

*Lesley  
Bodzy*

*The Soft  
Embrace*



October 13 - December 2, 2023

## Lesley Bodzy: *The Soft Embrace*

Curated by Anna Stothart

526 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street #704

October 13 – December 2, 2023

Opening reception: Thursday, October 12, 6–8pm

Public talk: Thursday, November 9, 6:30–8pm

Exhibition open Fridays and Saturdays noon–6pm  
or by appointment at [lesleybodzyart@gmail.com](mailto:lesleybodzyart@gmail.com)

Lesley Bodzy (lives and works in NYC and Houston) is a sculptor and painter who engages history, materiality, and abstraction to give form and visibility to psychologically complex dimensions. Employing varied media including acrylic, velvet, plastic, silicone, bronze, and resin, and techniques such as 3d printing, casting, pouring, and layering, Bodzy explores the endless possibilities of expression through abstract gesture and material manipulation. For her premier exhibition in New York City, Bodzy worked closely with independent curator Anna Stothart to select key works from the last three years. The exhibition will feature some of the artist's most iconic works including her large-scale sculptural paintings from her *Folds of Desire* series and a selection of bronzes from her *Relic* series, among others.

Trauma, loss and desire are recurring themes that emerge throughout Bodzy's practice and become legible through the artist's profound curiosity with materials, processes, and the resulting metaphorical/

expressive potential. In her *Folds of Desire* series, Bodzy uses gold acrylic paint as a sculptural substance, adding chemicals that allow her to control the form through draping, stretching, and layering. In works like *Soft Embrace I* (2022), the gold acrylic behaves like a tapestry held up from behind. The phantom figure one imagines standing behind the work is simultaneously ominous and comforting in its offer of a "soft embrace." This series of sculptural paintings recall the ornate characteristics of Baroque painting and architecture in their sensuous richness, drama, movement, tension and emotional exuberance. Each work is presented as a featured character, representing the abstract embodiment of a gesture, emotion, or physical form. For Bodzy, these experimental and intuitive decisions are performed as a way to simultaneously acknowledge and exorcize the past, both the collective and the personal.

Bodzy employs a multitude of processes in order to achieve sumptuous textural surfaces. In *With Every Single Breath* (2022), she creates nine unique



blue-gray plastic filament printed objects that hang in a group on the wall. Each form is created using a 3D print of a common crumpled paper bag. The result is a bodily abstraction that when repeated

over and over again creates a formal echo that shifts ever so slightly from one to the next. Bodzy transforms the bag through a process akin to metamorphosis- the malleability and resistance of the material guide her towards a subject and meaning that emerges through the act of creation. The delicate yet resistant surfaces of *With Every Single Breath* create new and unpredictable associations and challenge our assumptions around vulnerability, restraint, and strength.

The titles of Bodzy's works offer a point of departure to guide rather than define the meaning behind each. Though the work is biographical in nature, the aesthetic language leaves interpretation open to the viewer. Often utilizing bold colors and seductive materials, each piece draws attention to the overlooked and barely perceptible elements of our everyday life. Her cast bronze series, *Relic* (2022), is composed of a series of forms cast from a manipulated thick paper cloth used for cleaning. The ubiquitous object memorialized in blue-green, gold, and sea-green bronze invites an alternative reading of an object typically used and then discarded. Taking cues from pioneers of sculptural abstraction of the 1970s-Lynda Benglis' pour paintings, Judy Chicago's *Dinner Party*, and Louise Nevelson's manipulation of the everyday, to name a few-Bodzy blurs the boundaries between relief, sculpture, and painting, and embraces the imperfect and experimental.

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Lesley Bodzy and independent curator Anna Stothart will be in conversation about the exhibition and Bodzy's practice on Thursday, November 9 at 6:30pm at 526 West 26th Street #704.

### About the Artist

Lesley Bodzy holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BA from Mount Holyoke College. She also studied at Hunter College and the Art Students League of New York. Her work is represented by galleries in Houston, TX, Saugerties, NY, Williamsburg, VA, and Jersey City, NJ, and has been exhibited widely across the United States and abroad. Past exhibitions include SPRING/BREAK Art Show NYC 2022, ChaShaMa and Sculptors Alliance in New York City, Holy Art Gallery in London, UK, Site:Brooklyn, Emerge Gallery in Saugerties, NY, the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, CT, the Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg, PA, and the Meadows Gallery in Tyler, TX. Recent press includes Art Houston Magazine, Cultbytes, Art Fuse, and Art Spiel.

### About the Curator

Anna Stothart is an independent curator and the co-founder of Davila-Villa & Stothart (DVS), an organization devoted to supporting artists, as well as expanding across the globe the cultural and art historical understanding of underrepresented artists. She was Curatorial Director of Lehmann Maupin (2016–2020) where she provided curatorial support for the represented artists, organized group exhibitions, and was the museum liaison for the gallery. Previously, Stothart served as the Brown Foundation Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the San Antonio Museum of Art (2015–2016) and Assistant Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (2009–2015). She received her master's degree in Art History and Museum Studies from Tufts University. Stothart served as a core seminar leader of the Interdisciplinary Art and Theory Program, New York, NY from 2020 through 2021.



*I knew better, 2022*

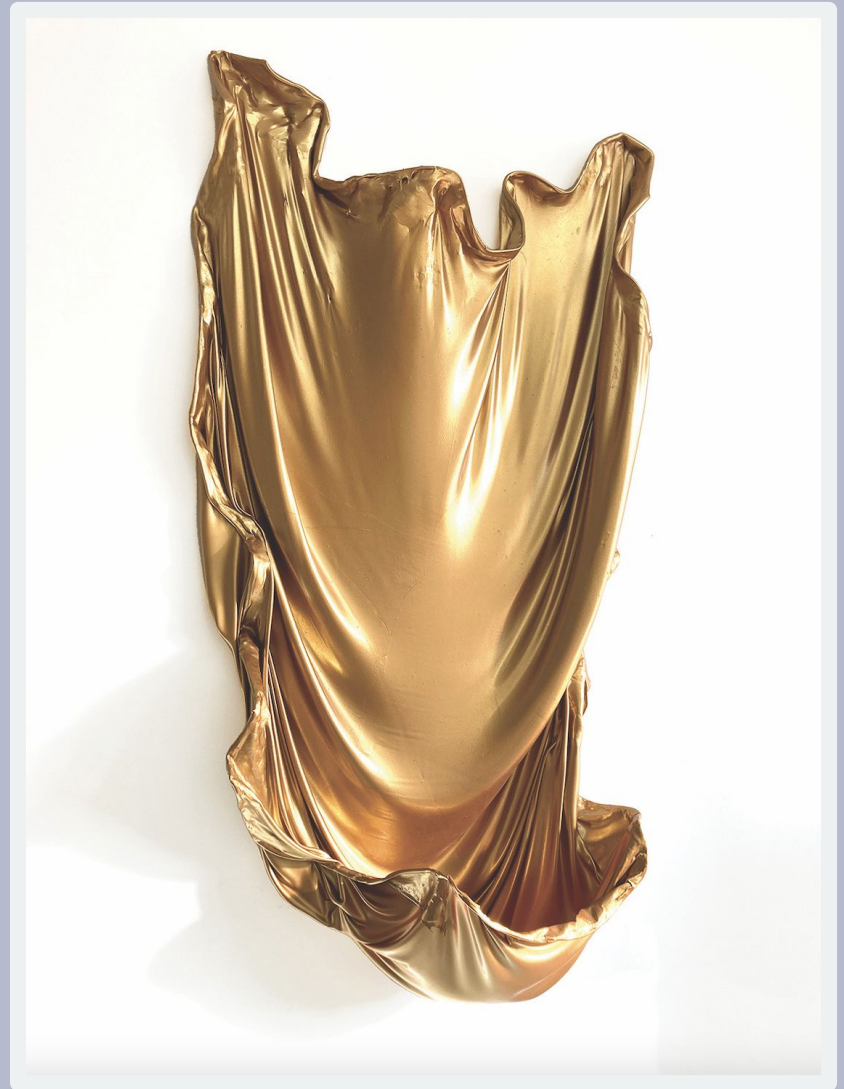
Acrylic

51 x 32 x 11 inches

SOLD

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*Soft Embrace I*, 2022  
Acrylic  
69 x 43 x 11 inches  
\$ 5,000







*Feminine Royal I*, 2023  
Cast resin  
Series of 3  
9 x 6 x 4 inches  
\$ 2,500



*Feminine Royal II*, 2023  
Cast resin  
Series of 3  
9 x 6 x 4 inches  
\$ 2,500



*Feminine Royal III*, 2023  
Cast resin  
Series of 3  
9 x 6 x 4 inches  
\$ 2,500

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*With Every Single Breath*, 2022

3D-rendered plastic

Series of 3

Grouping of 9 works: 31 x 33 x 5 inches

Each work: 8.25 x 6.25 x 3.5 inches

\$ 6,000 group of 9, \$ 750 individual

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*Relic I*, 2022  
Cast bronze  
Unique  
11.5 x 7 x 9.5 inches

SOLD

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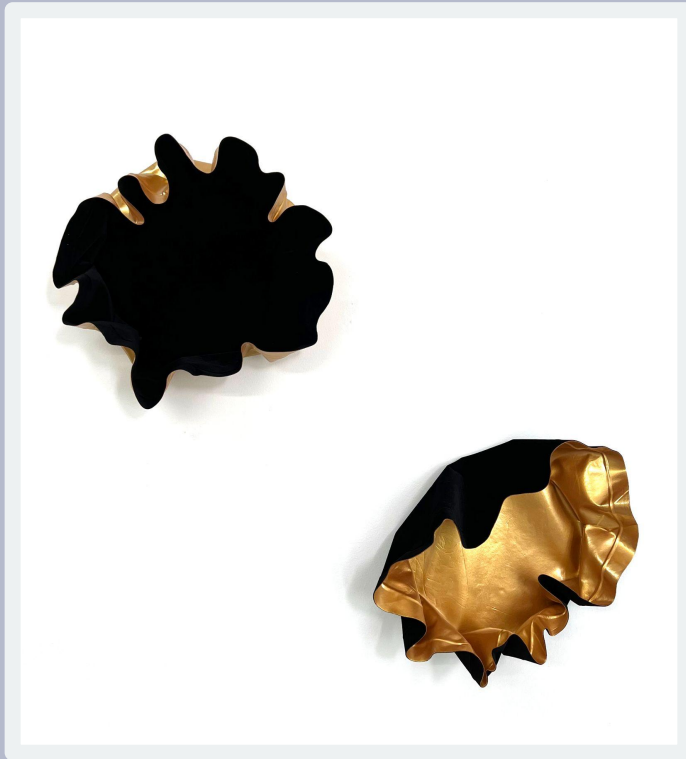
*Relic III*, 2022 Cast  
bronze Unique  
9.5 x 9.5 x 7 inches  
\$ 3,500

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*Relic II, 2022*  
Cast bronze  
Unique  
12 x 6 x 3 inches  
SOLD

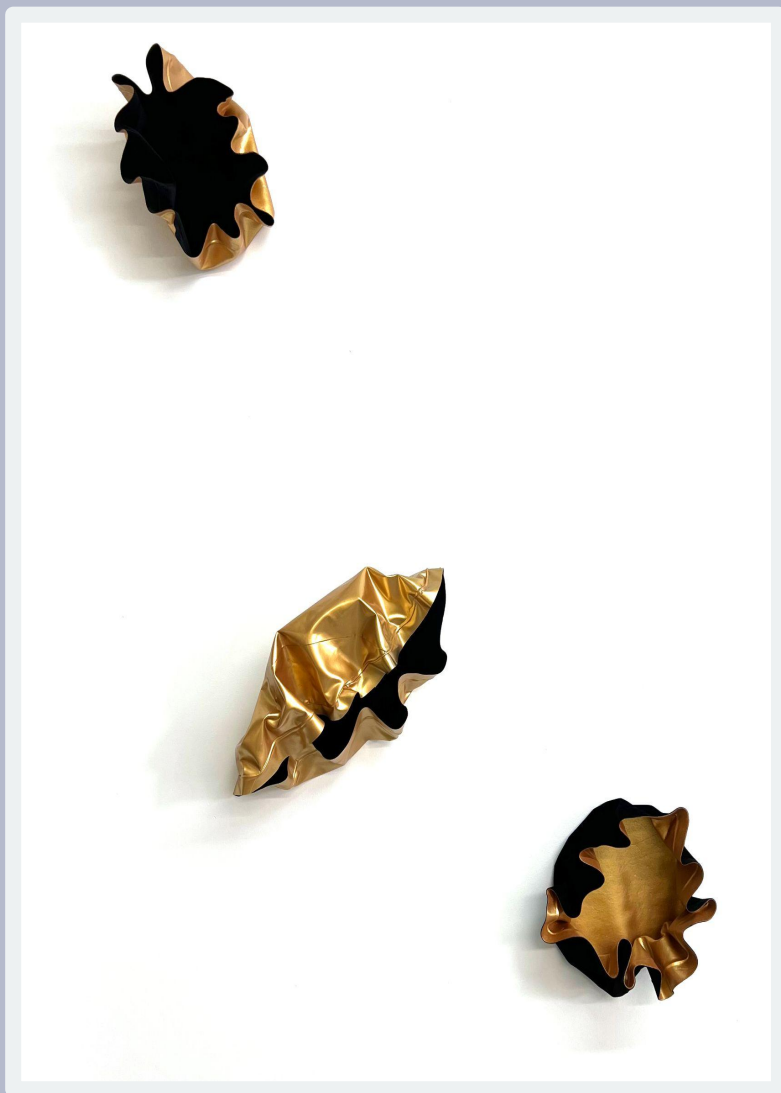
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*Dialogue 13*, 2023  
*Dialogue 14*, 2023  
 Acrylic and velvet  
 Multiple elements, dimensions variable  
 \$ 1,750 pair, \$ 950 individual



*Seal III*, 2020  
 3D-rendered plastic on aluminum  
 Unique  
 12 x 12 x 5 inches  
 \$ 2,500



*Dialogue 10, 2023*

*Dialogue 11, 2023*

*Dialogue 12, 2023*

Acrylic and velvet

Multiple elements, dimensions variable

\$ 2,500 group of 3, \$ 950 individual

# Lesley Bodzy CV

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023     *The Soft Embrace*, curated by Anna Stothart, New York, NY  
          *Relics* , Gallery 200, curated by Yvonamor Palix, Houston, TX
- 2022     SPRING/BREAK Art Fair, *Leftover and Over*, curated by Giovanni Aloï and Erica Criss, New York, NY  
          *Folds of Desire*, curated by Yvonamor Palix, Yvonamor Palix Fine Arts at Artique Gallery, Houston, TX  
          *Valentine*, curated by John Holt, Incubator Studio Gallery, Bushwick, Brooklyn, NY  
          *Lesley Bodzy: Artist of the Month*, curated by Ginger Cochrane, Thought Art Magazine
- 2021     *Lesley Bodzy*, curated by Evelyn Tsekoura, Holy Art Gallery, Hackney Downs Studios, London, UK  
          *Golden Desire*, curated by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY  
          *Choose & Frame: Watercolors by Lesley Bodzy*, curated by Yvonamor Palix, Palix Fine Arts, Houston, TX
- 2020     *Lesley Bodzy: Absence and Presence*, curated by John Lee Matney, Linda Matney Gallery, Williamsburg, VA  
          *Lesley Bodzy: Plexiglass Works*, curated by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY  
          *Lesley Bodzy: Wrapping and Unveiling*, curated by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY
- 2018-19 *Two Person Exhibition*, Lincoln Towers, New York, NY



## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023    *Memory Mirage*, curated by Christina Massey, Kunstraum LLC, Brooklyn, NY  
*White on White*, curated by Yvonamor Palix, Yvonamor Palix Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
*Have Your Cake and Eat it Too!*, curated by Frances Melhop, Melhop Gallery 7077, NV  
*New Painting*, curated by Rachel Gugelberger, Site: Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY  
*The Big Show 2023*, juried by Dr. Kanitra Fletcher, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX  
*Alternate Side Parking*, Starta Arta, New York, NY  
*Visual Arts Alliance Exhibition*, Juror Heidi Vaughn, Sabine Gallery, Houston, TX  
*Out of Hand: Tradition meets Tech!*, curated by Fabiola Delgado, Annmarie Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Solomons, MD
- 2022    *Dialogue*, curated by Yvonamor Palix, Yvonamor Palix Fine Art Gallery, Houston, TX  
*Echoes of the Ancient*, curated by Jacqueline Davis, presented by 14 artists of Paradise Palase, Brooklyn, NY  
*Strange Paradise: A Window Into Surrealism!*, curated by Ann Hyland, Annmarie Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Solomons, MD  
*By Visceral Effect*, Starta Arta, New York, NY  
*Valentine*, curated by John Holt, Incubator Studio Gallery, Bushwick, Brooklyn, NY  
*Contemporary Color*, curated by Chloe Wyma, Site: Brooklyn, Brooklyn NY  
*Something Blue II*, curated by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY

- 2022    *Best In Show*, curated by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY  
         *Art Celebrates the Story*, curated by Cheri Randolph, Spring Street Studios, Houston, TX
- 2021    *ChaShaMa: Fire and Ice*, curated by Alexandra Rutsch Brock, One Brooklyn Place Park Gallery, Brooklyn NY  
         *Art Over Time*, curated by Charlotta Kotik, Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition, Brooklyn, NY  
         *Exhibition 2021*, Flatfile Gallery, New York, NY  
         *8 x 8 Season 3*, Flatfile Gallery, New York, NY  
         *Viridian Gallery Exhibition*, curated by Susan Harris, New York, NY  
         *Facade*, curated by Erika Hess, Arts to Hearts Project, New Delhi, India  
         *The Dreamers*, curated by Evelyn Tsekoura, Holy Art Gallery, Hackney Downs Studios, London, UK  
         *Petit: Smaller Sized Art*, curated by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY  
         *The Next Big Thing 2021*, curated by Peter Mays, Studio Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA  
         *Art House Sawyer Yards-Artist Installation*, curated by Grace Zuniga, Sawyer Yards, Houston, TX  
         *6th Annual Waterscapes Exhibition*, curated by Chris & Valerie Hoffman, Fusion Arts, LLC, Palm Springs, CA  
         *Graffiti – Art in the City*, curated by Sara Ledbetter, The Garden Club of Houston, Houston, TX  
         *Mixmaster: Juried Members Exhibition*, curated by Leslie Garrett, Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury, CT  
         *Catch Phrase*, curated by Kristen Kendrick Bigley, CoLab Gallery, Denton, TX  
         *Something Blue*, curated by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY
- 2020    *Creating Joy*, curated by Melissa Feldman, Susquehanna Art Museum, Harrisburg, PA  
         *Art and Words*, curated by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY

- 2020 *Five Points Annex Small Works Exhibition*, curated by Power Booth, Five Points Annex Gallery, Torrington, CT
- Paris Rive Gauche \*Three Person Exhibition*, Yvonamor Palix Fine Arts, Houston, TX
- University of Texas Meadows Gallery International Exhibition*, curated by Leslie Moody Castro, Tyler, TX
- Purple, Gold, and White: Reflections on Women's Suffrage*, Dallas Heritage Village, Dallas, TX
- Discovering Repeating Patterns Exhibition*, Sawyer Yards, Spring Street Studios, Houston, TX
- Gesture and Motion*, curated by Margaret Carrigan, Site:Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY
- Blue Mountain Gallery Exhibition*, curated by Martica Sawin, Blue Mountain Gallery, New York, NY
- Art On The Wall*, Flatfile Gallery, New York, NY 2020 8 x 8 on paper, Flatfile Gallery, New York, NY
- Skies*, Grey Cube Gallery, New York, NY HONORABLE MENTION
- New York State of Mind Small Works Exhibition*, insidesmall.com, New York, NY
- ChaShaMa: Art We Need Now*, curated by Allison Green, One Brooklyn Place Park Gallery, Brooklyn NY
- Flux: Vita Mutata*, curated by Natsuki Takauji, Sculptors Alliance, New York, NY
- 2019 *Small and Smaller Exhibition*, curated by Heather Darcy Bhandari, Site:Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY
- Small Works Show*, curated by Anna Shukeylo, Gallery 178 at Cornerstone Studios, New York, NY
- Tenth Annual Small Works Exhibition*, Manhattan Borough President's Office, New York, NY
- Bianco: Art Celebrating White*, curated by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY
- Primar(il)y Red: Celebrating The Color Red*, curated by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY
- Petit: A Group Exhibition Of Smaller Sized Art*, curated by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY
- Unique Medium Exhibition*, curated by Sylvia Diaz, Art JuXtapse Gallery, Rosendale, NY

- 2019     *Steam: Math and Art Exhibition*, curated by Lucas Kelly, West Windsor Arts Council, Princeton Junction, NJ  
          *Terrain: A Group Exhibition of Landscape Art*, curated by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY  
          *The Shape of Memories*, curated by Arianne Faber Kolb, Loft Artists Gallery, Stamford, CT  
          *Sense Of Place: There*, Galaudet Gallery, Eau Claire, WI  
          *Discovery: 13 Emerging Artists of 2019*, Stone Quarry Hill Art Park, Cazenovia, NY  
          *La Bienal Houston*, curated by Eduardo Portillo, Spring Street Studios, Houston, TX  
          *Guild Hall 81st Artist Members Exhibition*, East Hampton, NY  
          *Landscapes: Observed & Interpreted*, curated by Ananda DeMello, Spring Street Studios, Houston, TX  
          *Neoteric Abstract VII Exhibition*, Limner Gallery, Hudson, NY  
          *Five Points Small Works Exhibition*, curated by Brigid Kennedy, Five Points Annex Gallery, Torrington, CT  
          *Mattatuck Museum, Mixmaster Exhibition*, curated by Ashley Dillman, Waterbury, CT
- 2018     *Petit: A Group Exhibition*, curated by Robert Lang, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY  
          *Embodying Masonic Values*, Masonic Temple and Museum, Philadelphia, PA  
          *Coast to Coast Exhibition*, curated by Kay Carlson, Marin Society of Artists, San Rafael, CA  
          *Waterfront Exhibition*, Manhattan Borough President's Office, New York, NY  
          *True Independence Group Exhibition*, Lucille Khornak Gallery, Bridgehampton, NY  
          *Mattatuck Museum, Mixmaster Exhibition*, curated by Sara Shaoul, Waterbury, CT  
          *Ninth Annual Small Works Exhibition*, Manhattan Borough President's Office, New York, NY  
          *National Show at Prince Street Gallery*, curated by Robert Birmelin, New York, NY

- 2018    *All Art + Exhibition*, Van Der Plas Gallery, New York, NY
- 2017    *National Show at Prince Street Gallery*, curated by Stuart Shils, New York, NY
- Celeste Prize 2017 Competition*, 9th Edition, Longlisted (Honorable Mention), London, UK
- Celebrate! National Exhibition*, curated by Donna Seager, Arts Guild of Sonoma, Sonoma, CA
- City Views Exhibition*, Manhattan Borough President's Office, New York, NY
- New York Artists Exhibition*, Chaffetz Lindsey, New York, NY
- The Big Show 2017*, curated by Toby Kamps, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX
- Four Artists Exhibition*, Conference Center, New York, NY

## EDUCATION

- School of the Art Institute of Chicago, MFA, 2021
- Hunter College Studio Art, Studied with Gabriele Evertz, Robert Swain and Valerie Jaudon, New York, NY
- Art Students League of NY studied painting with Susan Shatter, Henry Finkelstein and Kamilla Talbot
- New York Studio School: Drawing Marathon with Graham Nickson
- Mount Holyoke College, BA, South Hadley, MA

## RESIDENCIES

- 2024    AIR Vallauris, Vallauris France

## COLLECTIONS

- Chaffetz Lindsey Law Firm LLP, New York, NY
- Mond at the Museums Residences, Houston, TX
- Private collections in Houston, New York, Hamburg, Germany, Los Angeles, and Atlanta
- Commission for residential lobby by MaRS Culture Houston, TX