

Sarah Beth Woods is a Chicago-based visual artist working in sculpture, performance and film. Woods' background as a painter and critical cultural worker has led to an interest in the aesthetics and political implications of modern surfaces and the body, specifically skin and hair, saturated color and shine. Cultural influences derived from formative years spent on the Southwest side of Chicago continue to manifest in the content and aesthetics of Woods' work, specifically black material culture, and women's conceptual spaces.

Woods studied at the San Francisco Art Institute where she focused on assemblage and interdisciplinary studies before returning to Chicago where she earned a BFA at Northern Illinois University and her MFA at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Her work has been included in shows at the University of Michigan's Work: Detroit space, UICA, Grand Rapids, MI, Girls Club, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, A.I.R gallery in Brooklyn, New York, the Bob & Roberta Smith Kunstverein at Coventry University, Coventry England, NYU Florence, Florence Italy and in Chicago at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Western Exhibitions, The Franklin, Hyde Park Art Center, and Woman Made Gallery.

Newcity Magazine named her one of the top 5 Subversively Conceptual Crafters in Chicago in 2014. Woods and Fatimata Traore, a professional hair braider are the recipients of the 2015/2016 Crossing Boundaries Prize through Arts+Public Life & Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago for their collaboration, BRAID/WORK. Woods is a 2017 3arts 3AP Awardee, which supports Hear the Glow of Electric Lights, a film project investigating 1960s American music groups featuring teenage girls and young women screening in May, 2018 at Genesis Cinema, London for Experimental Moving Image and September 21-October 7, 2018 at the CICA Museum in Gyeonggi Province, Gimpo-Si, Korea, and The Other Art Fair Chicago, at Mana Contemporary September 28-30, 2018.