

MELISSA LEANDRO

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Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 Auto Alejamiento, Andrew Rafacz Gallery. Chicago, IL.
2024 Solo Exhibition. Astor Club, Chicago, IL.
2022 Dickson Window Space, Waubensee Community College, IL.
Paradiso. Andrew Rafacz Gallery. Chicago, IL.
2021 *Behind the Fields*, University of Nebraska Omaha.
2020 *Prairie Dive*, Andrew Rafacz Gallery. Chicago, IL.
Frieze "Viewing Room", Frieze Art Fair, New York.
Jungle Room, The University Club of Chicago, IL.
Dream Weaver, Union League Club of Chicago, IL.
2019 *The Patio*, Ignition Project Space. Chicago, IL.
5 Minute Drift, Rockford University Gallery, Rockford IL.
2018 Selected Work, Gensler Architecture Firm. Chicago IL.
After Glow, Chicago Artist Coalition, Chicago IL.
trop-i-cal, Efrain Lopez Gallery, Chicago IL.
2015 Selected Work, President/Provost office. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
Recuerdos de Un Paseo, Wright Museum of Art. Beloit College. Beloit, WI.
2014 *Explosiones Locales*, Autotelic Studios. Chicago, IL.
Pequenos Pasos, Intelligentsia. Chicago, IL.
New Work-Woman's History Month. Sulzer Regional Library. Chicago, IL. {Artist Talk}
2012 Rooftop Flag Installation: Winter Artist. Lillstreet Art Center. Chicago, IL.

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 Untitled Art Fair. Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Houston, TX.
Her Space, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL.
Through the Needle's Eye, Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts, Gary, IN.
DARKROOM 2025, Museum of Contemporary photography, Chicago, IL.
2024 Dallas Art Fair. Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Dallas, TX.
Agency: Craft in Chicago from the 1970s-80s and beyond. Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, IL.
Beyond: Tapestry Expanded, The Peeler Art Center, DePauw University, IL.
2023 Andrew Rafacz Gallery, NADA Fair, Miami, FL.
Not Another Pretty Face, Hyde Park Art Center. Chicago, IL.
Ingress Gallery, Soho House, Chicago IL.
Stitched & Dyed. Dunedin Fine Art Center, FL.
Andrew Rafacz Gallery, EXPO Chicago. Chicago, IL.
Blossom, Kent State University Galleries. Kent, OH
Friendship's Death, Andrew Rafacz Gallery. Chicago, IL.
Rekindled Promise, Pentimenti Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.
2022 Inaugural Exhibition, Artruss Gallery. Chicago, IL.
Chicago Textile Week. Merchandise Mart. Chicago, IL.
Radiance Booth, Work in Progress, Chicago Artist Colaition. Chicago, IL.
LATINXAMERICA, Lubeznik Center for the Arts. Michigan City, IN.
Artadia Booth, EXPO Art Fair. Chicago, IL.
Alma, Art and Interiors, 3636 S. Iron St., Chicago, IL
2021 Frieze "Viewing Room", (Andrew Rafacz Gallery). Frieze Art Fair, New York.
Group Exhibition, Frieze Art Fair, (Andrew Rafacz Gallery). New York, NY.
LatinXAmerican. DePaul Art Museum. Chicago, IL.
2019 Remember where you are. DePaul Art Museum. Chicago, IL.
Entrelazar. Arts of Life Inc., Circle Contemporary. Chicago, IL.
SOFT. Chicago Print Makers Collaborative. Chicago, IL.

