

**Dona Nelson** (b. 1947, Grand Island, Nebraska.)

- 1968            BFA, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 1968            Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, NY

**Solo Exhibitions**

- 2025            *Dona Nelson & Andrew Ross*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY
- 2024            *Dona Nelson: Selected Paintings, 2019 to 2023*, Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 2023            *Moby Dick*, Michael Benevento Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Recent Paintings, A Journey Through Materiality*, Dona Nelson. Fahrenheit Madrid, Spain
- 2022            *ReFiguring, one painting at a time (1977 to 2022)*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY
- 2021            *Stretchers Strung Out on Space*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY
- 2019            *Days, Textures and Patterns*, The Gallery, Tajan, Paris  
*Painting the Magic Mountain*, Michael Benevento Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018            *Stand Alone Paintings*, Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY  
Armory Show, Focus Section/ Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY
- 2017            *Models Stand Close to the Paintings*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY  
*Jackie Gendel and Dona Nelson*, Art Basel Miami Beach, Nova/ Thomas Erben Gallery
- 2016            *Erasing Tracing Racing Paint*, Polly Apfelbaum, and Dona Nelson, Michael Benevento, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2015            *New Paintings*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY
- 2014            *Phigor*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY
- 2010            *Volta Art Fair/* Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008            *in situ: paintings 1973 – present*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY
- 2006            *Brain Stain*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY
- 2003            *Tactile Image*, Cheim and Read, New York, NY
- 2001            *Stations of the Subway*, Cheim and Read, New York, NY
- 2000            *Stations of the Subway, Octopuses and Arrangements*, Weatherspoon Art Gallery, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC (curated by Ron Platt)
- 1999            *Parks and Portraits: Dona Nelson, 1983 – 88*, Morris Gallery, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 1996            Michael Klein Gallery, New York, NY
- 1995            Michael Klein Gallery, New York, NY
- 1993            Michael Klein Gallery, New York, NY

1990	Michael Klein Gallery, New York, NY Scott Hanson Gallery, New York, NY
1989	Scott Hanson Gallery, New York, NY
1985	PS1, Long Island City, New York, NY
1983	Hamilton Gallery, New York, NY
1982	Oscarsson Hood Gallery, New York, NY
1975	Rosa Esman Gallery, New York, NY

## Selected Group Exhibitions

2024	<i>Painting Deconstructed</i> , Ortega y Gasset Projects, curated by Leeza Meksin, May 18–August 18, 2024.
2022	<i>52 Artists: A Feminist Milestone</i> , The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT <i>Saturation</i> , Thaddaeus Ropac Pantin, Paris, France <i>How Far is In-Between</i> , Keijzers Koning, Dallas, TX <i>House and Travels</i> , Atelier Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2021	<i>Judith Linhares: The Artist as Curator</i> , Sarasota Art Museum, Sarasota, FL
2020	<i>A Focus on Painting</i> , Galerie Thaddeus Ropac Special Projects, London (curated by Julia Peyton-Jones) <i>Good Pictures</i> , Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, New York, NY (curated by Austin Lee)
2019	<i>Painter's Reply: Experimental Painting in the 1970s and Now</i> , Lisson Gallery, New York, NY <i>Or Both</i> , Moore College of Art, Philadelphia, PA (curated by Mia Locks) <i>Art Basel Miami Beach</i> , Nova/ Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY <i>Please recall to me everything you have thought of</i> , Moran Moran, Los Angeles, CA
2018	<i>Snarl of Twine</i> , Magenta Plains, New York, NY <i>Portal: Iva Gueorgieva and Dona Nelson</i> , Sophia Contemporary, London, UK
2017	<i>Unpainting</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia (curated by Nicholas Chambers) <i>Painters Sculpting/Sculptors Painting</i> , Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia, PA <i>We might not have a planet left soon</i> , Galerie Kornfeld, Berlin (curated by Adrienne Rubenstein) <i>The Reflection in the Sword of Holofernes</i> , Galveston Art Residency, TX
2016	<i>Off Screen</i> , Microscope Gallery, Brooklyn, NY <i>Physical Painting</i> , Richard & Dolly Maass Gallery, School of Art+Design, Purchase, NY (curated by Jennifer Samet)
2015	<i>Pretty Raw: After and Around Helen Frankenthaler</i> , The Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA (curated by Katy Siegel) <i>Feed the Meter</i> , Galerie Bernard Ceysson, Luxembourg (curated by Wallace Whitney) <i>Wayfarers</i> , The Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art, Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA (curated by Ginny Kollack) <i>Paul Klee</i> , Underdonk, Brooklyn, NY (curated by Ashley Garrett and JJ Manford)

- 2014 *Making Sense: Rochelle Feinstein, Deborah Grant, Iva Gueorguieva, Dona Nelson*, Contemporary Art Museum, University of South Florida, FL  
*In the Office of the Drunken Monkey*, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Brooklyn, NY  
*Whitney Biennial*, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (section curated by Michelle Grabner)
- 2013 *Untitled (Hybrid)*, Robert Miller Gallery, New York, NY (curated by Kate McNamara)  
*Outside the Lines*, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, TX (curated by Dean Daderko)  
*Dyeing Merging Multitasking*, Ortega y Gasset Projects, New York, NY  
*Three in Doubles*, Fjord, Philadelphia, PA  
*Sadie Benning, Thomas Kovachevich, Dona Nelson, Callicoon Fine Arts*, New York, NY
- 2012 *Low Epic*, Chashama, New York, NY (curated by Sheryl Oppenheim)  
*Susan Hartnett, Ralph Humphrey, Marilyn Lerner, Dona Nelson*, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, NY  
*Salon Zürcher*, Zürcher Studio, New York, NY  
*Simpatico*, Boston University Art Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2011 *Affinities: Painting in Abstraction*, D'Amelio Terras, New York, NY (curated by Kate McNamara)  
*15 Years*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY  
*A Painting Show*, Harris Lieberman Gallery, New York, NY  
*Incipient Image*, Lesley Heller Gallery, New York, NY (curated by Stephen Maine)  
*Texture, txt*, Regina Rex, New York, NY
- 2010 *Vivid*, Schroeder, Romero & Shredder, New York, NY (curated by Janet Phelps)  
*40*, Texas Gallery, Houston, TX  
*PASTORALE*, NYU, New York, NY (curated by Klaus Kertess)  
*Animate Matter*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY
- 2009 *Pushing Paint*, Museum of Nebraska Art, Kearney, NE  
*Spaced Out/ On Time*, Canada Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008 Thomas Erben Gallery at Chatterjee & Lal, Mumbai, India  
*Affinities Redux*, Ramapo College, NJ (curated by Kate McNamara)  
*Charismatic Abstraction*, Richmond Center for Visual Arts, University of Western Michigan, MI
- 2007 *CCS BARD Spring Exhibitions*, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
- 2006 *Scope Miami*/Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY  
*Still Life*, Monya Rowe Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 *Field Questions*, Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA (curated by Sid Sachs)
- 2004 *Art Basel Miami/ Cheim and Read Gallery*, New York, NY
- 2002 *WTC, Living in the Shadows*, Bronx River Art Center, Bronx, NY  
*Wall Street Rising: Art Downtown*, New York Fordham University at Lincoln Center, New York, NY  
*Jump*, The Painting Center, New York, NY
- 2001 *Vivid*, Richard Salmon Gallery, London, UK
- 1998 Group Exhibition, Marlborough Gallery, New York, NY  
*Small Paintings*, Cheim & Read, New York, NY (curated by Klaus Kertess)  
*View II*, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, NY (curated by Klaus Kertess)
- 1997 *Essential Gestures*, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS (curated by Bruce Hartman)

1996	<i>Face to Face: Recent Abstract Painting</i> , M.I.T. List Visual Art Center, Cambridge, MA <i>Painting All-Over Again</i> , Palacia de Montemuzok, Spain (curated by Saul Ostrow) <i>Method and Multiplicity</i> , Apexart, New York, NY (curated by Richmond Burton)
1995	<i>25 Americans: Painting in the 90's</i> , Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI
1991	<i>American Narrative Painting and Sculpture: The 1980's</i> – from the Collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, NY
1985	<i>Four Artists</i> , Artists Space, New York, NY (curated by Elizabeth Murray) <i>Ripe Fruit</i> , P.S.1, Long Island City, NY (curated by Lisa Liebmman)
1984	<i>The Figure in Paint</i> , Cable Gallery, New York, NY (curated by Klaus Kertess)
1983	<i>The Painterly Figure</i> , Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY (curated by Klaus Kertess) <i>Faces Since the Fifties: A Generation of American Portraiture</i> , Center Gallery, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA <i>Painting from the Mind's Eye</i> , Hillwood Art Museum, Long Island University, Brookville, NY
1982	<i>Body Language: Recent Figuration</i> , Hayden Gallery, M.I.T., Cambridge, MA <i>Contemporary Painting: Figuration</i> , USCB, Santa Barbara, CA
1972	<i>Grids</i> , ICA, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
1971	<i>26 Contemporary Woman Artists</i> , Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT (curated by Lucy Lippard) <i>10 Young Artists: Theodoran Awards</i> , Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY
1968	<i>Whitney Independent Study Program</i> , The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

## Awards

2015	Anonymous was a Woman Grant
2013	Artist Legacy Foundation Award
2011	FCA Individual Grant
2000	Tesque Foundation (peer nominated grant)
1998	Pollock/Krasner Grant
1994	John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship
1990	New York Foundation Grant
1987	NEA Painting Grant
1979	NEA Painting Grant
1978	New York State CAPS Grant for Painting
1971	Theodoran Purchase Award, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY

## Teaching

1991 – present      Professor of Painting and Drawing, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, PA  
 2015, 2012          Bard MFA Program, Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts

## Curatorial Activity

2014                  *Eight Young Figurative Artists Who Live in Philadelphia*, Fjord Gallery, Philadelphia, PA  
 2013                  *In Front of Strangers I Sing*, the 72nd Annual Exhibition, The Woodmere Museum, Chestnut Hill, PA  
 2007                  *The Fluid Field: Abstraction and Reference*, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Elkins Park, PA

## Selected Bibliography

2021                  Yau, John. "Dona Nelson Stands Alone", *Hyperallergic*, Mar. 13  
                          Pardee, Hearne. "Dona Nelson, Stretchers Strung Out On Space", *The Brooklyn Rail*, Mar. 13  
                          Hughes, Millree. "Expression of More Struggles and Freedoms", *Culture Catch*, Mar. 31

2019                  Pagel, David. "In Dona Nelson's magically messy paintings, the back is as revelatory as the front", *Los Angeles Times*, Oct. 10  
                          Campbell, Andy. "Dona Nelson", *Artforum*, Critics' Picks, Sep.  
                          Schwendener, Martha. "What to See Right Now", *New York Times*, Jul. 31  
                          Bui, Phong. "Painters Reply: Experimental Painting in the 1970s and Now", *The Brooklyn Rail*, Jul. - Aug.

2017                  Smith, Roberta. "What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week", *The New York Times*, May. 12  
                          Wolin, Joseph R. "Reviews: Dona Nelson", *Time Out*, April. 26  
                          Pardee, Hearne. "Shared Spaces: Dona Nelson Brings Back The Figure", *artcritical*, April. 20  
                          Hughes, Millree. "Transubstantial", *Culture Catch*, April. 17  
                          Rodney, Seph. "Collaged Paintings with Presence", *Hyperallergic*, April. 14  
                          "Goings on About Town: Art", *The New Yorker*, April. 12-18

2016                  Apfelbaum, Polly. "Dona Nelson at Michael Benevento", *Contemporary Art Daily*, May. 3  
                          Osberg, Annabel. "Polly Apfelbaum/Dona Nelson", *Artillery*, April. 13  
                          Pagel, David. "Critic's Choice: Renegade abstractions of Polly Apfelbaum and Dona Nelson make for a stellar art show", *Los Angeles Times*, Mar. 18

2015                  Smith, Roberta. "The Best in Art in 2015", *The New York Times*, Dec. 9  
                          Newhall, Edith. "Galleries: For galleries, it's the season to indulge", *The Inquirer*, Aug. 9  
                          Smith, Roberta. "Review: 'Pretty Raw' Recounts Helen Frankenthaler's Influence on the Art World", *The New York Times*, June. 3  
                          Buskirk, Martha. "Subversive Color at the Rose Art Museum", *Hyperallergic Weekend*, May. 30

- 2014 Smith, Roberta. "The Paintbrush in the Digital Era", The New York Times, Dec. 11  
 Kreimer, Julian. "Dona Nelson", Art in America, June/July  
 Schwabsky, Barry. "Dona Nelson", Artforum, Summer  
 Smith, Roberta. "Phigor: Dona Nelson", The New York Times, May. 9  
 Briggs, Rick. "Go Figure: Dona Nelson's 'Phigor'", [hyperallergic.com](http://hyperallergic.com), May. 3  
 "Exhibitions The Lookout: Dona Nelson", [ArtinAmerica.com](http://ArtinAmerica.com), May  
 "Goings on About Town: Art", The New Yorker, May. 12  
 Lopez, Fabian. "The Alchemy of Phigor and Others", [Title-Magazine.com](http://Title-Magazine.com), April. 21  
 Schjeldahl, Peter. "The Whitney Biennial", The New Yorker, Mar. 17  
 Loos, Ted. "Fresh Perspective: Abstraction Abounds at the Whitney Biennial", Vogue, March  
 Vogel, Carol. "The State of Our Art, According to Whitney", The New York Times, Feb. 28  
 Saltz, Jerry. "Seeing Out Loud: There's a Smart Show Struggling to Get Out of this Big, Bland Whitney Biennial", [vulture.com](http://vulture.com), Mar. 5  
 Cotter, Holland. "One Last Dance in the Old Place", The New York Times, Mar. 7  
 Melamed, Samantha. "Philadelphia artists shine at Whitney Biennial", The Inquirer, Feb. 26
- 2013 Newhall, Edith. "Galleries: Woodmere show focuses on contemporary art", The Inquirer, June. 3
- 2012 McQuaid, Cate. "Ornate, pushy, celebratory – yet all compatible", The Boston Globe, Sep. 19
- 2011 Zevitas, Steven. "12 Painters to Watch In 2012", [HuffingtonPost.com](http://HuffingtonPost.com), Dec. 27  
 Mattera, Joanne. "Fair Play: NADA", [joannemattera.blogspot.com](http://joannemattera.blogspot.com), Dec. 26  
 Zevitas, Steven. "12 to Watch in 2012: Publisher's Picks", [newamericanpaintings.com](http://newamericanpaintings.com), December  
 Hirsh, Faye. "Lawler, Wearing Put Women on Top at Gallery Week", [ArtinAmerica.com](http://ArtinAmerica.com), May. 10  
 Russeth, Andrew. "Texture.txt, at Regina Rex", [www.16miles.com](http://www.16miles.com), Feb. 2  
 Truax, Stephen. "At Regina Rex, Latin Roots Woven Together", [bushwickbk.com](http://bushwickbk.com), Jan. 19
- 2010 Smith, Roberta. "Post-Minimal to the Max", The New York Times, Feb. 14  
 Vogel, Wendy. "40: Texas Gallery Houston", Art Lies, Volume 66, Summer
- 2009 Smith, Roberta. "Spaced Out/On Time", The New York Times, Sep. 25
- 2008 Smith, Roberta. "Art in Review: Dona Nelson", The New York Times, May. 23  
 "Goings on About Town: Art", The New Yorker, May. 19, 16
- 2007 Newhall, Edith. "Get Thee to Elkins Park", The Philadelphia Inquirer, Oct. 12
- 2006 Wagner, James. "Dona Nelson at Thomas Erben", [jameswagner.com](http://jameswagner.com), Sep. 14  
 Moyer, Carrie. "Dona Nelson: Brain Stain", The Brooklyn Rail, Oct. 29  
 Cotter, Holland. "Art in Review: Dona Nelson", The New York Times, Sep. 22  
 Maine, Stephen. "Dona Nelson at Thomas Erben", Art in America, December
- 2003 Westfall, Stephen. "Dona Nelson at Cheim & Read", Art in America, June  
 Saltz, Jerry. "Ray of Light", [www.artnet.com](http://www.artnet.com), Jan. 27  
 "Previews", Contemporary Issue 47/48  
 "Goings on About Town: Art", The New Yorker, Feb. 3  
 Johnson, Ken. "Art in Review: Dona Nelson", The New York Times, Jan. 31

- 2001 Mattick, Paul. "Dona Nelson at Cheim & Read", *Art in America*, June  
 Newhall, Edith. "Subway Series", *The New Yorker*, Jan. 15  
 "Goings on About Town: Art", *The New Yorker*, Jan. 18  
 Mahoney, Robert. "Dona Nelson: Stations of the Subway", *Time Out New York*, Jan. 25 - Feb. 1  
 Landi, Ann. "Dona Nelson", *ARTnews*, April  
 Smith, Roberta. "Art in Review: Dona Nelson", *The New York Times*, Feb. 16  
 Smith, Roberta. "Last Chance", *The New York Times*, Feb. 23
- 1999 Brown, Gerard. "Review/Art", *Philadelphia Weekly*, Jan. 27
- 1998 Johnson, Ken. "Art in Review: Dona Nelson", *The New York Times*, May. 1
- 1997 Hirsh, Faye. "Abstracting the Familiar: The Work of Dona Nelson", *Art in America*, Feb.  
 Saul Ostrow. "Essential Gestures", Johnson County Community College Gallery of Art, Overland Park, Kansas (exh. cat)
- 1996 Smith, Roberta. "Art in Review: Dona Nelson - Paradox Lake", *The New York Times*, Mar. 29  
 MacAdam, Alfred. "Dona Nelson", *ARTnews*, June  
 Saul Ostrow. "Painting All-Over Again", Palacio de Montemuzo, Zaragoza, Spain  
 Helene Posner. "Face to Face: Recent Abstract Painting", M.I.T. List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts (exh. cat)
- 1995 Dean Sobel. "25 Americans: Painting in the 90's", Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
 Auer, James. "Art Museum Exhibit Embraces Pluralism", *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Sep. 10  
 Stein, Judith E. "Dona Nelson: Trying all the Flavors", *ARTnews*, Oct.
- 1994 Yablonsky, Linda. "Dona Nelson at Michael Klein", *Artforum*, Jan.  
 Hirsh, Faye. "Dona Nelson at Michael Klein", *Art in America*, May.  
 Saltz, Jerry. "A Year in the Life: Tropic of Painting", *Art in America*, Oct.  
 Whelan, Richard. "Interview with Dona Nelson", *Bomb Magazine* (winter)
- 1993 Hagan, Charles. "Dona Nelson: New Paintings", *The New York Times*, Oct. 15  
 "Goings on About Town: Art", *The New Yorker*, Oct. 18
- 1991 William Lieberman. "American Narrative Painting and Sculpture: The 1980s", Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor
- 1990 Smith, Roberta. "Reviews/Art: On Long Island, Photos, Portraits, Pollock and Stereotyping", *The New York Times*, Aug. 9  
 "Art", *The New Yorker*, June. 11  
 Mattick, Paul. "Dona Nelson", *Arts Magazine*, Oct.  
 Pardee, Hearne. "In the Galleries", *Art and Antiques*, Nov.
- 1989 Liebmann, Lisa. "Dona Nelson's Time, Pieces", *Artforum*, Mar.  
 Smith, Roberta. "Tales of Ordinary People Told in Bits and Pieces", *The New York Times*, Mar. 31  
 Reid, Calvin. "Dona Nelson and Archie Rand at Scott Hanson", *Art in America*, Nov.
- 1985 Elizabeth Murray. "Four Artists", Artists Space  
 Benson, Michael. "Art in Review: Four Artists", *The New York Times*, Nov. 22
- 1983 Joseph Jacobs. "Faces Since the Fifties", Center Gallery, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA (exh. cat)  
 Klaus Kertess. "The Painterly Figure", Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York (exh. cat)

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| 1982 | Roberta Smith. "Body Language", Hayden Gallery, M.I.T. Cambridge, Massachusetts (exh. cat)<br>Phyllis Plous and Michael Klein. "Figuration", University Art Museum, Santa Barbara, California (exh. cat)<br>Glueck, Grace. "Artists, Artists", ARTnew, Nov. |
| 1975 | Kramer, Hilton. "Art in Review: Dona Nelson", The New York Times, Jan. 25   |
| 1971 | Lucy Lippard. "26 Contemporary Women Artists", Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art (exh. cat)<br>Linda Shearer. "Ten Young Artists: Theodoron Awards", Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (exh. cat)   |

## **Selected Collections**

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
 Boston Museum of Fine Arts, MA  
 Contemporary Art Museum, University of South Florida, FL  
 Committee for the Visual Arts/M.I.T. Collection, Cambridge, MA  
 Chase Manhattan Bank Collection, NY  
 General Electric Corporation, CT  
 General Mills, Minneapolis, MN  
 Kadist Art Foundation, SF and Paris  
 Microsoft Corporation, Seattle, WA  
 Nordstern, Germany  
 Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, PA  
 Progressive Corporation, Cleveland, OH  
 Perez Art Museum, FL  
 State University of New York, NY  
 Shearson Leaman/Paine Webber, NY  
 The Whitney Museum of Art, NY  
 The Pompidou, Paris, FR  
 The Carnegie Museum of Art  
 The Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, MA  
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 The Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro, NC  
 The Weatherspoon Museum of Art, Greensboro, NC  
 The Tang Teaching Museum, Skidmore College, NY  
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 The Bunker – Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, FL  
 William & Uytendale Scott Memorial Study Collection, Bryn Mawr College, PA