

## MARA HELD

B.1954, NEW YORK

LIVES AND WORKS IN BOICEVILLE, NY

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 *Fingers Dipped in Honey*, Seven Sisters, Houston, TX
- 2021 *Mara Held: Gates of Cilicia*, McClain Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2017 *Mara Held: Errant Traveler*, McClain Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2015 *Mara Held*, McClain Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2014 *Mara Held and Margrit Lewczuk*, Imogen Holloway Gallery, Saugerties, NY
- 2013 *Mara Held*, Gary Snyder Gallery, Chelsea, NY
- 2009 *Mara Held: Resonant Frequencies*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2007 *Projects, Spoonbill and Sugartown*, Brooklyn, NY
- 2004 *Voluptuous Moves*, Artefact/Galleria Pardo, Milan, Italy
- 2001 *Plan*, The Roger Williams, New York, NY
- 1999 *Coloratura*, Christiane Nienaber Fine Art, New York, NY

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *Blurring Boundaries: The Women of American Abstract Artists, 1936-Present* (traveling exhibition 2018-2023): Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury, CT; The Richard E. Peeler Art Center, University Gallery; DePauw University, Greencastle, IN; Giovanna, South Bend Museum of Art, South Bend, IN; LSA Museum of Art, Baton Rouge, LA; California Center for the Arts, Escondido, CA Baker Museum, Naples, FL and Freedman Gallery at Albright College in Reading, PA
- 2022 *Kaleidoscope Eyes: Mara Held & Julia Kunin*, McClain Gallery, Houston, TX
- Singing in Unison, Part 2: Curated by Phong Bui/Brooklyn Rail*, Scully Tomasko Foundation, New York, NY
- Singing in Unison, Part 3: Curated by Phong Bui/Brooklyn Rail*, Below Grand, New York, NY
- Digital: AAA Prints 2012– 2019* (traveling exhibition), The Galleries at Herron School of Art + Design, Marsh Gallery, Indianapolis, Indiana; Herron School of Art + Architecture, Indianapolis, IN; Transmitter Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; The Gallery at The Visual and Performing Arts Center, Western CT State

# SEVEN SISTERS

- 2019** *En Masse 2019*, Thompson Giroux Gallery, Chatham, NY  
*Madness in Vegetables: Hudson Valley Artists 2019*, Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, State University of New York at New Paltz, NY  
*Continuity to Change: Recent History of American Abstraction*, Towers Fine Arts Gallery, State University of New York at Brockport, NY  
*American Abstract Artist: Print Portfolio (Traveling Exhibition)*, Essay by Rob Storr, The Gallery at The Visual and Performing Arts Center, State University, CT, Wrather Museum, Murray State University, Murray, KY; University of Houston, Clear Lake Art Gallery, Houston, TX; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN; Marywood University, Scranton, PA
- 2018** *Blurring Boundaries: Continuity to Change Women of AAA from 1937 to 2017*, curated by Rebecca Di Giovanna, Ewing Gallery at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN  
*The Greatest Show on Earth*, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/Brooklyn, NY
- 2017** *Sideshow Nation V/ Thru the Rabbit Hole 2*, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/Brooklyn, NY
- 2016** *Chromatic Spaces*, curated by Jonathan Lippincott, Fiterman Art Center, BMCC, New York, NY  
*Light into Night*, Omi International Arts Center, Ghent, NY  
*Cowgirls #5*, curated by Rich Timperio, Brik Gallery, Catskill, NY  
*Painters Painting on Paper, Schema Projects*, Bushwick/Brooklyn, NY  
*Thru the Rabbit Hole*, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/Brooklyn, NY  
*The Onward of Art/ American Abstract Artists 80th Anniversary*, curated by Karen Wilken, 1285 Avenue of the Americas Art Gallery, New York, NY  
*Visible Histories: 80th Anniversary American Abstract Artists*, curated by Max Weintraub, Warren-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
- 2015** *Endless, Entire/ American Abstract Artists*, Five Myles Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Mara Held, Margrit Lewczuk, Meg Lipke*, David Findlay Jr Gallery, New York, NY  
*Paperazzi IV*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Sideshow Nation III: Circle the Wagons*, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/Brooklyn, NY  
*American Abstract Artist :Print Portfolio, (Traveling Exhibition)* Essay by Rob Storr,  
*2014 10 Year Anniversary*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Sideshow Nation II at the Alamo*, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/Brooklyn, NY  
*Paperazzi 3*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Sensory Impact*, Morgan Stanley International Headquarters, Purchase, NY  
*To Leo, A Tribute from the American Abstract Artists*, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/Brooklyn, NY

# SEVEN SISTERS

- American Abstract Artist :Print Portfolio, (Traveling Exhibition) Essay by Rob Storr, Martin Art Gallery, Baker Center for the Arts, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA; University of Mary Washington Galleries, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA*
- 2014** *Mara Held and Margrit Lewczuk, Imogen Holloway Gallery, Saugerties, NY*
- 2013** *American Abstract Artist :Print Portfolio (Traveling Exhibition), Essay by Rob Storr, Brattleboro Museum, Brattleboro, VT; Sarah Moody Gallery, U of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL; Ewing Gallery, UT School of Art, Knoxville, TN*
- Miami Project, Garth Greenan Gallery, New York, NY*
- Dynamic Invention: American Abstract Artists at 75, The Brattleboro Museum, Brattleboro, VT*
- Drafted, Schema Projects, Bushwick/ Brooklyn, NY*
- Sideshow Nation, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/ Brooklyn, NY*
- Paperazzi 2, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY*
- 2012 Cowgirls of the Hudson River Valley 4, Curated by Rich Timperio, Brik Gallery, Catskill, NY*
- Summer Snacks: Works on Paper, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY*
- The Armory Show 2012, Gary Snyder Gallery, New York, NY*
- Abstract Artists International 75th Anniversary, paris CONCRET, Paris, France*
- MIC:CHECK, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/ Brooklyn, NY*
- Paperazzi, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY*
- 2011 Abstraction to the Power of Infinity, The Icebox Gallery/Crane Arts, Philadelphia, PA*
- Summer Weekend, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery Brooklyn, NY*
- American Abstract Artists: 75 Anniversary, OK Harris Gallery, New York, NY*
- 75 Anniversary: American Abstract Artists International, Galerie oqbo, Berlin, Germany*
- Splendor of Dynamic Structure: Celebrating 75 Years of the American Abstract Artists, Herbert F. Johnson Museum, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY*
- Paper 2011, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery Brooklyn, NY*
- It's All Good, (Apocalypse Now), Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/ Brooklyn, NY*
- 2010 Art Basel/ Miami Beach, Gary Snyder Projects, New York, NY*
- Summer Love, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery Brooklyn, NY*
- Cowgirls of the Hudson River Valley 3, curated by Rich Timperi, Brik Gallery, Catskill, NY*
- American Abstract Artists International, The Aragonese Castle of Otranto, Italy*

# SEVEN SISTERS

*It's a Wonderful Life 10*, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/ Brooklyn, NY  
*Paper Works*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery Brooklyn, NY  
2009 *It's a Wonderful Life*, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/ Brooklyn, NY  
*Year Five*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
2008 *Fashion Forward*, curated by Karen Shaw, Islip Art Museum, NY  
*American Abstract Artists: Tribute to Esphyr Slobodkina*, curated by Stephen Maine, Painting Center  
New York, NY  
*A Roller Coaster In The Dark*, curated by Ben La Rocco, Galeria Janet Kurnatowski, Brooklyn, NY  
2007 *Cowgirls of the Hudson Valley 2*, curated by Rich Timperi, Brik Gallery, Catskill, NY  
*Continuum: Celebration of 70 years of American Abstract Artists*, St. Peters College, NJ  
*War is Over 2*, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/ Brooklyn, NY  
2006 *War is Over*, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/ Brooklyn, NY  
2005 *Waves of Light*, The Factory, Hudson, NY  
*Along the Way: Celebrating 20 Years of Public Art*, UBS Art Gallery, New York, NY  
2004 *Merry/Peace 2004*, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*SHARE*, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
2003 *Harlem Art Project*, Ray of Light Foundation, Saatchi and Saatchi, New York, NY  
*Merry/Peace*, 2003, Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg/Brooklyn, NY  
*Going Public*, American Institute of Architects, New York, NY  
*Inaugural Exhibition Pardo*, St Croix Gallery, Milan, Italy  
*Masterwork Award Exhibition*, The Municipal Art Society of New York, NY  
*Square NY/Piazza Rome*, Robert Pardo Gallery and Galleria Le Bateleur, Rome, Italy  
*Works on Paper, Volume 1*, Voelcker & Freunde Galerie, Berlin, Germany  
2002 *Flat Files 2002*, Voelcker & Freunde Galerie, Berlin, Germany  
*Merry/Peace 2002*, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
20102, *The Rotunda Gallery*, Brooklyn, NY  
*Selection 1*, *The Brooklyn Rail @ Wythe Studio*, Brooklyn, NY  
2001 *Merry/Peace*, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Annual Report, Issue 14 The Unbearables Assembling Magazine* Oct. 2001  
*Over Times Square 2*, Department of Cultural Affairs, New York, NY  
*Made in Brooklyn*, curated by Chris Martin, S. Cono, Brooklyn, NY  
*That Which Remains*, Lowe Art Gallery, New York, NY  
*21st Suffragettes*, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

# SEVEN SISTERS

8 New York Artists, Ice House Gallery, Telluride, CO  
That Which Remains, Bernadette Salvage, Brooklyn, NY  
2000 North and South/ Other Directions, Splendid, Brooklyn, NY  
1999 Helter Skelter, Bernadette Salvage, Brooklyn, NY  
Gallery Artists, Voelcker & Freunde Galerie, Berlin, Germany  
1998 Strong Modern, Williamsburg Art & Historical Society, Brooklyn, NY  
1996 Gallery Artists, Elena Zang Gallery, Woodstock, NY  
1994 Paint, Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
Invitational, Tribeca 148 Gallery, New York, NY  
Gallery Artists, James Cox Gallery, Woodstock, NY

