

## **DONA NELSON**

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Born 1947, Grand Island, Nebraska. Lives and works in Philadelphia.

### **EDUCATION**

1968 B.F.A., Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

1968 The Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, New York

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2019 *Dona Nelson: Days, textures and patterns*, Tajan, The Gallery, Paris, France, Fall,

2019 *Painting the Magic Mountain*, Michael Benevento Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2018 *Stand Alone Paintings* (curated by Ian Berry), Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

Armory Show 2018 (solo presentation), Focus Section, New York, NY

2017 *models stand close to the paintings*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY

2016 *Erasing Tracing Racing Painting* (with Polly Apfelbaum), Michael Benevento, Los Angeles, CA

2015 *New Paintings*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY

2014 *Phigor*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY

2010 *Volta New York*, with 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 & Read, New York, NY

2001 *Stations of the Subway*, Cheim & Read, New York, NY

2000 *The Stations of the Subway, Octopuses and Arrangements* (curated by Ron Platt), Weatherspoon Art Gallery, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC

1999 *Parks and Portraits: Dona Nelson, 1983 – 88*, 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

- 2020 *A Focus on Painting, September-October, curated by Julia Peyton-Jones, Special Projects, Galerie Thaddeus Ropac, London.*  
  
*Good Pictures, September-November, curated by Austin Lee, Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, New York City.*
- 2019 *Art Basel Miami, Nova Section, Thomas Erben Gallery*  
  
*Or Both, curated by Mia Locks, Moore College of Art, Philadelphia, Fall, 2019.*  
  
*Painters Reply: Experimental Painting in the 1970s and Now, curated by Alex Glauber & Alex Logsdail, Lisson Gallery, New York City, Summer 2019.*  
  
*Please recall to me everything you have thought of, Moran Moran, Los Angeles, curated by Eve Fowler, Summer, 2019.*
- 2018 *Snarl Of Twine, Robert Bordo, Shirley Irons, Kathryn Kerr, Becky Kolsrud, Israel Lund, Annabeth Marks, Donald Moffett, Dona Nelson, Nikholis Planck, Lucien Smith, Roger White, Magenta Plains, New York, NY*  
*Portal, Iva Gueorguieva and Dona Nelson, Sophia Contemporary, London, United Kingdom*
- 2017 Jackie Gendel and Dona Nelson, Art Basel Miami Beach, Nova Section, Miami Beach, FL

- Unpainting* (curated by Nicholas Chambers) (including work by Daniel Buren, Frank Stella, Mark Bradford, Art & Language, Morris Louis, Katharina Grosse, Sigmar Polke, and others), Art Gallery of New York Wales, Sydney, Australia
- Painters Sculpting / Sculptors Painting*, Nadine Beauharnois, Matt Jacobs, Dona Nelson, Marc Zajack. Fleisher / Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- We might not have a planet left soon* (curated by Adrienne Rubenstein), Yevgeniya Baras, Gina Beavers, Katherine Bradford, Kimia Ferdowsi Kline, Jackie Gendel, Pam Glick, Joanne Greenbaum, Maia Ruth Lee, Dona Nelson. Galerie Kornfeld, Berlin, Germany
- The Reflection in the Sword of Holofernes*, Galveston Artist Residency, Galveston, TX
- 2016 *Off Screen*, Jacob Ciocci, Storm De Hirsch, Paul Gagner, Dona Nelson, Raha Raissnia, Pieter Schoolwerth. Microscope Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- Physical Painting* (curated by Jennifer Samet), Richard & Dolly Maass Gallery, School of Art+Design, Purchase, NY
- 2015 *Pretty Raw: After and Around Helen Frankenthaler* (curated by Katy Siegel), The Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
- Feed the Meter* (curated by Wallace Whitney), Galerie Bernard Ceysson, Wandhaff, Luxembourg
- Wayfarers* (curated by Ginny Kollack), The Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art, Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA
- Paul Klee* (curated by Ashley Garrett and JJ Manford), Underdonk, Brooklyn, NY
- 2014 *In the Office of the Drunken Monkey*, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Brooklyn, NY
- Outside the Lines* (curated by Dean Daderko) Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, TX
- Whitney Biennial*, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
- Making Sense* (curated by Margaret Miller and Megan Voeller), Contemporary Art Museum, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2013 *Outside the Lines* (curated by Dean Daderko), Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, TX
- Dyeing Merging Multitasking*, Ortega y Gasset Projects, New York, NY
- Untitled (Hybrid)* (curated by Kate McNamara), Robert Miller Gallery, New York, NY
- Three in Doubles*, Fjord, Philadelphia, PA
- Sadie Benning, Thomas Kovachevich, Dona Nelson*, Callicoon Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 2012 *Low Epic* (curated by Sheryl Oppenheim), Chashama, New York, NY
- Susan Hartnett, Ralph Humphrey, Marilyn Lerner, Dona Nelson*, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, NY
- Salon Zürcher*, Zürcher Studio, New York, NY
- Simpatico* (curated by Kate McNamara), Boston University Art Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2011 *Affinities: Painting in Abstraction* (curated by Kate McNamara), D'Amelio Terras, New York, NY
- 15 Years*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY

- A Painting Show*, Harris Lieberman Gallery, New York, NY  
*Incipient Image* (curated by Stephen Maine), Lesley Heller Gallery, New York, NY  
*Texture, txt*, Regina Rex, New York, NY
- 2010 *Vivid* (curated by Janet Phelps), Schroeder, Romero & Shredder, New York, NY  
 40, Texas Gallery, Houston, TX  
*PASTORALE* (curated by Klaus Kertess), 80 Washington Square East Galleries, New York, NY  
*Animate Matter*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY
- 2009 *Pushing Paint*, Museum of Nebraska Art, Kearney, NE  
*Spaced Out/On Time*, Canada, New York, NY
- 2008 *Thomas Erben Gallery at Chatterjee & Lal*, Mumbai, India  
*Affinities Redux* (curated by Kate McNamara), Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ  
*Charismatic Abstraction*, Richmond Center for Visual Arts, University of Western Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI
- 2007 *CCS BARD Spring Exhibitions*, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
- 2006 *Still Life*, Monya Rowe Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 *Field Questions* (curated by Sid Sachs), Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 2002 *WTC: Living in the Shadows*, Bronx River Art Center, New York, NY  
 Fordham College at Lincoln Center, New York, NY  
*Jump*, The Painting Center, New York, NY
- 2001 *Vivid*, Richard Salmon Gallery, London, United Kingdom [itinerary: Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Center, Coventry, United Kingdom; Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sutherland, United Kingdom]
- 1998 Marlborough Chelsea, New York, NY  
*Small Paintings*, Cheim & Read, New York, NY  
*View II* (curated by Klaus Kertess), Mary Boone Gallery, New York, NY
- 1997 *Essential Gestures* (curated by Bruce Hartman), Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS [catalogue]
- 1996 *Face to Face: Recent Abstract Painting*, M.I.T. List Visual Art Center, Cambridge, MA [catalogue]  
*Painting All-Over Again* (curated by Saul Ostrow), Palacia de Montemuzo, Zaragoza, Spain [catalogue]  
*Method and Multiplicity* (curated by Richmond Burton), Apexart, New York, NY

- 1995 *25 Americans: Painting in the 90's*, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI [catalogue]
- 1991 *American Narrative Painting and Sculpture: The 1980's*, Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, NY
- 1985 *Four Artists* (curated by Elizabeth Murray), Artists Space, New York, NY  
*Ripe Fruit* (curated by Lisa Liebmann), P.S.1, New York, NY
- 1984 *The Figure in Paint* (curated by Klaus Kertess), Cable Gallery, New York, NY
- 1983 *The Painterly Figure* (curated by Klaus Kertess), Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY [catalogue]  
*Faces Since the Fifties: A Generation of American Portraiture*, Center Gallery, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA [catalogue]  
*Painting from the Mind's Eye*, Hillwood Art Museum, Long Island University, Brookville, NY
- 1982 *Body Language: Recent Figuration*, Hayden Gallery, M.I.T. Cambridge, MA [catalogue]  
*Contemporary Painting: Figuration*, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA [catalogue]
- 1972 *Grids*, ICA, University of Pennsylvania, PA
- 1971 *26 Contemporary Women Artists* (curator Lucy Lippard), Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT [catalogue]  
*10 Young Artists: Theodoran Awards*, Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY [catalogue]
- 1968 Independent Study Program, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 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*, March 18.
- 2015 Smith, Roberta. "The Best in Art in 2015." *The New York Times*, December 9.

