

Holly Holmes Findings Artist Statement

Since 2011 Holly Holmes has been working with tension between abstraction and representation. The matter of facts, readings or translations of situations and finding elements that resonate with Holmes for many different reasons. In her work it is this marvelment that she passes along to viewers. In Holmes' work there is looping of themes, similarity of forms, patterning of textures and range of colors. This formal and intellectual repetition of motifs and methodologies reverberates throughout.

Holmes is a meticulous chronicler of her experiences. She has started to use a microscope in her works mostly inspired by Rob Dunn, a scientist and author who encourages everyday folks to look at the world around them and become citizen scientists. Holmes is always interested in traveling to new places and revisiting ones that piqued her curiosity. Whilst in these places and travels she now often carries little glassine bags, or empty spice jars to take a finding or sample of the location for later examination with a microscope and sketchbook.

The works in this show have all been created with findings found locally in Michigan and Illinois. Holmes writes "I am often unsure of exactly what I am looking at under the microscope but I am learning and noticing details of the world around me in depicting animal matter, plastic fibers, pollen and findings that just intrigue, filling me with wonder from the perplexity of matter on a micro scale.

Biography

Holly Holmes grew up in the Chicago area and currently resides in Oak Park. Holmes is a painter, sculptor, educator, planner and curator. She received a BFA in painting from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and a MFA in sculpture from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She currently teaches at Columbia College Chicago and SAIC. Holmes was a founding board member of Terrain Exhibitions, producing a residency program and the Terrain Biennial. She is currently a member of Videokaffe, an international art collective with members in Finland and North America.

Holmes has shown her work at, the Riverside Arts Center, Riverside, IL; Epiphany Center for the Arts, Chicago IL, Cultural Kaleidoscope at Taiteen Talo, Turku, Finland; Ohklohomo, Chicago; Sluice expo, Colchester, UK; MOM Art Space, Hamburg, Germany; MUU Contemporary Art Center Helsinki, Finland; Material, Chicago; The Design Museum, Chicago; Dominican University; River Forest, IL, Kunsthuis Gallery; Crayke, UK and ArtTeleported, CICA; Queens, New York. Her art is held in public and private collections throughout the world.

Holly Holmes

Resume

Education

Master of Fine Arts, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), Chicago IL, 2011. Sculpture
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC), Carbondale IL, 2000 Painting

Selected Solo Exhibitions

Findings, Bert Green Gallery, Chicago, IL. (Jan. 2025)
Reverberations, Epiphany Center for the Arts, Chicago, IL Nov. 24 -Jan. 25
Companions Riverside Art Centers, Riverside, IL Sept. 2024
Secret Garden, Ohklahoma Gallery, Chicago IL, June - Aug. 2024
Resonant Spaces, Material Exhibitions, Chicago, IL, 2023
All Thou Lost, Bring It Too Day, Compound Yellow, Oak Park, Illinois 2020
Transcription, Terrain Exhibitions, Oak Park, IL 2012
Distress, GARDENfresh, Chicago, IL 2008
Everything, Everything, Everything, Jinx Cafe Chicago, IL 2002

Selected Two Person Exhibitions

In the Fold (working title) Cultural Center Window, Chicago IL (Up coming collaboration Feb. 2025)
Copy Shop, University Illinois, Springfield IL (with Tom Burtonwood) 2014
Dialogues on The New Plastic, Fire Cat, Chicago, IL, (with Tom Burtonwood) 2014
Multiplicity, Oak Park Public Library, IL (with Tom Burtonwood) 2011

Selected Group Exhibitions

2024 VideoKaffe, Art House Turku, Finland
England is a Forest, curated Small Works Art Gallery at Sluice, Colchester, UK.
2023 VideoKaffe, MOM, Art Space, Hamburg, Germany
Fuzz,, Purple Window Gallery, Chicago, IL
Art Community | Design Culture, Faculty Show, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
Meta Space Opening Exhibition, Online, Liverpool, England
VideoKaffe, MUU HELSINKI, Contemporary Art Centre, Helsinki, Finland
2022 Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, Design Museum of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
Small Works, McGing's, Westport, Ireland
2021 Rokko Meets the Art Festival, Kobe, Japan
Nomad, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA.
2020 Rokko Meets the Art Festival, Kobe, Japan
Art in Place, Oak Park, IL
Videokaffe, Sign Gallery, Netherlands
Mail Art, Lawrence and Clark, Mail Art, Chicago, IL
Slowly with Care, Dominican University, River Forest, IL
Shades of Clay, Kunthius, Contemporary Art Gallery, Crayke, UK
2019 Sightings of Morgawr, Fish Factory, Cornwell, UK
ARISING: A CALL, The Blenheim Walk Gallery, Leeds Arts University, Leeds, UK
2018 Collider, Circa Modern, Chicago, IL
Riverside Art Center, Riverside IL
Small Works, Trestle Gallery's online exhibition, NY
Mail Art, Lawrence and Clark, Chicago, IL
2017 Terrain Biennial, Oak Park, IL
Summer Show, Riverside Art Center, Riverside, IL
Ann Metzger Memorial National Juried Exhibition, St Louis, MO,

Art for Aleppo, New York, 2017
Crumbs in the Bed, Gallery 1900 Gallery at SAIC, Chicago, IL,

Selected Professional Experience

Founding Board Member, Terrain Exhibitions, IL, 2018 - 2024
Co-Organized successive Terrain Biennials 2019, 2021 and 2023
Served as Treasurer & Chair of Programming
Served on both Programming and Operations committees
Co-Director, What It Is, Oak Park, IL, 2009 – 2014
Co-ran artist run exhibition and project space.
Curated exhibitions, install art works, promote projects, work with artists to develop concepts
Published catalogues and presented artist projects at art fairs around the country

Selected Lectures, Panel Discussions

Women of Videokaffe, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan, 2022
Copy Shop, Illinois University Springfield, Springfield IL, 2015
Brooks Middle School, Oak Park, IL 2015
Artist Lecture, Waubensee Community Collage, Sugar Grove, IL 2014
Artist talk, Fire Cat, Chicago, IL, 2014
What's Your Art, Demo and Discussion Chicago Cultural Center, Dec. 2011
Better Together, Panel MDW Fair, Chicago, 2011
Round Table with Tobias Putrih, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2011

Public Collections

City of Nackka, Stockholm, Sweden
Leaf House, Turku, Finland
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago IL
America Online Artists Program, New York, NY

Residencies

MOM, Art Space, with Videokaffe, Hamburg, Germany (Dec.23)
Nacka Joshua Tree, Videokaffe visiting artist, Turku, Finland, 2019
Harold Arts, Chesterhill, OH, 2011
Open Studio, Chicago, IL, 2006