- Kantoor, Degroot Fine Art. Chicago, IL.
Threaded, MCC Art Gallery, Mesa AZ.
 Art of the Neighborhood, EQ Office and Franklin Lobby, Willis Tower. Chicago IL.
 Time Share, Monaco Gallery. St.Louis, Missouri
 Nibble, Ignition Project Space. Chicago, IL.
 The Poetics of Relation. Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation. Chicago, IL.
- 2018 Through Her Eye. Mana Contemporary. Chicago, IL.
 By Way of the Matrix. Praxis Fiber Workshop. Cleveland, OH.
 The Event of the Thread. Heaven Gallery. Chicago, IL.
 Ground Floor. Hyde Park Art Center. Chicago, IL.
 Network of Escape. Tile Blush Gallery. Miami, FL.
 Under Construction, The Metropolitan Capital A Universal Bank. Chicago, IL.
 Expansive Threads, Latino Arts Inc. Milwaukee, WI.
 88th Members exhibition at the Arts Club of Chicago, IL.
- 2017 The Unsolicited Sideshow, Chicago Architectural Biennial, Chicago Athletic Association, IL.
 Untitled, Art Fair, Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Miami FL
 Preview 7, Chicago Artists Coalition. Chicago, IL.
 Topographical Drift, Andrew Rafacz Gallery. Chicago, IL
 MFA Thesis Exhibition. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Sullivan Galleries. Chicago, IL.
- 2016 Que Pasa USA, La Esquina Gallery. Kansas City, MO
 New Work, Sullivan Galleries. Chicago, IL.
 The Annual, Paddle8. Chicago Artists Coalition. Chicago, IL.
 Doc6 Collective. Design and Art series #9. Chicago, IL.
 International Young Textile Art Triennial. The Central Museum of Textiles in Łódź Poland. {Catalogue}
 Present Standard, Chicago Cultural Center. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 [But Three's A Crowd], Efrain Lopez Gallery. Chicago, IL.
 Mom & Pops. Arts Incubator, University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.
 Visual Arts Exhibition: Luminarts Cultural Foundation. Union League. Chicago, IL.
 Dimensions of an Artist. Leroy Neiman Center. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Leandro & Amaral Snow –New Works. The Franklin. Chicago IL.
 Over Under: Lula Walls. Lula Café. Chicago, IL.
- 2014 Transcending Boundaries: Fiber Artists. Bridgeport Art Center. Chicago, IL. {Chicago Artist Month}
 57th Annual Beloit and Vicinity. Wright Museum of Art. Beloit College, Beloit, WI. {Catalogue}
 TTRG Research Exhibition. President/Provost office. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 One Foot X One Foot. VP Fiber Arts Club. University of Missouri. Columbia, MO
 Small Works. National Association of Women Artists. New York, NY.
 “Lilliputians March” Small Works Exhibition. Purdue University Galleries. West Lafayette, IN.
 FLY, Flag Installation. Gallery 400, University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.
 Small works: online exhibition. Todd Art Gallery. Middle Tennessee State University.
- 2013 Group Exhibition. Stairway Studios. Chicago IL. {Featured for Chicago Open Studios}
 Art of it ALL. Shy RABBIT Contemporary Arts. Pagosa Springs, CO. {catalogue}
 54th Annual Beloit & Vicinity. Wright Museum of Art, Beloit College. Beloit, WI. {Catalogue}
 Continue: Recovering after sexual assault. Both sides Gallery. Pilsen, Chicago, IL.
 International Young Textile Art Triennial. The Central Museum of Textiles in Łódź Poland. {Catalogue}
 ArtWork6. Sullivan Galleries, 33 South State, 7th floor. Chicago IL.
- 2012 Young Blood: Homecoming. ArtSeen Gallery. Miami, FL.
 Weave Maker Pro. The Plains Project Gallery. Chicago IL.
- 2011 Shape, Shift, Substitute. Advanced Fibers. Tom Robinson Gallery. Chicago, IL.
 BFA Fall Undergraduate Exhibit. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Young Blood- New World School of the Arts. Flagler Art Space. Miami, FL.

Chain Letter, Golden Parachutes Gallery. Berlin, Germany.
Ingrained: Arraigado. Curated personal art exhibit. Chicago, IL.

- 2010 Art Basel: Natural Selection: Coconut Grove Arts Festival. Art Basel, Miami, FL
Young Blood- New World School of the Arts. Artseen Gallery. Miami, FL.

Publication/Press

- 2025 A quiet, dissonant oasis, Chicago Reader {*Shira Friedman-Parks*} Chicago, IL.
2023 Contrasts and connections, *"Friendship's Death" is alive with sensuous form and pleasurable color.* Chicago Reader {*Alan Pocaro*} Chicago, IL.
Freedom in Abstraction: A Review of "Friendship's Death" at Andrew Rafacz. New City Art. {*Annette Lepique*} Chicago, IL.
Spotlight on Women Artists, Intersect Palm Springs Design & Art Fair.
2022 Art Top 5: April 2022, New City Art {*Kerry Cardoza*} Chicago, IL
2021 What's on your Loom Series, Digital Weaving Norway Newsletter. Tronrud Engineering, Norway.
DePaul Art Museum continues Latinx initiative with galleries-wide exhibition.
Chicago Sun Times. {*Kyle MacMillan*} Chicago, IL.
2020 Four Fantastic art show to catch before they're gone. Chicago Tribune. {*Lori Waxman*} Chicago, IL.
2019 Fall Art Preview 2019: Spotlight on Latin America. New City Magazine. {*Kerry Cardoza*} Chicago, IL.
Time Share Review. Monaco Gallery, New Art Examiner.
Magazine Cover Image, NewCity Magazine. Chicago, IL.
Interview with Artist, Article. Contratiempo Publication, Chicago, IL.
2018 "Shared loneliness", Pen Incest Publication. Gallery 062. Chicago, IL.
Break out Artist of the Year, New City Magazine. {*Erin Toale*} Chicago, IL.
Chicago Style Makers Profile. Luxe Magazine, Interior and Design. Chicago/NYC.
Welcome to Melissa Leandro's Miami. Chicago Tribune. {*KT Hawbaker*} Chicago, IL.
Top Five Weekend Picks 1/25-1/31/. Bad at Sports. Chicago, IL.

2017 Installation, "Top 10 things to do in Chicago this week", Chicago Magazine, Chicago Tribune, IL.
MFA Edition, No.129 issue, New American Paintings. Open Studio Press. Boston, MA.
The Collective Gap: Que Pasa USA, Charlotte Street Foundation. Kansas City, MO

2016 Featured Project: Yearbook TextielLab, Textiel Museum, Tilburg, The Netherlands.
"Present Standard" Review, CRITICS' PICKS. ArtForum Magazine.
Good looking: A survey of contemporary Latino art. Cultural Center. {*Lori Waxman*}. Chicago Tribune.

2015 [BUT] THREE'S A CROWD at Efrain Lopez Gallery, Elnuevodia, Puerto Rico
[BUT] THREE'S A CROWD at Efrain Lopez Gallery, ArtViewer, Antwerp, Belgium
Mom & Pops Review, Arts Incubator. NewCity Art. Chicago, IL.
Featured Artist, Other Peoples Pixels. {*Stacia Yeapanis*} Chicago, IL.
Dimensions of an Artist Grant: Feature FNews Magazine. (SAIC). Chicago, IL.
Dimensions of an Artist Exhibition: Video Interview, EXtv. (SAIC). Chicago, IL.
Textile Technology Research Group Presentations: Shapiro Center Symposium. (SAIC). Chicago, IL.
Beyond the Wall: LULA CAFÉ, Rabbit Hole Magazine. {*Kate Sierzputowski*} Chicago, IL.

2014 Featured Artist, Make Space. {*Lynnette Miranda*} New York, New York City, NY.
Featured Artist, ArtCrush Magazine. {*Brandon Johnson*} New York City, NY.

2012 Featured Artist, WeaverMaker Pro: New Woven Works. Make Space. {*Lynnette Miranda*} Chicago, IL.

Awards, Grants, Residencies

- 2025 Featured artist, New American Paintings, Midwest Issue No. 179.
Teaching Artist Cohort. Center for Craft. Ashville, NC.

