

JEAN ALEXANDER FRATER

Lives and works in Chicago, Illinois · alexanderfrater.com

Represented by THE MISSION Projects, Chicago

Founder and Director, *Material*, artist-run project space · materialexhibitions.com

EDUCATION

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, MFA

University of Dayton, BA, Philosophy

SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2026** *Fall Out*, Milliken Art Gallery, Converse University, Spartanburg, SC
- 2025** *Wee Restless Hours*, THE MISSION Projects, Chicago, IL
- 2024** *Diamonds*, Hidell Brooks Gallery, Charlotte, NC
- 2024** *Color Form*, McHenry County College, curated by Trevor Power, Crystal Lake, IL
- 2023** *Two Appendages*, The Arts Club of Chicago, The Drawing Room, curated by Janine Mileaf, Chicago, IL
- 2023** *Deep Round*, The Peninsula Chicago and Engage Projects, curated by Jennifer Armetta, Chicago, IL
- 2023** *Centered.*, with Margaret Welsh, Engage Projects, Chicago, IL
- 2022** *Circularities*, with Danila Rumold, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, curated by Karen Dana Cohen, Chicago, IL
- 2022** *Recent Work*, Hidell Brooks Gallery, Charlotte, NC
- 2022** *The Shape of Things to Come*, Strohl Art Center, curated by Judy Barie, Chautauqua, NY
- 2021** *Reform*, Engage Projects, Chicago, IL
- 2020** *Out of My Head*, Aspect/Ratio Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2019** *Solid Echoes*, with Nick Albertson, Aspect/Ratio Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2018** *Buoyant Surface*, Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago, IL
- 2017** *Softer*, THE MISSION, Chicago, IL
- 2015** *Painting Between the Means*, Guest Spot at The ReInstitute, Baltimore, MD
- 2012** *Out of Line*, SpaceCamp Micro Gallery, Indianapolis, IN
- 2007** *So Long*, The Office Gallery, curated by Emily Luce, Lethbridge, Canada
- 2006** *Time Flies*, SPACES Gallery, SpaceLab, Cleveland, OH
- 2004** *It's Meant to Be*, Gallery C, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026

Pop Up at Six10 Art, with THE MISSION, Houston, TX

2025

Her Space, Heaven Gallery, co-curated by Holly Holmes and Teresa Silva, Chicago, IL

Structure, Blue Spiral 1, curated by Casey Engel, Asheville, NC

Untitled Art, Houston, with THE MISSION, Houston, TX

THE MISSION Projects at McClain Gallery, McClain Gallery, Houston, TX

2023

Think Pinker, GAVLAK Los Angeles, curated by Beth Rudin DeWoody, Los Angeles, CA

2022

Resilient, with Bobbi Meier and Monica Rezman, Aurora Art Center, curated by Jennifer Evans, Aurora, IL

2021

Jean Alexander Frater, Rob de Oude, Danielle Mysliwiec, McKenzie Fine Art, curated by Valerie McKenzie, New York, NY

2.5 Breaking the Surface, Peninsula School of Art, curated by Crystal Chesnik, Fish Creek, WI

2020

(To Have and To Not) Hold, Aspect/Ratio Gallery, curated by Chloe Lewis and Daniella Thach, Chicago, IL

2019

Cantos Comunes, Havana Biennial, curated by Diaz Lewis, Havana, Cuba

Art of the Neighborhood, Willis Tower, curated by Cortney Lederer, Chicago, IL

2018

Nononchalant, Alan Koppel Gallery, curated by Laura Ellsworth, Chicago, IL

GOLD, Aspect/Ratio Gallery, curated by Jefferson Godard, Chicago, IL

Interior Fiction, The Vast Lab, curated by Julia Alexander-Bates, Los Angeles, CA

Over and Over, Glass Curtain Gallery, curated by Debra Kayes, Chicago, IL

2017

The whole is always smaller than its parts, Chicago Artists Coalition, curated by Ionit Behar, Chicago, IL

Soft Geometries, Hammond Harkins Gallery, curated by Andrea Myers, Columbus, OH

Borrowed, SpaceWorks, curated by Tegan Marie Brozyna Roberts, Brooklyn, NY

Art 10, Dock 6, curated by Dan Sullivan and Edra Soto, Chicago, IL

Abstract Wall Paintings III #DeStijl100Years, Transmitter, curated by Rob De Oude, Brooklyn, NY

2016

My Feet Have Lost Memory of Softness, The Franklin, curated by Ionit Behar, Chicago, IL

Torn, THE MISSION, Chicago, IL

Drawing Invitational, Main Hall Gallery, Kent State University at Stark, curated by Andrea Myers, North Canton, OH

EXPO Chicago, with THE MISSION, Chicago, IL

Rules of the Game, Transmitter, curated by Rob De Oude, Brooklyn, NY

REMIX, La Bodega Gallery, curated by Dre Britton and Corynne Ostermann, Baltimore, MD

Tangent Planes, Matthew Rachman Gallery, curated by Justine Salva, Chicago, IL

2015

EXPO Chicago, with THE MISSION, Chicago, IL

The Annual Exhibition, Chicago Artists Coalition, curated by Claudine Isé and Alexandria Eregbu, Chicago, IL

Plane Figures, THE MISSION, Chicago, IL

2014

Build It, i.d.e.a. Museum, curated by Jeffory Morris, Mesa, AZ

Midwestern Biennial, Rockford Art Museum, Rockford, IL

Graphique, Watershed Gallery, curated by Jen Ridgefield, Ridgefield, CT

2013

Painting, Las Manos Gallery, curated by Nate Torrence and Michelle Peterson-Albandoz, Chicago, IL

Contemplating Perception, Las Manos Gallery, curated by Nate Torrence, Chicago, IL

2003–2011

Selfie, Guest Spot, curated by Rod Malin, Baltimore, MD, 2011

Strange Magic, Guest Spot, curated by Skye Gilkerson, Baltimore, MD, 2011

You First, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, curated by Dalibor Polivka and Rob Mintz, Santa Ana, CA, 2011

Full Screen, The Big Screen Project, Public Plaza at the Eventi Hotel, curated by David Andrew Frey, New York, NY, 2011

Festival of the Moving Image, Ybor Art Gallery, curated by Parallel Studios, Tampa Bay, FL

Exquisite Corpse, SPOKE, Chicago, IL, 2010

Currents, El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe, produced by Parallel Studios, Santa Fe, NM, 2010

Storyline Transports: Shadow and Light Festival, Experimental Station, curated by Jung A Woo and David Prince, Chicago, IL, 2010

A Night of Short Films, Lyons Wier Gallery, curated by Jazz-minh Moore, New York, NY, 2009

Sceneriette, PossibleProjects, curated by Trevor Reese, Brooklyn, NY, 2009

Twosidedness, Kulturhuset, curated by Sandra Weil, Stockholm, Sweden, 2008

Short Film and Video Showcase, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH, 2007

All that is Solid Melts into Air, Chashama, curated by Emma Belasz, New York, NY, 2007

48 Hours, BK Smith Gallery, Painesville, OH, 2006
Goods To Declare, Bezalel 100 / Terminal 1, curated by Sandra Weil, Tel Aviv, Israel, 2006
Gallery 2, Chicago, IL, 2006
Images Festival, Toronto, Canada, 2006
Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago, IL, 2006
Music, Ernest Rubenstein Gallery, curated by David Wells, New York, NY, 2005
Quality Project, public art installation, Euclid Avenue Storefronts, Cleveland, OH, 2005
Art Biennial, South Bend Regional Museum of Art, South Bend, IN, 2003

MUSEUM AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL

CORPORATE AND HOSPITALITY COLLECTIONS

Christian Dior Art Collection, Sydney and Chicago
JPMorgan Chase, Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL
Fontainebleau Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV
Mayo Clinic, Minneapolis, MN
Cboe (Chicago Board Options Exchange), Chicago, IL
Mesirow Financial, Chicago, IL
Waldorf Astoria Chicago, Chicago, IL
The St. Regis Chicago, Chicago, IL
The Proper Hotel, Austin, TX

AWARDS, GRANTS AND RESIDENCIES

2025 Finalist, Spring 2025 Artist Grant, The Hopper Prize
2018 Sustainable Arts Foundation Award
2017–18 BOLT Residency, Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago, IL
2014 Honorable Mention, Dave Bown Projects 9th Semiannual Competition (curators: Steven Matijcio, Dominic Molon, Marina Pacini)
2014 Working Artist Grant, Working Artist Organization
2013 Honorable Mention, *Plans*, Artavita
ArtSlant Showcase, Painting and Drawing Awards, rounds 3, 4 and 6

CATALOGUES

2025 *Her Space*, Heaven Gallery, co-curated by Holly Holmes and Teresa Silva
2018 *Buoyant Surface: The Field is Woven*, essay by Ionit Behar
2017 *Softer*, essay by Claudine Isé
2016 *Painting Between the Means: Gravititas*, essay by Steven L. Bridges, foreword by Rod Malin

LECTURES, PANELS AND VISITING ARTIST

2026 Visiting Artist, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, spring
2026 Visiting Lecturer, Converse University, Spartanburg, SC, in conjunction with *Fall Out*
2025 Visiting Artist, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, winter
2025 Guest Presenting Artist, Professional Practices, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL
2023 CVA Lecture Series, artist lecture
2023 In conversation with Margaret Welsh and Jennifer Armetta, Arts and Conversations, Palm Beach, FL
2021 Visiting Artist, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN
2021 Curator Conversations, 21c Museum Hotels, with Jefferson Godard, Adia Sykes and Derrick Woods-Morrow
2021 ARP 1:1, in conversation with the gallery director, Aspect/Ratio Projects
2020 Visiting Artist, Contemporary Practices, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL
2020 Speaker, SAIC / CAPX Expert Exchange

2018 Visiting Artist Talk, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2025 "Jean Alexander Frater Interview," *The Hopper Prize*, September
- 2025 "Jean Alexander Frater Experiments With Materials To Redefine The Boundaries Of Painting," interview, *WOWwART*, 12 May
- 2025 Fabric of Expression: Jean Alexander Frater on Weaving and Painting, *DESIGNEERS Journal*, April
- 2025 *Wee Restless Hours*, artist walkthrough, THE MISSION Projects
- 2023 Kelly Wearstler with Dan Rubinstein, *Kelly Wearstler: Synchronicity*, Rizzoli, New York (work illustrated)
- 2023 "Kelly Wearstler's Bold, Sleek Spaces Show Why She Remains at the Top of Her Game," *1stDibs Introspective*, 1 December (work illustrated and credited)
- 2023 Field Notes: Jean Alexander Frater, *Warp and Weft Magazine*, June
- 2023 Michel Segard, "Two Views of Today's Feminism in Art," review of *Centered.*, *New Art Examiner*
- 2022 Will Karr, "Breaking down hierarchies: Jean Alexander Frater's solo exhibit opens in Strohl," *Chautauquan Daily*, June
- 2022 Gabriel Jorge Gouveia, "Dior's New Sydney Flagship Boutique is a Work of Art," *Man of Many*, 10 February
- 2021 Noelani Kirschner, "Jean Alexander Frater: Supporting the Substrate," *The American Scholar*, Portrait of the Artist, November
- Mikki Bramer, "Torn Apart," artist feature, *Luxe Interiors + Design Chicago*, photography by Frank Ishman
- 2020 *Out of My Head*, artist walkthrough, Aspect/Ratio Gallery
- 2019 "In Good Company: Jean Alexander Frater," *DeGroot Fine Art*, 17 December
- 2019 Kelly Wearstler with Rima Suqi, *Kelly Wearstler: Evocative Style*, Rizzoli, New York (work illustrated)
- 2019 "Interior design tips from the grande dame of mix and match," *Australian Financial Review*, Life & Luxury, 23 September (work illustrated and credited)
- 2018 Kevin Smith, *52 Critical Painters*
- 2018 SCIO Spotlight, *SCIO Chicago*
- 2017 Alicia Puig, "Interview: Jean Alexander Frater," *Create! Magazine*, June
- 2017 B. David Zarley, "Jean Alexander Frater: Fold, Don't Spindle and Mutilate," *New American Paintings* blog, May
- 2016 Annette LePique, "Softness as Subversion," *Sixty Inches From Center*, November
- 2016 Bradley Fiore, "Three Shows that didn't Happen in Wicker Park Last Weekend," *Palliate*, November
- 2016 *New American Paintings*, Midwest Issue #125, August
- 2016 Natalie Paunic, "Three Chicago Artists Play with Abstract Perceptions at Matthew Rachman Gallery," *Widewalls*, March
- 2016 Terence Hannum, "Top 10 Exhibitions of 2015," *BmoreArt*, January
- 2015 Joseph Shaikewitz, "Allusive Vertigo," *BmoreArt*, November
- 2014 Abhilasha Singh, Artist Watchlist, *ArtSlant*, June
- 2014 Michael Vincent Cerullo, "Graphique at Watershed," *The Full Moon*, March
- 2013 Nate Torrence, "Up Close with Jean Alexander Frater," *Las Manos*, September
- 2013 Una Dimitrijevic, "A Chat About the Meaning of it all with Jean Alexander Frater," *Brave New Art World*, August
- 2013 Baynard Woods, "Selfie," *Baltimore City Paper*, July
- 2013 Cara Ober, "Self Centered: Selfie at Guest Spot," *BmoreArt*
- 2013 Lee Gainer, "You Gotta Believe in Something," feature artist; *Peripheral ARTeries* art review, June
- 2011 Andrea Appleton, "Strange Magic," *Baltimore City Paper*, December
- 2010 Heather Reitsma, "Gallery Spotlight: Spoke," *Chicago Art Magazine*, November
- 2007 Francesca de Filippi, "Ephemeral Wonderful," *exhibitart.com*, February
- 2007 Roxanne Zargham, Summer Letter, *Yale Press*
- 2006 *Core77*, industrial design supersite, December
- 2005 "Surface Tension," *Shifter* 6, October
- 2003 Julie York Coppens, "This Time It's Personal," *South Bend Tribune*, August