

# MEL COOK

## EDUCATION

- 2016 Skowhegan School Of Painting & Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME
- 2012 Masters of Fine Arts, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2009 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bowling Green State University
- 2008 Studio Art Centers International (SACI), Florence, Italy

## SOLO & TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *DREAM ON*, Mel Cook + Kailyn Perry, Belong Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2020 *TORRENTIAL HAG*, Mel Cook + Kelly Reaves, Cleaner Gallery + Projects, Chicago, IL
- 2019 *I NEED A VOICE NOT A BODY*, Vital Signs MKE, Milwaukee, WI
- 2018 *Mother of The Clown*, Mel Cook + Molly Colleen O'Connell, Roots & Culture, Chicago, IL
- 2016 *We Have a Back Room With Other Things: Mel Cook + Megan Stroeck*, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2015 *Things Will Be Fine*, Jan Brandt Gallery, Bloomington, IL
- 2014 *Between The Void*, Peoria Art Guild, Peoria, IL
- 2013 *Still Life Revisited*, Morton College, Cicero, IL
- Mel Cook: Recent Monotypes*, Manneken Press, Bloomington, IL
- 2012 *Sincerely, With Love*, Illinois State University Galleries, Normal, IL

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Dance to Anything*, Drama Club, Chicago, IL
- 2019 *Somebody Told Me You People Were Crazy*, Hathaway Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- With a Capital P: Selections by Six Painters*, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL
- Painting The Figure Now*, Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art, Wausau, WI
- Some Kind of (M)Other, 31, Yeah Maybe*, Minneapolis, MN
- Living for Love*, Oklahoma, Chicago, IL
- Manneken Press, EXPO, Chicago, IL
- 2018 *Lumpen Drawing Rally*, Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL
- Local Comfort, LVL3*, Chicago, IL
- LtdWear3, LVL3 and Tusk*, Chicago, IL
- Women Painting Men*, Riverside Arts Center, Riverside, IL
- The Chicago Show*, 56 Downing St., Brooklyn, New York
- Continental Breakfast*, Condo Association, Chicago, IL
- Winter Romance*, Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, IL
- Nothing Is Ours But Time*, Ukrainian Modern Institute of Art, Chicago, IL
- 2017 *Eyes, Nose, Lips, Etc.*, Left Field Gallery, San Luis Obispo, CA
- El Sol Sale Para Todxs*, Chicago, IL
- Milestones*, The Fine Arts Center Galleries, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH
- Unfurnished*, Demo Projects, Springfield, IL
- Close To Me*, Roots & Culture, Chicago, IL
- 2016 *New American Paintings*, curated by Steven Zevitas, stARTup Art Fair, Chicago, IL
- New Business*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- For Sale By Owner*, Hilltop Antiques, Skowhegan, ME
- 2015 *US*, Comfort Station, Chicago, IL
- Time Share*, Figure One Gallery, Champaign, IL
- 2014 *2014 Faculty Biennial*, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2013 *Prime*, Heavy Brow Gallery, Bloomington, IL
- Faculty Biennial*, ICC Art Gallery, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL
- 2012 *In Your Neighborhood*, McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL
- Spookeh*, Jan Brandt Gallery, Bloomington, IL
- 2012 Student Annual*, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- The Eye That Sees The Possible*, Transpace Gallery, Normal, IL

## RESIDENCIES

- 2019 Lazuli Residency, Corinth, VT  
Artist in Residence, Ace Hotel, Chicago, IL
- 2018 Artist in Residence, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2017 ACRE, Steuben, WI
- 2016 Skowhegan School Of Painting & Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME
- 2016 The Center Program, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2013 Visiting Artist, Manneken Press, Bloomington, IL

## GUEST LECTURES

- 2022 Early College Program Summer Institute, Painting, School of The Art Institute of Chicago
- 2020 Wonsook Kim School of Fine Arts, Illinois State University  
Duke Creates, Duke University
- 2019 Art, Theory, Practice, Northwestern University
- 2018 Contemporary Practices, School of The Art Institute Chicago  
Art, Theory, & Practice, Northwestern University
- 2017 Contemporary Practices, School of The Art Institute of Chicago  
Art & Architecture, Harold Washington College  
Art & Design, Harper College
- 2016 Arts Administration, School of The Art Institute of Chicago

## GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2021 Artist Relief Grant, United States Artists
- 2013 Studio Break MFA Competition Winner
- 2012 Irving S. Tick Award in Painting, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2009 Full Graduate Tuition Scholarship, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2008 Undergraduate Research Grant, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH

## PRESS

- 2020 "Torrential Hag" at Cleaner Gallery Projects, Sixty Inches From Center, 11-26-2020
- 2019 *Artist Lends Irreverent Touch to Hathaway Group Show*, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 7-11-2019  
*Cullum's July Notebook: Disparate Parts Make a Whole at Hathaway*, ARTS ATL, 7-03-2019  
*Cult Classics: A Conversation with Craig Drennen*, Burnaway, 6-4-2019
- 2018 *Conversations With The Inspiring Mel Cook*, Voyage Chicago, 7-24-18  
*Artist of The Week: Mel Cook*, LVL3, 6-5-2018  
*Crushing The Patriarchy With One Look; Molly Colleen O'Connell and Mel Cook Clown Around With The Femme Abject*, Chicago Tribune, 5-25-2018  
*1960s Chicago Gave Birth to a Colorful, Frenetic Art Scene*  
*That Is Still Gathering Steam*, Artsy, 5-17-2018  
*Plunge Into the Madcap Delirium of Chicago Imagists at a Brooklyn Brownstone with These Photos*, Artnet News, 5-16-2018
- 2017 *Artist Spotlight: Mel Cook*, Chicago Woman, 12-18-2017
- 2016 *Nicole Lane Interviews Mel Cook*, Vagabond City Lit, Nov 3, 2016
- 2015 *Mel Cook/Erin Hayden*, Studio Break, Podcast Interview, Episode 147, 8-14-2015
- 2014 *Mel Cook*, Studio Break, Podcast interview, Episode 103, 3-20-2014

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 *New American Paintings*, No. 125, Midwest Issue
- 2013 *Studio Visit*, Volume 24, Page 35
- 2013 *Art In Print*, Volume 3, Number 1, Page 43

## COLLECTIONS

The Joan Flasch Artist Book Collection, School of The Art Institute Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Permanent Collection, Spoke Apartments, Chicago, IL  
The Polsinelli Art Collection, New York, NY  
Fidelity Investments, Boston, MA  
David Beitzel, David Beitzel, Fine Arts

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021-22 Editorial Assistant, Soberscove Press, Chicago, IL  
2021 Visual Arts Instructor, Middle School Summer Camp, Chicago High School for The Arts  
2020-21 Drawing II Instructor, Chicago High School for The Arts  
2020 Teaching Artist Liaison, College & Careers, Marwen  
2019-20 Lecturer, *Intro to Painting*, Art, Theory, Practice, Northwestern University  
2016-20 Teaching Artist, *Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, and Building College Portfolios*, Marwen  
2016-17 Lab Teaching Artist, *Advanced College Portfolio*, Marwen  
2016-17 Studio Facilitator, *Drawing, Painting, & Sculpture*, Marwen  
2015 Intern in Education: School & Teacher Programs, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago  
2013-14 Instructional Assistant Professor, *Art Appreciation, 2D Design*, Illinois Central College  
2013 Instructional Assistant Professor, *Philosophy of Aesthetics*, Lincoln Community College  
2012-13 Instructional Assistant Professor, *Drawing Foundations, Life Drawing, Intro to Painting*, Illinois State University  
2007-08 Teaching Artist, *Mural Painting*, Sofia Quintero Cultural Center

## SERVICE

2008-09 Visual Arts Service-Learning Liaison, Civic Action Leader, Bowling Green State University Service Corps, AmeriCorps

## RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-21 BIPOC Committee, Equity Arts, Chicago, IL  
2020-21 Anti-Racism Arts Reading Group, ChiArts, Chicago, IL  
2020 Teacher Advisory Board, Marwen  
2019 Assessment Team, Marwen  
2016-20 Peer to Peer, Marwen  
2015-17 Family Day Volunteer, Family Day, MCA Chicago  
2014-17 Curriculum Review Volunteer, After School Matters