- HAYSTACK Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME.
- 2024 Ox-Bow Residency. Saugatuck, Michigan.
- 2023 Crosstown Arts. Crosstown Arts' contemporary art center. Memphis, TN.
- 2022 Ragdale Residency, Ragdale Foundation. Lake Forest IL.
Vermont Studio Center Residency. Vermont Studio Center, Johnson Vermont.
- 2021 Hopper Prize Finalist. Hopper Organization.
The Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation Chicago Artadia Awardee, Artadia, Brooklyn, NY.
Wingate Artist Fellowship. Vermont Studio Center Residency. Johnson Vermont.
- 2020 Craft Fellowship Recipient, Illinois Arts Council, Illinois.
- 2019 Master Residency. The Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna beach, Florida.
Ragdale Residency. The Ragdale Foundation. Lake Forest, IL.
- 2018 The Jacquard Center Workshop, Research, design, & production. Hendersonville, North Carolina.
Fountain Head Fellowship Finalist. Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond Virginia.
- 2017 Project Grant, Luminarts Foundation, The Union League Club of Chicago, IL.
Toby Devon Lewis Fellowship, The school of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL.
Luminarts Fellowship, The Union League Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
BOLT Artists Residency. Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago, IL.
Resident Artist. The Weaving Mill, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 World Less Traveled Grant, The school of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL.
Visual Arts Nominee- Luminarts Cultural Foundation, Union League Club, Chicago, IL.
TextielLab Artist Project Recipient- Textiel Museum, Tilburg, Netherlands.
Ox-Bow Merit Scholarship, The school of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL.
Dimensions of an Artist Grant, Student Government, The school of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL.
Roger Brown House- Resident Artist, The school of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL.
- 2014 Eager Grant Recipient- Shapiro Center, The school of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL.
ACRE Artist Residency. Steuben, WI.
- 2012 Wingate Fellowship Nominee
- 2011 Ox-bow Summer Work Scholarship, The school of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL.
- 2008-11 SAIC Support Grant, SAIC Recognition Scholarship, Elizabeth Skinner Scholarship, Merit Grant

Symposium/Lectures

- 2025 *Featured Speaker*, Luminarts & Artadia Artist Salon, Driehaus Museum
Artist Talk. *Art After Dark*, Downers Grove Public Library Foundation, Downers Grove, IL.
Artist Talk. *Through the Needle's Eye*, Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts, Gary, IN.
Artist Talk. *Public Acquisition*, Skokie Public Library, Skokie, IL.
- 2024 Panel Discussion, *Chicago Narratives: Finding a Creative Home*. Art Design Chicago,
Terra Foundation for American Art. South Asia Institute, IL.
- 2023 Crosstown Arts, Resident Artist Talks. Crosstown Arts Concourse, Art Bar. Memphis, TN.
Roundtable Panelist. Praxis and Practice, A Digital Weaving Conference.
- 2022 Artist Talk & Workshop, Waubonsee Community College, IL.
- 2021 Artist Talk. University of Nebraska Omaha.
Artist Talk. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Madison, WI.
Artist Talk. Joan Mitchell Lecture Series. Fiber Material Studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago.
Artist Talk. Weaving Guild of North Shore. Chicago IL.
- 2020 Artist Talk. The University Club of Chicago, IL.
Meet the Artist/Unveiling. Downers Grove Public Library. Downers Grove IL.
Panel Discussion, Remember Where You Are. DePaul Art Museum. Chicago IL.
- 2019 Radio Interview. Contratiempo Publication, Chicago, IL.
- 2018 Archives + Futures Podcast Interview, Comfort Station, Chicago IL.
Artist Talk. Harold Washington College. Chicago, IL.
- 2017 Panel Discussion: Vacilon Columnar, Queer theory in contemporary design. The Unsolicited Sideshow,

- Chicago Athletic Association (Stagg court), IL.
 Artist Talk. Sew Stitchy Vising Professional. After School Matters. Chicago, IL.
 Passing and Crossing, Panel Discussion. (SAIC). Chicago, IL.
- 2016 *Stitch/Bordado: Cartago, Colombia* Residency Presentation. (SAIC). IL.
 Artist Talk. Stitch Course: Professor Dana Carter. (SAIC). Chicago, IL.
 Panel Discussion: *Conversation on "use", "usefulness", "uselessness"*. Shapiro Spring Symposium. LeRoy Neiman Center. (SAIC). IL.
 Gallery Talks: Present Standard. Chicago Cultural Center. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 Textile Technology Research Group Presentations: Shapiro Center Symposium.
Responsive Material, Cultural Magnitudes, Cosmic Imagery, Textile Research & Collaboration.
 Fashion Resource Center. (SAIC). IL.
 Artist Talk. Intro Fibers Course: Professor Lisa Vinebaum. (SAIC). Chicago, IL.
 Artist Talk. Intro Fibers Course: Professor Dana Carter. (SAIC). Chicago, IL.
- 2014 Artist Talk. New Work-Woman's History Month. Sulzer Regional Library. Chicago, IL.

Education

- 2018 The Jacquard Center Workshop, Research, design, & production. Hendersonville, NC.
 2017 MFA Degree, Fiber & Material Studies. School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). IL.
 2015 Oxbow School of the Arts. Summer Program: Free Clay. Saugatuck, MI.
 2013 Advance Sewing Course, (Three 8-week sessions). Singer Factory Distributor. Chicago IL.
 2012 BFA, Emphasis in Fiber Material Studies. School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). IL.
 2011 Oxbow School of the Arts. Summer Program: Papermaking. Saugatuck, MI.
 2008 Miami Dade College, New World School of the Arts. Dual enrollment in Visual Arts

Professional Experience

- 2025 Lecturer. Introduction to Fiber Material Studies. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Lecturer. Permeable Membranes. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Lecturer. Advanced Stitch. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Lecturer. Chemical After Taste. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
- 2024 Lecturer. Advanced Stitch. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Low-Res MFA Guided Study Faculty. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
- 2023 Low-Res MFA Program Mentor. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Lecturer. Introduction to Fiber Material Studies. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Lecturer. Stitch II. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
- 2021 Low-Res MFA Program Mentor. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Lecturer. Introduction to Fiber Material Studies. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Lecturer. Stitch II. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
- 2020 Lecturer. Introduction to Fiber Material Studies. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Lecturer. Stitch I. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
- 2019 Faculty. Hand to Thread. Ox Bow School of Art. Saugatuck, Michigan.
 Lecturer. Introduction to Fiber Material Studies. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
- 2018 Lecturer. Introduction to Fiber Material Studies. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
- 2017 Resident Workshop Leader, Envision Studios/The Weaving Mill, Chicago, IL. *Envision provides*
- 2015 *Chicagoans with intellectual/developmental disabilities a disciplined studio practice in a community setting.*
 Graduate Teaching Assistant, *Drawn to Print* course. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Graduate Teaching Assistant, *Stitch 1* course. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Graduate Teaching Assistant, *Soft Logic* course. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
 Graduate Teaching Assistant, *Natural Dye* course. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
- 2013-2023 Assistant Director, Fiber Material Studies Department. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
- 2012 Assistant Manager, Fiber Material Studies Department. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.

Art Reach Teacher- Non-Profit sister organization of LillStreet, Chicago, IL.
Provide art resources & art education to under privileged communities
2012 Instructor, First-Time Sewing Intensive - LillStreet Art Center, Chicago, IL.

Gallery
Representation_____

2018 Andrew Rafacz Gallery, (312) 404-9188, Chicago IL.
-present

Artist
Affiliations/Membership_____

2023
-present Advisory Board Member. DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL.
Visual Art Member. Arts Club of Chicago, IL.

Collections_____

Belgravia Group at Renelle Chicago, EAC Consulting, INC, Federal Reserve of Chicago, BlueShield & BlueCross, Progressive Insurance Companies, Mayfield, OH, The Estée Lauder Companies, New York, NY, Brown Legacy Group, Hyatt Hotels Corporation, Starbucks.