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

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
PrintHouston 2022: Ellen Lesperance, McClain Gallery, Houston, TX

2021
Amazonknights, ICA Miami, Miami, FL
Will There Be Womanly Times?, Hollybush Gardens, London, UK

2020
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

Group Exhibitions

2026
What Remains, The Women's Art Collection, Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
Frameworks, Friedrichs Pontone, New York, NY
Ascendancy: The Self in Contemporary Art, curated by Camilo Alvarez, Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury, CT

2025
Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction, curated by Lynne Cooke, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Say No! Art, Activism and Feminist Refusal, Wardlaw Museum, University of St Andrews, *Scotland*
Kitsch, Craft, Critique, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH
Group Exhibition, Derek Eller Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

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
All At Once, September Gallery, Kinderhook, NY
Inaugural Group Exhibition, Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY

The Apex Is Nothing, curated by John O'Connor and Ken Weathersby, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York, NY

2023
Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction, LACMA, Los Angeles, CA
Triennale Art Industrie, Hauts-de-Francee, Dunkirk, France
Exemplary Modern: Sophie Taeuber- Arp with Contemporary Artists, Hauser & Wirth, New York, NY
Edges, Sessions Arts Club, London, UK
Long Story Short, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
Coming Across: Expression and Empowerment, Analog Diary, Beacon, NY

2022
Text-ile, Haverkampf Leistenschneider Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2021
Happy Mechanics, Hollybush Garden, London, UK
The Slipstream: Reflection, Resilience, and Resistance in the Art of Our Time, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Intersecting Selves, Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles, CA
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
Lonely Hearts, International Print Center, New York, NY

2021
Confessions of the Century, Broodthaers Society of America, New York, NY

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
The Sky is Leaden in the South, Hollybush Gardens, London, UK
Connecting Currents: Collectivity, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

2019
Dress Codes: Ellen Lesperance and Diane Simpson, Frye Museum, Seattle, WA
Less is a Bore: Maximalist Art & Design, ICA Boston, MA
Feminist Histories: Artists After 2000, Sao Paulo Museum of Art, Brazil
Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender, Resistance, Nottingham Contemporary And De La Warr Pavilion, UK
To Make Wrong / Right / Now, Honolulu Biennial, Honolulu, HI

2018
New Materialism, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
Nashashibi / Skaer Thinking Through Other Artists, Tate St Ives, Cornwall, UK
Half the Picture: A Feminist Look at the Collection, Brooklyn Museum, NY

New Materialism, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
I See You Man, Gallery Céline, Glasgow, UK
Women Now, Austrian Cultural Forum, New York, NY

2017
Trigger: Gender As A Tool And A Weapon, New Museum, New York, NY
Makers Catalogue with Cynthia Daignault and Dan Fischer, 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
Who Cares?, Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris, France

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, 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
Contemporary Watercolor, Morgan Lehman, 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

Selected Bibliography

2024
Archibald, Sasha. "Woven Histories." *4Columns*, 12 Jan. 2024. Web.
Moseley, Laura. "Ellen Lesperance: Stay in the Centre of No-Man's Land." *Decorating Dissidence*, 2 Apr. 2024. Web.

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*, 2 Oct. 2023.

2022
Seidel, Stephanie. "Ellen Lesperance Merges Knitting With Paint To Extend Activist Archives". *Ocula Magazine*, 9 Mar. 2022.
McMullan, Mhari. "Will There Be Womanly Times? Reflections on the Work of Ellen Lesperance." *Textile: Cloth and Culture*, 9 Nov. 2022. Print/Web.

2021
Cascone, Sarah. "Ellen Lesperance: Amazonknights". *Artnet News*, 26 Nov. 2021.
Quinton, Jared. "Unexpected Vernacular: Ellen Lesperance Interviewed by Jared Quinton". *Bomb Magazine*, 14 Jul. 2021.
Moldan, Tessa. "Ellen Lesperance: Patterns for Protest." *Ocula Magazine*, 23 Jun. 2021.
Carroll, Chloe. "London Summer Round-up." *Art Monthly*, Sep. 2021. Print.
Jana, Rosalind. "Celebrating the Knitwear of the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp." *Elephant*, 27 Jul. 2021. Web.
Arnott-Davies, Rees. "Ellen Lesperance: Will There Be Womanly Times?" *Night Offices,* 25 Jul. 2021. Web.

