

Crystal Renee Drake

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Chicago, IL

Through textiles, I examine how stories are held, remembered, and carried forward. My values shape my work and engagement within personal and collective narratives. BY centering relational frameworks, I invite reflection on how stories inform our connections to ancestry, identity, and creation of possibilities beyond colonial systems and structures.

Education

2027	MFA (pending), Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM (expected May 2027)
2018	MA, Art Therapy, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2013	BS Distinction Psychology, Concentration Human Anatomy and Physiology Research, Minor Studio Art, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Teaching Experience

2018	Substitute Teacher, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2010-13	Teaching Assistant, Psychology, Statistics, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
2012	Research Assistant, Psychology Department, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Exhibition History

2026	Community Gallery, Center for Native Futures, Chicago, IL
2026	<i>Expressions</i> , SHFT Behavioral Health, Chicago, IL
2026	<i>Instructions for Care</i> , Gallery Wrightwood, Chicago, IL
2025	<i>Quilts</i> , Interfacing Studios, Chicago, IL
2024	Community Gallery, Center For Native Futures, Chicago, IL
2018	MAAT Thesis Exhibition, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2017	<i>Art of Connection</i> , Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL
2017	<i>Soft Touch, Hard Emotions</i> , Leroy Neiman Center, Chicago, IL
2015	<i>Material Worlds</i> , Canvas, Chicago, IL
2014	<i>Student Show</i> , Lake Superior State University Arts Center, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
2014	<i>Sunrise 5x7</i> , Lake Superior State University Arts Center, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Solo Exhibition

2013	<i>Pure Imagination</i> , Lake Superior State University Arts Center, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
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Collaborative Projects

- 2025 *Transmissions Quilts*, Berkeley, CA, (textile made in collaboration with Trans artists)
- 2025 *Elisa Harkins: Wampum*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (performance in collaboration with Elisa Harkins)
- 2024 *Conceptual Art-THERAPY*, Bambi Kunst @ Pandora Art Gallery, Berlin (performance in collaboration with Bambi Kunst)

Lectures

- 2026 Invitation to Imagine, Northwestern University, Chicago IL
- 2025 Legacy, Art, & AIDS, Erie Family Health, Chicago, IL
- 2024 The AIDS Quilt, Erie Family Health, Chicago, IL
- 2024 Community, Connection, and Creativity, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2014 Stitched Together: Art, Grief, & the Therapist, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2017 Grief, Loss, & Ritual, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Workshops

- 2026 Studio Practice & Zines, Center for Native Futures, Chicago, IL
- 2025 Zines: Importance of Storytelling, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
- 2025 Zines: Future Visions, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2025 Indigenous Storytelling and Zine Making, Indigeneity and the Arts Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2024 Art Therapy Open Studio, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL
- 2024 HIV & AIDS & ART, Erie Family Health, Chicago, IL
- 2024 HIV & AIDS & Zines, Erie Family Health, Chicago, IL
- 2024 Slow Stitch, For Real Therapy, Chicago, IL
- 2024 Indigenous Futurism: Printmaking Workshop, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2023 Zines: A Grief Group, For Real Therapy, Chicago, IL
- 2019 Introduction to Weaving, West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT), Grand Rapids, MI

Licensure

- 2022 Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) *Illinois*
- 2023 Art Therapist, Provisional (ATR-P)
- 2025 Art Therapist, Registered (ATR)

Research & Publications

Sit, T. J., Drake, C. R., Herrara, V. M., & Houpt, K. J. (2019). On Water Lily Pond.
Self Published.

“Stitched Together: Art Making as a Tool for Understanding Grief,” thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Art Therapy, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, May 2018

“The Influence of Art-Making on Anxiety and Emotional Responsivity in University Students.” American Journal of Applied Psychology, v. 2, no. 3, (2014): 69-72

Artist-in-Residence

2026 Center for Native Futures, Chicago, IL (January 1-June 30)

Professional Service

2024-25 Student Group Advisor, Indigenous Students Association (ISA), School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL