

ELLEN LESPERANCE

b. 1971 Minneapolis, MN, lives and works in Portland, OR

EDUCATION

1999

MFA Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers, NJ

Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME

1995

BFA University of Washington, Seattle, WA, US

SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

I Am Woman Inflicted with the Burden of Bearing Mankind, Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY

2024

Stay in the Centre of No-Man's Land, Hollybush Gardens, London, UK

2022

The Land of Feminye, Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY

2021

Amazonknights, ICA Miami, Miami, FL

2020

The Sky is Leaden in the South, Hollybush Gardens, London, England

Together we lie in ditches and in front of machines, Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY

Velvet Fist, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD

2019

Flowers Wrapped in Newspaper, Adams & Ollman, Portland, OR

2018

Lily of the Arc Lights, Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY

2017

W.I.T.C.H. 1985, Portland Art Museum, OR

The Subjects, Crumpacker Library, Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR

2016

Run Now Women, XO, Project Room, Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris, FR

2015

We Were Singing, Adams and Ollman, Portland, OR

2014

You & I Are Earth, Adams and Ollman, Portland, OR

2013

It's Never Over, Ambach & Rice, Los Angeles, CA

2011

The Strong, Star-Bright Companions, Ambach & Rice, Seattle, WA

2010

Ellen Lesperance, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA

2005

Off the Grid, Monya Rowe Gallery, New York, NY

Ellen Lesperance & Jeanine Oleson, Samson Projects, Boston, MA

This is Our World, Savage Art Resources, Portland, OR

2002

Over the River and Through the Woods, PS122 Gallery, New York, NY

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction, curated by Lynne Cooke, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

2024

Spider Cannibalism, Ruschman, Chicago, IL

Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction, curated by Lynne Cooke, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

Social Fabric: Ellen Lesperance & Evelyn Roth, Ivory Tars, Glasgow, Scotland

To Weave the Sky: Textile Abstractions from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection, El Espacio 23, Miami, FL

(re)Focus, Philadelphia Art Alliance at UArts, Philadelphia, PA

Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction, curated by Lynne Cooke, LACMA, Los Angeles, CA

2023

Exemplary Modern, Hauser & Wirth, New York, NY

Long Story Short, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA

2021

Connecting Currents, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

The Slipstream: Reflection, Resilience, and Resistance in the Art of Our Time, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY

Staying with The Trouble, curated by Kate McNamara, SMFA/Boston, Tufts University Gallery, MA

Active Threads, KAI 10/ARTHENA FOUNDATION, Dusseldorf, Germany

Art on Paper, Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC

2020

Never Done: 100 Years of Women in Politics and Beyond, Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

Yesterday's Tomorrows: Selections from the Collection 1933-2018, Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

Drawing 2020, Gladstone Gallery, New York, NY

Making a Better Painting, Hoffman Gallery, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR

2019

Dress Codes: Ellen Lesperance and Diane Simpson, Frye Museum, Seattle, WA

Less is a Bore: Maximalist Art & Design, ICA Boston, MA

2018

Feminist Histories: Artists After 2000, Sao Paulo Museum of Art, Brazil

Honolulu Biennial: To Make Wrong / Right / Now, Honolulu, HI

New Materialism, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden

Nashabi / Skaer, Tate St Ives, Cornwall, UK

Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender, Resistance, Nottingham Contemporary And De La Warr Pavillion, UK

Half the Picture: A Feminist Look at the Collection, Brooklyn Museum, NY

2017

Trigger: Gender As A Tool And A Weapon, New Museum, New York, NY

Cynthia Daignault, Dan Fischer, Ellen Lesperance, Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY

Her Eyes Are Like Doves Beside Streams Of Water, Adams and Ollman, Portland, OR

I Was A Wall, And My Breasts Were Like Fortress Towers, Adams and Ollman, Portland, OR

Occupancies, Boston University Galleries, Boston, MA

Thread Lines, (traveling from the Drawing Center, New York, NY) Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, KY

2016

Ellen Lesperance and Helen Mirra, Traversing, Armory Arts Center, Pasadena, CA

2015

Book of Scores, Disjecta, Portland, OR

Take Back Vermont, Zieher, Smith & Horton, New York, NY

Common Thread, Mixed Greens, New York, NY

Harlem Postcards, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

2014

Sincerely, Ambach & Rice, Los Angeles, CA

Thread Lines, The Drawing Center, New York, NY

Almost Something, Not Quite Nothing, Ambach & Rice Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

PORTLAND2014 Biennial, curated by Amanda Hunt, Disjecta Contemporary Art Center, Portland, OR

2013

American Identities: A New Look, Modern Life, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY

We Tell Ourselves Stories in Order to Live, Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR

Biennaleonline, curated by Jens Hoffmann, www.artplus.com

2012

Hang Up, Josh Lilley Gallery, London, UK

Dear Pippa Bacca, Frieze Frame, New York, NY

2011

Contemporary Watercolor, Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York, NY

Falling Through Space, Drawing by the Line, University of Buffalo Center for the Arts, Buffalo, NY

Body Gesture, Elizabeth Leadh Gallery, Portland OR

will be home...., Ambach & Rice Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2010-12

People's Biennial, curated by Harrell Fletcher and Jens Hoffmann, traveling: PICA, Portland, OR; Dahl Arts Center, Rapid City, SD; Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ; Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery, Haverford, PA

2010

Performance Forever, Façade/Fasad Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2008

The Gathering, Drawing Room, Portland, ME

2007

Mother, May I?, Campbell Soady Gallery, New York, NY

Art as Intervention, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH

2006-7

Cryptozoology: Out of Time Place Scale, Traveling: Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO; Bates College Museum of Art, Lewiston, ME

2006

Redykeulous, curated by Nicole Eisenman and A.L. Stein, Participant Inc., New York, NY

Bearings: The Female Figure, curated by Allen Frame, PS122 Gallery, New York, NY

2005

Something is Somewhere, Monya Rowe Gallery, New York, NY

Human Nature, Pump House Gallery, London, UK

Off the Coast: A Landscape Chronology, Bates College Museum of Art, Lewiston, ME

Art as Intervention, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH

2004

RE:SOURCE Performances, Art in General, New York, NY

RE:SOURCE, curated by Sofia Hernandez and Chong Cuy, Art in General, New York, NY

2003

The Changing Same, Triple Candie, New York, NY

La Superette, Deitch Projects, NYC; Participant Inc., Brooklyn, NY

Off the Top, curated by Sid Sachs, Bill Maynes Gallery, New York, NY

Mark: Contemporary Drawings, Gallery 16, San Francisco, CA

Portland Biennial, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME

2002

Inside Out, The Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL

2001

Fully Human, The Queens Museum of Art, Queens, NY

Domestic Culture: The Home in Visual Culture, curated by Mark Beside, Institute for Contemporary Art, Portland, ME

2000

Deterritorialization of Process, curated by Michael Too, Artists Space, New York, NY

In Its Own Way, curated by Joan Linder, Makor Gallery, New York, NY

7,840,800 CFU FT, Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, Queens, NY

1999

Lesperance's Hand-Knit Self Portrait, Printed Matter, Inc., New York, NY

1996

Project Room, Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle, WA

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2025

Lakshmi, Rivera Amin. "The World's Biggest Print Fair Returns with Surprises". *Hyperallergic* (March 2025)

2024

Zastudil, Nancy. "Top 50 Exhibitions Around the World in 2024". *Hyperallergic* (December 20, 2024)

Moseley, Laura. "Ellen Lesperance: Stay in the Centre of No-Man's Land". *Decorating Dissidence* (April 2, 2024)

Wozniak, Stephan. "Echoes of Jensen: Pratt's 'The Apex is Nothing Engages Beyond Conditioned Resonances". *The Observer* (May 7, 2024).

2023

Gluibizzi, Amanda. "Exemplary Modern: Sophie Taeuber-Arp with Contemporary Artists". *The Brooklyn Rail* (October, 2023)

Clavarino, Elena. "Exemplary Modern Sophie Taeuber-Arp With Contemporary Artists". *Air Mail* (October 2023)

Pound, Cath. "Sophie Taeuber-Arp's Enduring, Modernist Legacy Is Still Inspiring Contemporary Artists Today". *Artsy* (October 2, 2023)

2022

Seidel, Stephanie. "Ellen Lesperance Merges Knitting With Paint To Extend Activist Archives". *Ocula Magazine* (March 9, 2022).

2021

Cascone, Sarah. "Ellen Lesperance: Amazonknights". *Artnet News* (November 26, 2021)

Quinton, Jared. "Unexpected Vernacular: Ellen Lesperance Interviewed by Jared Quinton".

Bomb Magazine (July 14, 2021)

Moldan, Tessa. "Ellen Lesperance: Patterns for Protest". *Ocula Magazine* (June 23, 2021)

2020

Lossin, R.H. "Ellen Lesperance's 'Tpgether we lie in ditches and in front of machines'". *Art Agenda Reviews* (November 10, 2020)

Kopf, Suzy. "Seeking Out Imperfection with Ellen Lesperance". *Bmore Magazine* (April 8, 2020)

Buhe, Elizabeth. "Ellen Lesperance, Velvet Fist". *The Brooklyn Rail* (March 2020)

Cascone, Sarah. "Here are 21 Highly Anticipated, Mind-Expanding Museum Exhibitions". *Artnet* (January 6, 2020)

2019

Porter, Jenelle. "Less is a Bore: Maximilist Art & Design". *The Institute of Contemporary Art*

Boston Vogel, Wendy. "Trigger: Gender as a Tool and a Weapon". *Mousse magazine* (January 2019)

2018

Lehman, Claire. "Ellen Lesperance at Derek Eller Gallery". *Artforum* (December 2018)

Bravo, Arthur Ivan. "Ellen Lesperance at Derek Eller Gallery". *Artillery* (November 6, 2018)

Brock, Hovey. "Ellen Lesperance, Lily of the Arc Lights". *The Brooklyn Rail* (October 15, 2018)

Steinhauer, Jillian. "Ellen Lesperance at Derek Eller Gallery". *The New York Times* (September

20, 2018) Fateman, Johanna. "Ellen Lesperance at Derek Eller Gallery". *The New Yorker* (September 24, 2018)

2017

Cotter, Holland. "When it Comes to Gender, Let Confusion Reign". *The New York Times* (September 28, 2017).

Saltz, Jerry. "The New Museum's 'Trigger' is Radical in content: Retrograde in Form: What Should we Make of That?" *New York Magazine* (October 23, 2017)

Scott, Andrea K. "Makers Catalogue". *The New Yorker* (August 4, 2017)

"Ellen Lesperance: Congratulations and Celebrations". *Afterimage: The Journal of Media Arts and*

Cultural Criticism Vol. 44, #6

Kabat, Jennifer. "Yearly Round-Up: Congratulations and Celebrations". *Frieze* (January, 2017)

Kabat, Jennifer. "Pattern Recognition". *Frieze* (September, 2017)

Vogel, Wendy. "W.I.T.C.H. Way". *Artforum* (August 22, 2017)

2016

Mizota, Sharon. "Review for Ellen Lesperance and Helen Mirra". *L.A. Times* (June 27, 2016)

Rosenberg, Karen. "Knit, Purl, Protest: The Radical Feminist Stitchcraft of Ellen Lesperance". *Artspace* (January 2016)

2015

Frank, Joey. "Ellen Lesperance". *Intercourse Magazine*, Issue 4 (Winter 2015)

Meyers, Ashley Stull. "Ellen Lesperance: We Were Singing". *Daily Serving*, (September 29, 2015)

2014

Halpert, Juliana. "Common Thread". *Artforum* (August 14, 2014)

Taylor, Sue. "Ellen Lesperance, Portland, at Adams and Ollman". *Art in America* (December

2014) Dorfman, John. "Get in Line". *Art and Antiques* (December 2014)
Rosenberg, Karen. "Thread Lines". *The New York Times* (October 17, 2014)
Romanow, Joanna Kleinberg. "Thread Lines". *Drawing Papers #118*
Langner, Ellen. "PDX Road Trip". *New American Paintings* (March 25, 2014).

2013

"Vitamin D2: New Perspectives in Drawing". *Phaidon Press*

2012

Poostchi, Becky. "This Sweater's Better". *Garage* (Spring/Summer 2012)

2011

Harrell Fletcher, Jens Hoffmann, and Renaud Proch. "People's Biennial: A Guide to America's Most Amazing Artists". *Independent Curators International*

GRANTS, AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2020

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in Fine Arts, New York, NY

2018

Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award, New York, NY Chiaro Award, Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA

2016

Macdowell Colony Artist's Residency, Peterborough, NH Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, New York, NY

Djerassi Artists Residency, Bear Gulch, CA

Individual Artist Fellowship, Oregon Arts Commission, Salem, OR

2012

Hallie Ford Foundation Fellow, The Ford Family Foundation, Roseburg, OR

2010

Betty Bowen Award, Seattle, WA

MacDowell Colony Artist-In-Residence, Interdisciplinary / Performance, Peterborough, NH

2005

LEF Foundation Grant, New England Division, Boston, MA

2003

Associate Artist, "First Contact: Photographers Explore the Florida Landscape," The Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL

2001

Faculty Development Grant, Maine College of Art, Portland, ME Course Work, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME

2000

Project Honorarium, Artists Space, New York, NY 1999 Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Grant, Morristown, NJ

1998

Artist-in-Residence, Studios Midwest, Galesburg, IL 1996 Artist-in-Residence, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Seattle, WA

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, TX

Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD

Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY

Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX

Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY

Frye Museum, Seattle, WA

ICA Miami, Miami, FL

Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA

Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR

Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

Schneider Museum of Art, Ashland, OR

The Museum of Art and Design, New York, NY

The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY