



Advisors + Curators + Purveyors

## Melissa Borrell

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I am intrigued by the space in between the dimensions. Through my art I explore this interstitial world and illustrate the magic that it holds for me. I create sculpture, installations, and objects that individuals can interact with and that affect their perception of the space that they inhabit. Experimenting with different materials, I search for new ways to understand the relationships between line, form, planes, and volume. By manipulating a string or a flat sheet into a voluminous form, I attempt to bring attention to the three dimensional world we live in and the ways that the forms that surround us inhabit the space.

I create sculptures and installations that integrate light, shadow and movement into space-transforming artworks. The "Expanding Landscape Installation" is one of my pieces that illustrates this transformation. In the installation viewers are able to experience the sculpture from different angles, walking into the sculpture to be surrounded by the undulating forms. Made from simple materials of only Mylar and monofilament, the work alters a space with shadow and light. Inspired by alternative architectural methods, this sculpture is created by transforming flat two-dimensional materials into complex three-dimensional forms. Slits in the flat material allow it to open up into a 3 dimensional shape.

The ideas of interaction, transformation and kinetics are at the core of my work with the goal of pushing boundaries between the dimensions and between different disciplines. My work addresses the complexities that lie in the in-between spaces: the tension between structure and fluidity, systems and chaos, movement and transformation, perception and reality. From my beginnings in jewelry design my practice has evolved to include sculpture and installations that explore many of the same concepts that fascinated me when I first began making miniature sculptures in the form of jewelry.

## EDUCATION & RESIDENCIES

- 2014 Starry Night Artist Residency, October – **Truth or Consequences**, NM  
2012 Artist in Residence, Sept-Oct – **PlatteForum**, Denver CO  
2005 MFA – **Rhode Island School of Design**, Providence, RI  
2004 Helen Drutt Residency for Artists – **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft**,  
Houston, TX  
1999-2000 Industrial Design – **California College of Arts and Crafts**, San Francisco, CA  
1999 Business Planning Course – **Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center**, San Francisco, CA  
1996 BA (French Literature / Studio Art Minor – Magna Cum Laude) – **Tufts University**,  
**Medford MA/School of Museum of Fine Arts**, Boston, MA  
1994-1995 Coursework in French at the Sorbonne, Science Po and other French Universities, art  
courses at private ateliers – **Tufts in Paris**

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 “Tesselate”, **PlatteForum**, Denver, CO  
2011 “Movement”, **Peel Gallery**, Houston, TX  
2005 “How Do You Wear a Drawing?”, **Peel Gallery**, Houston, TX

## SELECTED GROUP AND JURIED EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 “ausTEN”, **Camiba Art**, Austin, TX  
2013 “Variable Proximity”, **AIBA**, Austin, TX  
2012 “3D PrintShow”, **The Brewery**, London, England  
**People’s Gallery**, City Hall, Austin, TX – juried show  
2011 “From Minimal to Bling”, **Society of Arts and Crafts**, Boston, MA  
“Multiples”, **Heidi Low Gallery**, Rehoboth Beach, DE  
“Crafting Live(s); 10 Years of Artists-In-Residence”, **Houston Center for  
Contemporary Craft**, Houston, TX  
“ModelCitizen”, **Chelsea Art Museum**, New York, NY  
2010 “Texas National”, **Stephen F. Austin Gallery**, Nagadoches, TX  
“Earrings”, **Heidi Lowe Gallery**, Rehoboth Beach, DE  
“Celebrate Texas Art”, **Williams Tower Gallery**, Houston, TX  
2009 “The Earring Show”, **Fancy**, Seattle, PA  
“Paper or Plastic”, **Luke and Eloy Gallery**, Pittsburgh, PA  
“Paper Cut”, **Peel Gallery**, Houston, TX  
2007 “NextDesigners”, **Design Within Reach**, Houston, TX

- 2006 "RISD NYC Biennial", **Exit Art**, New York, NY  
 "Around the Flat", **Spring 3-D**, Brooklyn, NY  
 "Designboom at ICFF, **Javits Center**, New York, NY  
 "Living Spaces", **Supreme Trading**, Brooklyn, NY
- 2005 "Craft USA", **Silvermine Art Guild**, New Canaan, CT  
 "MFA Thesis Exhibition", **RISD Museum**, Providence, RI
- 2003 "snag/n", **Collector's Gallery Oakland Museum**, Oakland, CA  
 "The Art of California Gold", **Crocker Art Museum**, Sacramento, CA
- 2002 "Portfolio Exhibit", **Aaron Faber Gallery**, New York, NY  
 "50 Years in the Making", **Velvet Da Vinci**, San Francisco, CA
- 2001 "2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ring Show Invitational", **Bayfront Gallery**, Pensacola, FL  
 "Full Circle Exhibition", **Collector's Gallery Oakland Museum**, Oakland, CA

### ***LECTURES, PANELS and EXPERIENCE***

- 2013 - present Lecturer, **Texas State University**, San Marcos, TX
- 2013 Lecture: "Between the Dimensions: 3D Design", **3D Camp**, Houston, TX
- 2012 Presentation: "Artist Presentation", **People's Gallery**, Austin, TX
- 2009 Panel: "Professional Practices Panel", **Society of North American Goldsmiths Conference**, Houston, TX
- 2008 Panel: "Designers and Architects Panel Discussion", **Contemporary Art Museum Houston**, Houston, TX
- 2007 Presentation: "Portfolio Presentation", **AIA Houston**, Houston, TX
- 2003 - 2005 Jewelry Instructor, **Rhode Island School of Design**, Providence, RI

### ***SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS and GRANTS***

- 2010 Star of Design, **Decorative Center Houston**, Houston, TX
- 2005 Grant for Interdisciplinary Collaboration, **Stein Family Summer Fund**  
 Honorable Mention, **International Precious metals Institute Annual Design Competition**
- 2004 Award of Excellence, **Rhode Island School of Design**  
 Emerging Professional Studio Jeweler Showcase, **Aaron Faber Gallery**  
 John A. Chironna Scholarship, **Rhode Island School of Design**  
 Student Grant, **Society of North American Goldsmiths**

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY AND PRESENTATIONS**

- 2012 Book: "500 Beaded Jewelry", **Lark Books**
- 2011 Book: "New Rings: 500+ Designs from Around the World", **Thames and Hudson**  
Book: "500 Silver Designs", **Lark Books**  
Magazine: Solis, Jose, "The Business of Craft", **Cite Magazine, Winter**
- 2010 Book: "500 Gemstone Jewels", **Lark Books**  
Magazine: "Top 100 companies to Watch", **Entrepreneur Magazine, July 2010**
- 2009 Book: "Tangible: High Touch Visuals", **Gestalten, Berlin**
- 2008 Newspaper: Vuong, Mary, "Shady Business", **Houston Chronicle, August 2008**  
Newspaper: Ansporn, Catherine, "Five Women Artists", **Paper City Houston, March 2008**
- 2007 Magazine: Hoppe, L., "Exposed", **Tribeza Magazine, November 2007**  
Newspaper: Staible, Heather, "Is it a Sculpture or an Accessory?", **Houston Chronicle, Aug 9, 2007**
- 2006 Book: "500 Necklaces", **Lark Books**  
Magazine: "Nature Calling", **Pol-Oxygen, December 2006**
- 2005 Newspaper: "Very, Very Vintage", **Houston Chronicle, November 2005**