- Newhall, Edith. "Galleries: For galleries, it's the season to indulge." *The Inquirer*, August 9.
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- Buskirk, Martha. "Subversive Color at the Rose Art Museum." *Hyperallergic Weekend*, May 30. [Buskirk on *Pretty Raw: Art After and Around Helen Frankenthaler*, 02/10 to 06/07/15, curated by Katy Siegel]
- 2014 Smith, Roberta. "The Paintbrush in the Digital Era." *The New York Times*, December 11. C27.
- Kreimer, Julian. "Dona Nelson." *Art in America*, June/July, 140-141.
- Schwabsky, Barry. "Dona Nelson." *Artforum*, Summer, 369.
- Smith, Roberta. "Phigor: Dona Nelson." *The New York Times*, May 9, C25.
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- Schjeldahl, Peter. "The Whitney Biennial." *The New Yorker*, March 17, 76.
- Loos, Ted. "Fresh Perspective: Abstraction Abounds at the Whitney Biennial." *Vogue*, March, 520.
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- Melamed, Samantha. "Philadelphia artists shine at Whitney Biennial." *The Inquirer*, February 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*, September 19.
- 2011 Zevitas, Steven. "12 Painters to Watch In 2012." *HuffingtonPost.com*, December 27. [online]
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- 2010 Smith, Roberta. "Post-Minimal to the Max." *The New York Times*, February 14, AR1.
- Vogel, Wendy. "40: Texas Gallery Houston." *Art Lies*, Volume 66, Summer.
- 2009 Smith, Roberta. "Spaced Out/On Time." *The New York Times*, September 25, C33.
- 2008 Smith, Roberta. "Art in Review: Dona Nelson." *The New York Times*, May 23, E26.

- “Goings on About Town: Art.” *The New Yorker*, May 19, 16.
- 2007 Newhall, Edith. “Get Thee to Elkins Park.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 12.
- 2006 Wagner, James. “Dona Nelson at Thomas Erben.” *jameswagner.com*, September 14. [online]
- Moyer, Carrie. “Dona Nelson: Brain Stain.” *The Brooklyn Rail*, October, 29.
- Cotter, Holland. “Art in Review: Dona Nelson.” *The New York Times*, September 22.
- Maine, Stephen. “Dona Nelson at Thomas Erben” *Art in America*, December, 149
- 2003 Westfall, Stephen. “Dona Nelson at Cheim & Read.” *Art in America*, June, 117-118.
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- “Goings on About Town: Art.” *The New Yorker* (February 3,): 19-20
- Johnson, Ken. “Art in Review: Dona Nelson.” *The New York Times* (January 31,): E5
- 2001 Mattick, Paul. “Dona Nelson at Cheim & Read.” *Art in America* (June 2001): 124-125
- Newhall, Edith. “Subway Series.” *The New Yorker* (January 15, 2001): 68
- “Goings on About Town: Art.” *The New Yorker* (January 29, 2001): 18
- Mahoney, Robert. “Dona Nelson: Stations of the Subway.” *Time Out New York* (January 25-February 1, 2001): 64
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- Smith, Roberta. “Last Chance.” *The New York Times* (February 23, 2001): E37
- 1999 Brown, Gerard. “Review/Art.” *Philadelphia Weekly* (January 27, 1999): 34
- 1998 Johnson, Ken. “Art in Review: Dona Nelson.” *The New York Times* (May 1, 1998): E43
- 1997 Hirsh, Faye. “Abstracting the Familiar: The Work of Dona Nelson.” *Art in America* (February 1997): 88-91
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- Painting All-Over Again*. Text by Saul Ostrow. Palacio de Montemuzo, Zaragoza, Spain (exh. cat)
- Face to Face: Recent Abstract Painting*. Text by Helene Posner. M.I.T. List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts (exh. cat)
- 1995 *25 Americans: Painting in the 90's*. Text by Dean Sobel. Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (exh. cat)
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- Stein, Judith E. “Dona Nelson: Trying all the Flavors.” *ARTnews* (October 1995)
- 1994 Yablonsky, Linda. “Dona Nelson at Michael Klein.” *Artforum* (January 1994): 92
- Hirsh, Faye. “Dona Nelson at Michael Klein.” *Art in America* (May 1994): 112-113
- Saltz, Jerry. “A Year in the Life: Tropic of Painting.” *Art in America* (October 1994): 99
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- 1993 Hagan, Charles. “Dona Nelson: New Paintings.” *The New York Times* (October 15, 1993): C36

- “Goings on About Town: Art.” *The New Yorker* (October 18, 1993)
- 1991 *American Narrative Painting and Sculpture: The 1980s*. Text by William Lieberman)  
Nassau County Museum of Art,  
Roslyn Harbor, New York (catalogue)
- 1990 Smith, Roberta. “Reviews/Art; On Long Island, Photos, Portraits, Pollock and  
Stereotyping.” *The New York Times*  
(August 9, 1991): C22  
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Mattick, Paul. “Dona Nelson.” *Arts Magazine* (October 1990): 96  
Pardee, Hearne. “In the Galleries.” *Art and Antiques* (November 1990): 122
- 1989 Liebmann, Lisa. “Dona Nelson’s Time, Pieces.” *Artforum* (March 1989): 90-93  
Smith, Roberta. “Tales of Ordinary People Told in Bits and Pieces.” *The New York Times*  
(March 31, 1989)  
Reid, Calvin. “Dona Nelson and Archie Rand at Scott Hanson.” *Art in America*  
(November 1989)
- 1985 *Four Artists*. Text by Elizabeth Murray. Artists Space, New York [exhibition brochure]  
Benson, Michael. “Art in Review: Four Artists.” *The New York Times* (November 22,  
1985): C25
- 1983 *Faces Since the Fifties*. Text by Joseph Jacobs. Center Gallery, Bucknell University,  
Lewisburg, Pennsylvania (exh. cat.)  
*The Painterly Figure*. Text by Klaus Kertess. Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New  
York (exh. cat.)
- 1982 *Body Language*. Text by Roberta Smith. Hayden Gallery, M.I.T. Cambridge,  
Massachusetts (exh. cat.)  
*Figuration*. Texts by Phyllis Plous and Michael Klein. University Art Museum, Santa  
Barbara, California (exh. cat.)  
Glueck, Grace. “Artists, Artists.” *ARTnews* (November 1982): 96
- 1975 Kramer, Hilton. “Art in Review: Dona Nelson.” *The New York Times* (January 25, 1975)
- 1971 *26 Contemporary Women Artists*. Text by Lucy Lippard. Aldrich Museum of Contemporary  
Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut  
*Ten Young Artists: Theodoron Awards*. Text by Linda Shearer. Solomon R. Guggenheim  
Museum, New York (exh. cat.)

### **CURATORIAL ACTIVITY**

- 2014 *Eight Young Figurative Artists Who Live in Philadelphia*, curated by Dona Nelson, Fjord  
Gallery, November 7–23
- 2013 *In Front of Strangers I Sing*, the 72nd Annual Exhibition, The Woodmere Museum,  
Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, juried/curated by Dona Nelson and Rubens Ghenov, June  
through August
- 2007 *The Fluid Field: Abstraction and Reference*, October, Tyler School of Art, Temple  
University, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- 2015 Anonymous Was a Woman Grant, 2015



2013 Artist Legacy Foundation Award  
2011 2011 FCA Individual Grant  
2000 Tesuque Foundation 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

### **PUBLIC AND CORPORATE COLLECTIONS**

The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Skidmore College, New York  
Perez Art Museum, Miami, Florida  
The Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts  
Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts  
Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco and Paris  
Committee for the Visual Arts/M.I.T. Collection, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City  
Contemporary Art Museum, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida  
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
State University of New York, Albany, New York  
William & Uytendale Scott Memorial Study Collection, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania  
Nordstern, Cologne, Germany  
Chase Manhattan Bank Collection, New York City  
General Electric Corporation, Connecticut  
Progressive Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio  
Shearson Leaman/Paine Webber, New York City  
General Mills, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Microsoft Corporation, Seattle, Washington  
The Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro, North Carolina  
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

### **TEACHING**

Professor of Painting and Drawing, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia

Bard MFA Program, Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts, Summer 2012, Summer 2015