2020
Lossin, R.H. "Ellen Lesperance's "Together we lie in ditches and in front of machines."" *Art Agenda Reviews*, 10 Nov. 2020.
Kopf, Suzy. "Seeking Out Imperfection with Ellen Lesperance." *Bmore Magazine*, 8 Apr. 2020.
Buhe, Elizabeth. "Ellen Lesperance, Velvet Fist." *The Brooklyn Rail*, March 2020.
Cascone, Sarah. "Here are 21 Highly Anticipated, Mind-Expanding Museum Exhibitions." *Artnet*, 6 Jan. 2020.

2019
Porter, Jenelle. "Less Is a Bore: Maximalist Art & Design." *The Institute of Contemporary Art*

Boston, 2019.
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*, 6 Nov. 2018.
Brock, Hovey. “Ellen Lesperance, Lily of the Arc Lights.” *The Brooklyn Rail*, 15 Oct. 2018.
Steinhauer, Jillian. “Ellen Lesperance at Derek Eller Gallery.” *The New York Times*, 20 Sept. 2018.
Fateman, Johanna. “Ellen Lesperance at Derek Eller Gallery.” *The New Yorker*, 24 Sept. 2018.

2017
Cotter, Holland. “When It Comes to Gender, Let Confusion Reign.” *The New York Times*, 28 Sept. 2017.
Saltz, Jerry. “The New Museum’s ‘Trigger’ Is Radical in Content, Retrograde in Form: What Should We Make of That?” *New York Magazine*, 23 Oct. 2017.
Scott, Andrea K. “Makers Catalogue.” *The New Yorker*, 4 Aug. 2017.
“Ellen Lesperance: Congratulations and Celebrations.” *Afterimage: The Journal of Media Arts and Cultural Criticism*, Vol. 44, No. 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*, 22 Aug. 2017.

2016
Mizota, Sharon. “Review for Ellen Lesperance and Helen Mirra.” *L.A. Times*, 27 Jun. 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*, 29 Sept. 2015.

2014
Halpert, Juliana. “Common Thread.” *Artforum*, 14 Aug. 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*, 17 Oct. 2014.
Romanow, Joanna Kleinberg. “Thread Lines.” *Drawing Papers #118*.
Langner, Ellen. “PDX Road Trip.” *New American Paintings*, 25 Mar. 2014.

2013
“Vitamin D2: New Perspectives in Drawing.” *Phaidon Press*, 2013.

2012
Poostchi, Becky. “This Sweater’s Better.” *Garage*, Spring/Summer 2012.

2011
Fletcher, Harrell, Jens Hoffmann, and Renaud Proch. “People’s Biennial: A Guide to America’s Most Amazing Artists.” *Independent Curators International*, 2011.

Grants, Awards & Residencies

2022-2023
Fulbright Global Scholarship
MacDowell Fellowship / Artist Residency, Peterborough, NH
Career Opportunity Program Grant, Oregon Arts Commission and The Ford Family Foundation

2020
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in Fine Arts, New York, NY
Frederick Hammersley Printmaking Residency, Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, NM
Macdowell Colony, Artist’s Residency, Peterborough, NH

2019
Oregon Arts Commission Project Grant, Salem, OR
Professional Development Grant, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Portland, OR

2018
Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award, New York, NY
Chiaro Award Painting Residency, Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA

2017
MacDowell Fellowship / Artist Residency, Peterborough, NH
Project Grant, Oregon Arts Commission, Salem, OR

2016
Macdowell Colony, Artist’s Residency, Peterborough, NH
Djerassi Artists Residency, Bear Gulch, CA
Individual Artist Fellowship, Oregon Arts Commission, Salem, OR
Puffin Foundation Grant, Teaneck, NJ

2015
Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, “Artist as Activist” Travel Grant, New York, NY
Art Matters Project Grant, New York, NY
Precipice Foundation Grant, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts’ Regional Regranting Program, Portland, OR
Regional Art and Cultural Council Artist Fellowship, Portland, OR

2014
Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, New York, NY

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

Permanent Collections

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, TX
Arkansas Museum of Art, Little Rock, AR
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
Bates College Museum of Art, Lewiston, ME
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA
Cleveland Clinic Art Program, Cleveland, OH
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY
FRAC Grand Large — Hauts-de-France, Dunkirk, France
Frye Museum, Seattle, WA
Institute of Contemporary Art Miami, Miami, FL
KADIST, Paris, France / San Francisco, CA
Memorial Art Gallery, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
Microsoft Art Collection
Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany
New York Public Library, New York, NY
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR

Portland State University, Portland, OR
Rennie Collection, Vancouver, BC, Canada
Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Schneider Museum of Art, Ashland, OR
Städel Museum, Frankfurt, Germany
The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
The Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY
The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
University of Oregon, Eugene, OR
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY