

Elemental: May 8 – June 18, 2025

ARTIST BIOS

Jodi Colella's work speaks to an overlapping discourse about craft, women's work, domesticity and feminism. She uses handwork to touch on power, identity politics, institutionalized prejudice and body agency. Colella exhibits and teaches internationally and is the recipient of a 2019 Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship Award for Sculpture. Her exhibitions include The Textile Museum in Washington D.C.; Textile Center, Minneapolis; Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton; World of Threads, Toronto; and Da Wang Culture Highland in Shenzhen China among others. She has collaborated on several public art projects, and her work is held in multiple museum collections. Interviewed for WGBH's Open Studio with Jared Bowen, her work has featured in The Boston Globe, Surface Design Journal, The Woven Tale Press, Vasari 21, Artistry in Fiber, POSIT and TextileArtist.org. Colella is the founder of the fiber arts study group FiberLAB. She serves on the Artist Advisory Board for Gather 2025 Fiberart Symposium, Chair of Executive Committee for Boston Sculptors Gallery, Collections Committee for Fuller Craft Museum and Events Committee for Surface Design Association. She has held residencies at Fruitlands Museum in Harvard MA, Society of Arts + Crafts in Boston MA, Da Wang Culture Highland Shenzhen China, Compeung in Doi Saket Thailand, Weir Farm in Ridgefield CT and is the recipient of a Pollack Krasner Fellowship at Vermont Studios Center in Johnson Vermont.

Carrie Crane's artistic practice fuses science and art to address issues of truth and ambiguity and healthy skepticism. Her work includes sculptural constructions, sketches, and paintings, all of which imply maps, diagrams, and scientific models and instruments. Carrie has been making art since the 1990s. She lives and works in Boylston, Massachusetts. She has earned an MFA from Lesley University College of Art and Design, as well as a BA in Geography from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has held residencies at the National Science Foundation Worcester Incubator, Clark University's Physics Department, and Mass MoCA. She is a member of the Boston Sculptors Gallery. Universities, galleries, and museums have shown Carrie's work in eight states and as far away as Russia. Carrie has earned awards for her work, including a commission from the Mayo Clinic, and various Jurors' awards. She won the coveted first prize in the Fitchburg Art Museum's 83rd Annual Regional Exhibition of Art & Craft resulting in a solo show.

Anna Kristina Goransson is a Swedish American artist, teacher, and curator living in the Boston area. She received her BFA from Rhode Island School of Design in furniture. She spent two seasons at Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Colorado as a woodshop assistant before heading back east where she received her MFA in Artisanry/Fibers from UMass Dartmouth. Anna Kristina has had numerous artist-in-residences including at OCAC and Pentaculum at Arrowmont. Her work has been in many group shows around the country. She has had solo exhibits nationally and internationally, including at Kaleido, Uppsala, Sweden and Dedee Shattuck Gallery, Westport, MA. She has been a member of Boston Sculptors Gallery since 2023 and had her premiere solo show there in April 2025.

Mo Kelman's sculptures are driven by contrasts and interactions between the built environment and the natural world, merging abstracted images of water in its various forms – rivers, lakes, clouds and ice – with industrial and architectural structures. She sees water as the ideal subject to contemplate the laws that govern nature as it ceaselessly advances, trespasses and embarrasses our every effort to keep it at bay. Kelman favors simple malleable materials, like wood, wire and bamboo, and uses geometric logic to invent efficient, viable construction methods. Often she integrates “skins” by resist-dyeing white silk organza into elastic, woodgrain-patterned membranes. Kelman has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Rhode Island State Council on the arts, and has shown her artwork in more than 100 exhibitions across the US, Europe, Japan and Korea.

Michelle Lougee, BFA, MFA is a fiber artist and sculptor who explores material confusion by expressing observed parallels between plastic and our environment in artwork that addresses the impact of consumerist society on nature. Recently her practice has expanded to include community based collaborative public art projects for Arlington, MA and MassAudubon with public art curator and activist Cecily Miller. Lougee has had numerous solo exhibitions including at the Wilson Museum, Simmons College, Merrimack College, and Great Bay Community College. She is represented by Boston Sculptors Gallery and exhibits in national and international venues. Her work is in the collections of Google, Framingham State University, MassAudubon Magazine Beach Nature Center, Sanofee, MediTech and AbiLabs. She teaches sculpture and fiber arts at Lesley University College of Art and Design.

Ellen Schön is Adjunct Professor in Fine Arts and Ceramics Studio Supervisor at Lesley University College of Art and Design in Cambridge, MA, where she has taught ceramics and 3-D courses since 2002. She earned a BA from Marlboro College (Ceramics and Perceptual Psychology) and an MFA in Ceramics from Boston University's Program in Artisanry. Schön has organized and co-curated interdisciplinary, thematic group exhibitions in non-profit venues in the Boston area and abroad. A member of the European Artists Association, her interest in international artist collaboration and exchange has led her to travel extensively, participating in international artist symposia/residencies in Denmark, Finland, Croatia, Hungary, Turkey, Israel, Germany, and Malaysia. Schön won The Brother Thomas Fellowship Award and The Artist Foundation Fellowship from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities. She was an Artist Fellow at the St. Botolph Club and is a member of the Boston Sculptors Gallery. Schön's ceramic sculpture is held in the permanent collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, MA.

Julia Shepley is a member of the Boston Sculptors Gallery and The Boston Printmakers and is represented in museum and library collections in the Boston area. She has exhibited nationally and internationally including MEWO Kunsthalle, Memmingen, Germany (“Ovid’s Girls”); The Sculpture Center, Cleveland, Ohio; the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln MA, (“The Sculptor’s Eye, Prints Drawings & Photographs from the Collection”) Danforth Museum of Art, Framingham, MA (“Material Drawing”) and at the Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA (“Contemporary Sculpture and Sculptors’ Drawings”) Reviews in publications include: *The Boston Globe*, *Sculpture Magazine*, *ArtScope*, and *Art New England*. Grants include: The New England Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. She works out of her studio in the Brickbottom Artists Building in Somerville.

Keri Straka: Originally coming from Washington state’s watery world of Puget sound, Keri has always been interested in the connection between fluids of the body and fluids of the earth. Secretive spaces always beckon. The echo of lived experience emanating from materials both intrigue and inform her sensibilities. Tidepools nestled into eroded sandstone rock along Bellingham Bay provided endless hours of curiosity and fascination for Keri which developed into the ability to sit quietly and observe the small micro dramas of the aquatic by asking questions: Will the anemone open back up again? Will the worms in the sand resurface? What if a body is aligned in a specific way along the rocks to suggest landscape as flesh and flesh as landscape? Will the heartbeats in the backs of human heels begin to keep time with the rhythm of the Earth? Keri employs a lifelong passion for quiet witnessing of how internal spaces “speak” through the language of subtle activity. Keri has been devoted to craft-based materials such as clay and fabric for their history of domestic purpose, ritual, and their ability to transcend utility. Having completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ceramics at Western Washington University, she moved to Boston to earn a Master of Fine Arts in Ceramics at Massachusetts College of Art in 2003. She is mid-career and active in the studio as a sculptor employing both hard and soft materials such as stoneware, porcelain, velvet, and nylon.

Jessica Straus: A native of New Hampshire, Straus lives in the Boston area and maintains a studio in Somerville, MA. Straus works primarily in wood and mixed media. Inventiveness, humor and narrative are key elements of her sculpture. Straus has exhibited her work at numerous venues including solo shows at the Brattleboro Museum in Vermont, ArtTerritoire in Normandy, France, the Fuller Craft Museum, the Danforth Art Museum, and the Duxbury Art Complex Museum in Massachusetts. Numerous other venues include the Maine Jewish Museum, New Britain Museum of American Art, DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Ohio Sculpture Center, and Qorikancha Museum of Peru. She regularly exhibits her work at Boston Sculptors Gallery, Boston, MA.

Margaret Swan’s recent painted aluminum sculptures are inspired by forces of nature in relation to structures that harness their power. The rigging of a sail as it captures the wind and the flow of water as it passes through a net or contained in a vessel are examples of the duality between movement and containment celebrated in her work. A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Margaret Swan earned her MA in Painting and Sculpture at Bennington College on a full fellowship, and her BFA at Syracuse University. Her awards include a New England Foundation for the Arts Regional Fellowship in Sculpture and a Massachusetts Artist Fellowship in Sculpture. Swan’s sculpture has been included in numerous New England galleries and museums, such as the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art in Ridgefield, Connecticut, the Danforth Museum in Framingham, Massachusetts, and the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, Massachusetts. She lives and works in Melrose, MA.

Nora Valdez, born in Argentina, has been living and working in the United States since 1986. She graduated from the College of Fine Arts (Mercedes San Luis, Argentina) as Professor of Fine Arts Her work has been exhibited internationally in Europe, Asia, North, Central and South America, including numerous international Sculpture Symposiums. She has more than 20 permanent Public Art pieces around the world and United States. Nora Valdez has utilized sculpture and installations to create work that explores the idea of home and the immigrant journey, drawing on her experience as an immigrant, a mother, a Latina and an artist. She has been focused for many years on creating Public Art pieces and monumental Sculpture.

The recipient of many awards, Valdez has appeared in numerous publications, national and international. Her work has received funding from public and private institutions. As an advisor and instructor at The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, she directed the Stone Bench Project, which has installed stone benches throughout Vermont. She has been a member of the Boston Sculpture Gallery since 2012. Valdez is a Professor in the Sculpture department of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston. Valdez work is part of the permanent collection of The Fitchburg Art Museum, USA, The Art Complex Museum, USA, The University of Massachusetts, Boston and The Changchun World Sculpture Park and Museum, China amount others.

Leslie Wilcox: I live and work in the South End of Boston, having stayed on after attending the School of the Museum of Fine Arts on scholarship. My recent work is shown annually at Boston Sculptors Gallery in solo and group exhibitions. Recent work has also been shown at Highfield Hall, Falmouth, MA, Chesterwood, Stockbridge, MA, Kunstverein Tiergarten, Berlin, Jason Russell House and Museum, Arlington, MA, McMullen Museum of Art, Boston University, and Fuller Museum, Brockton, MA. My work is included in major collections including Fidelity Investments, Federal Reserve Bank, Decordova Museum, Lincoln, MA, Boston Public Library, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Brandeis and Harvard Universities, and numerous private collections.