery, Arlington, VA
- 1989 **Solo exhibition**, (drawing installation and works on paper), Addison/Ripley Gallery, Washington, D.C.  
**Checkerboard**, (drawing installation), Selected by David Hammons, School 33 Art Center, Baltimore, MD
- 1987 **Solo exhibition**, (works on paper), Addison/Ripley Gallery, Washington, D.C.

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS and COMMISSIONS

- 2024: **Beautiful and Strange Fragmentation**, (work on paper), ARC Gallery, Chicago
- 2023: **Nature**, (works on paper) 304 Artspace, Carbondale, IL  
**Not Just Another Pretty Face**, (three commissions for works on paper) Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL  
**See What You Feel**, (works on paper), Pines of Arcadia Gallery, Arcadia, MI  
**Small Works**, (works on paper), Womanmade Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2022 **46: Artists' Books from Franklin Furnace Archive, 1976-2022**, at the Pratt Library, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY. <http://franklinfurnace.org/46-artists-books-exhibition>  
**Women's Voices**, SIUC University Museum, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL
- 2021 **Art Along the Rivers: A Bicentennial Celebration**, (works on paper)  
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO  
**Not Just Another Pretty Face-Covid-19 Edition**, (two commissions for works on paper), Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL  
**Southern Illinois Healthcare Cancer Institute**, (commission for eight works on paper)  
**4th Annual Midwest Open**, (works on paper) ,Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2020 **Fe \* Mail \* Art Show**, (works on paper) A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2019 **Topographies of Life: Tracing the Source: Pam Rogers, Lynn Sures, Mel Watkin**, (works on paper) American University Museum of Art, Katzen Center for the Arts, Washington, DC, CATALOG
- 2017 **ArtPrize 9 At Grand Rapids Art Museum**, (large-scale work on paper), Grand Rapids, MI  
**Dispositive Environments**, (works on paper), Cecille R. Hunt Gallery, Webster University, St. Louis, MO  
**Seeking Location: Mapping & Borders in Art**, (works on paper), Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN
- 2016 **Activate Art**, (works on paper) Cortex Innovation Community, St. Louis, MO  
**Not Just Another Pretty Face**, (Commissioned work on paper), Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL, CATALOG
- 2015 **Critical Mass Creative Stimulus Award Exhibition**, (works on paper) Sheldon Galleries, St. Louis, MO
- 2013 **The River Between Us-Part 1**, (*River Room* installation), Kranzberg Exhibition Artist, Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis, MO and Longue Vue House and Garden, New Orleans, LA  
**Not Just Another Pretty Face**, (Commissioned work on paper), Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL, CATALOG
- 2012 **Critology: Considering the Works of Artist/Critics**, (works on paper), exhibition traveled to Pacific Design Center, Los Angeles and Fine Art Museum, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC—CATALOG
- 2011 **Art Lab: Work in Progress**, (installation), Metropolitan Gallery, St. Louis
- 2010 **Not Just Another Pretty Face**, (Commissioned work on paper), Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago
- 2008 **Where Are We Going: Artists Map the World**, (works on paper) Jewish Institute of Religion Museum, Hebrew Union College, NY—CATALOG  
**L(A)TTITUDES: Ten Contemporary Artists Exploring the Borders of Israel and Palestine**, (works on paper), Bronfman Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 2007 **St. Louis Painters 2007 Invitational**, (works on paper), Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, MO—CATALOG

- 2005 **Selections from the Flat files**, (works on paper), Pierogi Gallery, NY
- 2004 **Showcase I: Print and Drawing Invitational**, (works on paper) Sheldon Art Gallery, St. Louis
- 2003 **On and On 'til the Break of Dawn**, (works on paper), Critical Mass for the Visual Arts, St. Louis
- 2002 **Six Artists**, (drawing installation), 1608 Gallery, St. Louis
- 2001 **Exposure 4**, (drawing installation), St. Louis Gallery Association, St. Louis
- 2000 **Art of the Book**, (artists' book show), Gallery FAB, University of Missouri, St. Louis—CATALOG  
**The Summer Show**, (works on lace), Gallery 312, Chicago
- 1999 **Artist's Collect**, (works on paper), Blue Star Exhibitions, San Antonio, TX  
**Laissez Faire**, (artists' book show), Printed Matter, NY
- 1998 **The Reading Room**, (artists' book show), Krannert Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**Ars Botanica**, (works on paper), Ida Green Gallery, Austin College, Fort Worth, TX
- 1997 **Mock Future**, (interactive fax installation), "Toward the Millennium," East Lansing Art Commission/Michigan Festival, East Lansing, MI—CATALOG
- 1995 **Messages and Stories from the Everyday World**, (interactive fax installation), Arts Festival of Atlanta, curated by Lisa Tuttle and Jane Bickerton, Atlanta, GA—CATALOG
- 1994 **Keepers of Secrets and Truths Otherwise Unknown: An Exhibition of Women Book Artists**, (artists' books), Berman Museum of Art, Ursinus College, Colledgeville, PA—CATALOG  
**Bones**, (works on paper), Brody's Gallery, Washington, D.C.  
**The First Ten Years: Selections from the Permanent Collection**, (works on paper), Big Red Gallery, Ucross Foundation, Clearmont, WY
- 1993 **Southern Illinois Biennial**, (works on paper), Mitchell Museum, Mt. Vernon, IL  
**20 Years of Residency**, (artists' books), Normand T. Dahl Art Gallery, PG Square Art Center, Great Falls, MT
- 1992 **East Side/West Side**, (works on paper), Forum for Contemporary Art (now Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis), St. Louis, MO
- 1991 **Drawing Time**, (*Black and Blue: Two Views of Progress*, drawing installation), Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island, NY
- 1990 **Other Rooms**, (*Black and Blue: Our Four Fathers*--drawing installation), Morgan Annex, Washington, D.C., Curated by Andrea Pollan.  
**Inherited Memories**, (works on paper), Rosenberg Gallery, Goucher College, Baltimore, MD
- 1989 **Approaching the Figure: Focus on the Single Figure**, CATALOG, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.  
**Aspiration**, (works on paper), The Collector, Washington, D.C., curated by J.W. Mahoney  
**Elegies**, (works on paper), Tarrt Gallery, Washington, D.C., curated by J.W. Mahoney
- 1988 **Myth, Allegory and Romanticism**, (works on paper), Anton Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 1987 **The Figure as Image**, (works on paper), Touchstone Gallery, Washington, D.C.  
**Nightmares**, (works on paper), Gallery 10 LTD., Washington, D.C.  
**Sculptural Installations: Four Visions**, (drawing installation), Lubber Run Park, Arlington Cultural Affairs Division, Arlington, VA  
**Feminism, Politics and Social Commentary**, (works on paper), The New Art Center, Washington, D.C.  
**Narrative Figures**, (works on paper), Addison/Ripley Gallery, Washington, D.C.

## PUBLIC ART

**Lambert St. Louis International Airport**—One of 9 artists selected to create permanent artworks on glass fabricated in collaboration with Franz Meyer of Munich, Germany for Lambert St. Louis International Airport.

**Southern Illinois Healthcare Cancer Institute**, Carterville, IL—8 works on paper

## **SELECTED COLLECTIONS**

**Private collections** in Istanbul, Turkey, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston and St. Louis, Huntsville, Alabama, Lawrence, Kansas, Islamorada, Florida, and San Antonio, Texas, among others.

### **Public Collections:**

**Saint Louis Art Museum**, St. Louis, MO

**Dr. Bernard Heller Museum**, Jewish Institute, New York City, NY

**John Burroughs School**, Collection of Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO

**Illinois State Museum**, Chicago and Springfield, IL

**Laumeier Sculpture Park**, St. Louis, MO

**Spencer Museum of Art**, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

**Ucross Foundation**, Clearmont, W

**Palazzo Rinaldi**, Noepoli, Italy

Art Library, **University of California at Santa Barbara**, Santa Barbara, CA

**Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection**, Flaxman Library, School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL

Book Art Collection, **Museum of Modern Art Library**, NY (archive of Franklin Furnace, NY)

Special Collections, **New York Public Library**, NY

Fine Arts Library, **Fogg Museum of Art**, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

## **RESIDENCIES, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

**2023** **Pines of Arcadia**, Arcadia, Michigan (Fall 2023)

**2022** **Illinois Artist Fellowship**, Illinois Arts Council, IL

Artist-in-Residence, **Boys & Girls Club of Southern Illinois**

Artist's Residency, **Ucross Foundation**, Clearmont, WY

**2021** Artist's Development grant, **Illinois Arts Council**, IL

**2019** Artist's Finalist Award, **Illinois Arts Council**, IL

**2017** Housing Award, **Artprize 9**, Grand Rapids, MI

**2014** Artist's Residency, **Palazzo Rinaldi**, Noepoli, Italy—July 2014

Critical Mass **Creative Stimulus Award**, St. Louis, MO

**2013** **Kranzberg Foundation**, artist's exhibition award, Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis

Artist's Project Grant, **Illinois Arts Council**, IL

**2011** Artist's Project Grant, **Illinois Arts Council**, IL

**Pollock-Krasner Foundation** Grant, New York, NY

**2001** Artist's Residency, **Ragdale Foundation**, Lake Forest, IL

**2000** Individual Artist's Fellowship, **Illinois Arts Council**, IL

**1992** Artist's Residency, **Ucross Foundation**, Clearmont, WY

**1991** Artist's Residency and Artists' book Production grant, **Pyramid Atlantic**, Silver Spring, MD

**1990** Artist's Grant, **Artist's Space**, New York

## **ARTISTS' BOOKS AND MULTIPLES**

**2023** **Francesca: Her Tail**, multiple work on paper

- 2021 **Leaves of Revolving**, edition of 250
- 2011 **Emergency Tree**, a personalized multiple, on-going, over 50 in the edition to date
- 2009 **Waterfall\$ of New York**, a seven-color T-shirt, edition of 50
- 2001 **Pocket Road Atlas**, Midwest Printing, St. Louis, edition of 250
- 1998 **Ipomoea purpurea: Map of the World**, Print Shop, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, IL
- 1991 **Black and Blue: Hearts and Minds**, artists' book, Pyramid Atlantic, Silver Springs, MD

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- 2024 **Notebook of Notes: Miami and Traced**, (two selections from artist's book), *Grassroots Literary & Arts Magazine*, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL
- 2019 **"In the Galleries: At American University Museum, a world of atmosphere,"** *Washington Post*, Mark Jenkins, Nov. 28, 2019, (image for article: *Cross-Section: Hophornbeam*) [https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-at-american-university-museum-a-world-of-atmosphere/2019/11/27/1f8ddf88-0f9a-11ea-9cd7a1becbc82f5e\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-at-american-university-museum-a-world-of-atmosphere/2019/11/27/1f8ddf88-0f9a-11ea-9cd7a1becbc82f5e_story.html)
- 2018 **"A View from the Easel: Mel Watkin,"** Hyperallergic, Oct. 26, 2018, <https://hyperallergic.com/468022/a-view-from-the-easel-103/>  
**"Five Questions,"** Critical Mass Podcast, St. Louis, MO
- 2017 **"ArtPrize 9 at the Grand Rapids Art Museum: International Art Event Draws more than 1500 Artists--GRAM Photos,"** Staff writer, *Life & Culture: Grand Rapids Press*, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017, p. D1  
**"Video: Get a first look at 16 ArtPrize entries at the Grand Rapids Art Museum,"** Kate Carlson, *MLive*, Sept. 12, 2017, [http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2017/09/get\\_a\\_first\\_look\\_at\\_16\\_artpriz.html?ath=531ad2477b48f14b389f48faf2d5d058#cmpid=nsltr\\_stryheadline](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2017/09/get_a_first_look_at_16_artpriz.html?ath=531ad2477b48f14b389f48faf2d5d058#cmpid=nsltr_stryheadline)  
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**"Preview at GRAM,"** staff, *WZZM TV*, Sept. 12, 2017, <http://www.wzzm13.com/news/local/artprize/a-preview-in-the-gram-one-of-artprize-nines-main-venues/474113035>  
**"Seeking Locations: Mapping and Borders in Art,"** Emma E. Jensen, *Bad at Sports* (Blog), May 8, 2017
- 2013 **"Laumeier Exhibition Explores Shared History of St. Louis, New Orleans,"** Diane Torian Keaggy, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, April 13, 2013, front art section photo  
**"Take Me to the River,"** Liz Miller, *Riverfront Times*, St. Louis, April 11, 2013  
**"In the Galleries: River Between Us Closes August 25 at Laumeier Sculpture Park,"** Jessica Baran, *Riverfront Times*, St. Louis, April 25, 2013, featured photo.  
**"Laumeier Navigates St. Louis-to-New Orleans River Link,"** Nancy fowler, *St. Louis Beacon*, April 9, 2013, photo featured
- 2011 **"Featured Review,"** Jessica Baran, *Riverfront Times*, St. Louis, Feb. 17, 2011
- 2009 **New American Painters #83**, The Open Studio Press, Boston, p. 160-163
- 2008 **"Time for an Arty Party Weekend,"** Lavanya Ramanathan, *Washington Post*, Feb. 21. 2008, p. C14 (photo)
- 2007 **"2007 St. Louis Painters Invitational,"** Nancy K. Weant, *Review*, September 2007, p. 40
- 2006 **"Current Shows: Mel Watkin: Insurgency,"** Robert Duffy, *Riverfront Times*, St. Louis, Oct. 11, 2006

- "Visual Art Season: Exhibit A (Fall preview),"** David Bonetti, *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, September 10, 2006, p. F3
- 2005 **"Connect the Thoughts,"** Sharon Montague, *Salina Journal*, March 11, 2005, p. D1
- 2000 **"News Briefs: Grants and Awards,"** Lisha Bai and Melanie Dorson, *New Art Examiner*, April 2000, p. 13
- "Mel Watkin Defies Gravity,"** Sam Blackwell, *Southeast Missourian*, Feb. 3, 2000, p.12B
- "Two Local Artists Receive \$7000 Fellowships,"** Tameka L. Hicks, *Southern Illinoisan*, Jan. 27, 2000, p. 4
- 1998 **"RFT: Reviews,"** *Riverfront Times*, Julia, Stevenson, Oct. 21–27, 1998, p. 81
- "This Week,"** *Riverfront Times*, St. Louis, Sept. 16–22, 1998, centerfold
- 1997 **"Skies Bloom at Webster,"** *St. Louis Post-Dispatch-Weekend*, Nov. 6, 1997
- "Drawings on Linen Celebrate Home Life,"** Dan Goddard, *San Antonio Express News*, Feb. 26, 1997
- 1996 **"Artist's Pages,"** River Styx magazine, St. Louis, (Fall issue) 1996
- 1995 **"Works Vibrantly Reflect Community Concerns,"** Catherine Fox, *Atlanta Journal/Constitution*, Sept. 16, 1995
- "Party Line,"** Linda Rush, *Southern Illinoisan*, Sept.1, 1995
- 1994 **"Changing History,"** Karen Wirth, *The Binnewater Tides, Women's Studio Workshop*, Rosedale, New York, fall 1994
- 1992 **"Art that Bridges the Distance,"** Robert W. Duffy, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Sunday, Feb. 16, 1992
- 1991 **"Report from Washington,"** J. W. Mahoney, *Art in America*, Feb. 1991, p. 62–71
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- "Sweet Dreams at Newhouse,"** Michael J. Fressola, *Staten Island Advance*, Jan. 25, 1991
- "Showcasing the Diversity of a Studio's Success,"** Mary McCoy, *Washington Post*, September 1991
- "Anatomical Art Figures in Exhibition,"** Marcia G. Weser, *San Antonio Light*, Jan. 27, 1991
- 1990 **"Drawing Installations,"** John Dorsey, *Baltimore Sun*, Nov. 23, 1990
- "Childhood as Artistic Challenge,"** Mary McCoy, *The Washington Post*, Nov. 3, 1990
- "The Shapes of Blackboard Memories: Installations at the Morgan Annex,"** Paul Richard, *The Washington Post*, June 2, 1990
- "The Problems and Potentials in Painting Nudes,"** Cathleen McCarthy, *American Artist*, April 1990
- "Vision and Revision,"** Mocha Laget, *New Art Examiner*, February 1990
- "Contemporary Art has Ancient Themes,"** John Dorsey, *The Baltimore Sun*, Feb. 20, 1990
- "Oft-Told Tales: Tapping into the Recurrent Power of Myth,"** Megan Hamilton, *City Paper*, Baltimore, Feb. 9, 1990
- 1989 **"Around Town: Review of Mel Watkin, Solo Exhibition,"** WETA, Dec. 7, 1989
- "State of the Arts: Good Nudes,"** Cathy McCarthy, *Washington Dossier*, November 1989
- "Reviews: Maryland,"** Mary McCoy, *New Art Examiner*, Summer Edition
- "Accent Plus: Galleries,"** Steve Purchase, *The Evening Sun*, Baltimore, June 1, 1989
- "Galleries Section: Sculpture at School 33,"** John Dorsey, *The Baltimore Sun*, April 18, 1989
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1988 "Washington, D.C. Critic's Poll: Best Emerging Artists," J.W. Mahoney, *New Art Examiner*, Washington, D.C., November 1988

"**Significant Movements**," Patrick Frank, *New Art Examiner*, Washington, D.C., October 1988

"**Around Town**," Florence Gilbard, *Museum and Arts Washington*, Washington, D.C., July/August 1988

"**Galleries: `Myth, Allegory and Romanticism at Anton**," Pamela Kessler, *Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., June 25, 1988

1987 "Mel Watkin at Addison/Ripley," Henry Allen, *The Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., Nov. 14, 1987

"**Two Faces of Eve: the Myth, the Object**," Alice Thorson, *Washington Times*, Washington, D.C., Nov. 5, 1987

"**Feminism, Politics and Social Commentary**," Susan Platt, *New Art Examiner*, Washington, D.C., November 1987

"**In Arlington, Art's Natural Gifts**," Ben Forgey, *Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., July 18, 1987

"**Washington Women Artists**," Florence Gilbard, *Museum and Arts Washington*, Washington, D.C., September/October 1987

## EDUCATION

1981 M.F.A., University of Montana, Missoula, MT

1977 B.A., Bennington College, Bennington, VT

**BORN:** Washington, D.C. 1954

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL WORK AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

*Below is a brief synopsis of my work background and community involvement.*

**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. She began organizing exhibitions of other artist's work after graduating from college, but 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, DC 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. In 2022 she was appointed as Artist-in-Residence for the Boys & Girls Club of Southern Illinois. She has also written numerous **catalog essays and reviews** for publications and arts organizations, including *Art in America* and *Art Papers*. In 2013 she expanded her studio practice to full time. Watkin volunteers teaching Tae Kwon Do to children and adults several times per week and serve as an election judge for her small town in Southern Illinois. She has also served on numerous grant, residency, and fellowship panels.