## Select Bibliography

- 2017 Mara Held: Errant Traveler, Review by Molly Glentzer, *Houston Chronicle*, August 23, 2017
- 2015 Mara Held: Recent Paintings and Works on Paper, (March 14-April 18, 2015), by McClain Gallery, March 28, 2015. Catalogue.  
[http://issuu.com/mcclaingallery/docs/held\\_cover](http://issuu.com/mcclaingallery/docs/held_cover)  
"Mara Held, Margrit Lewczuk, Meg Lipke, David Findlay Jr Gallery, NY, New York, Artnet News, Audrey Fair, "Must-See Art Guide: New York,, May 7, 2015. <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/must-see-art-guide-new-york-4-294994>  
"Mara Held, Margrit Lewczuk, Meg Lipke, David Findlay Jr Gallery, NY, New York" Painters' Table, April 19, 2015 [http://painters-table.com/link/james-kalm-rough-cut/mara-held-margrit-lewczuk-meg-lipke?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+painterstable%2Fixun+%28Painters%27+Table+Featured%29&utm\\_content=FaceBook](http://painters-table.com/link/james-kalm-rough-cut/mara-held-margrit-lewczuk-meg-lipke?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+painterstable%2Fixun+%28Painters%27+Table+Featured%29&utm_content=FaceBook)  
Kalm, James "Mara Held, Margrit Lewczuk, Meg Lipke, David Findlay Jr Gallery, NY, New York" *James Kalm Rough Cut*, 11:35, April 17, 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5mHtqiL-lg>
- 2014 Kalm, James "10 Year Anniversary, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, New York" *James Kalm Rough Cut*, 11:49, December 20, 2014, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lt1\\_X-ff1r8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lt1_X-ff1r8)  
"New York's Underground Art Museum," *MTA Arts & Design*, Sandra Bloodworth and William Ayres, Montacelli Press, 2014  
"Art Day Trips: Escapes from the Concrete Jungle," Editorial Preview, *New York Arts Magazine*, NY, NY July 2014

# SEVEN SISTERS

- "Sensory Impact: American Abstract Artists," essay by Stephen Maine, Morgan Stanley International, Purchase, NY 2014
- 2013** "75th Anniversary American Abstract Artist Print Portfolio," essay by Rob Storr, The Ewing Gallery of Art and Architecture, The University of Tennessee, 2013
- "Art Show: Mara Held" *Elle Décor Magazine* by Vicky Lowry, October 2013 (p.158-160)
- "Mara Held " at Gary Snyder Gallery, *Joanne Mattera Art Blog: Painting in Chelsea*, March 3, 2013
- "Mara Held " at Gary Snyder Gallery, *Steven Alexander Journal*, February 28, 2013
- "Mara Held" at Gary Snyder Gallery Review, Ken Johnson/*The New York Times*, February 22, 2013
- "Mara Held" at Gary Snyder Gallery Review, Phong Bui/*The Brooklyn Rail*, February 2013
- 2010** "Summer Love" at Janet Kurnatowski, *Steven Alexander Journal*, August 18, 2010
- 2009** "Mara Held " at Janet Kurnatowski, *Steven Alexander Journal*, October, 18, 2009
- Resonant Frequencies*, Catalogue essay by Shane McAdams, October 2009
- "Where Fashion Meets Its Artistic Match," Benjamin Genocchio, *New York Times*, January 9, 2009
- 2008** Kalm, James "A Twofer from the 'Burg," *James Kalm Report*, 9:58, 2008, [blip.tv/file/877811](http://blip.tv/file/877811)
- 2007** "Open Studios: Who What Where Why," Slektaviciute, Pardo, Comerlati, Morgan & Sansone, 2007
- 2006** "Along the Way" *MTA Arts for Transit*, Sandra Bloodworth and William Ayres, 2006
- 2004** "J Train Parsons/Archer to Broad Street" *stationreporter.net*, 2004
- "Subway Artist Mara Held" Robinson, Dorothy, *Metro New York*, October 21, 2004
- 2003** "Crosby Willet and Willet Stained Glass Studios: Three Generations of Glass for the Ages", Waggoner, Shawn. *Glass Art Magazine*, January/February 2003
- 2001** "Edgy New York Artwork," Levek, Amy. *Telluride Watch*, August 2001
- 1999** "Review of Coloratura at Nienaber," Everett, Deborah. *NY Arts*, Vol. 4, #11, 1999
- 1994** "Submerge Yourself in "Paint" for a Truly Colorful Time," *Courier Lifestyles*, 1994

## Grants and Awards

# SEVEN SISTERS

- 2018** Babayan Culture House Residency Grant, Cappadocia, Turkey  
**2004** I.M. Pei, Cobb, Freed and Partners Project, Percent for Art, New York City  
Percent for Art, Finalist  
**2003** George Sugarman Foundation Grant  
The Municipal Art Society of New York  
New York City Masterwork Award: Best New Public Art 2002  
“El in 16 Notes” Hewes Street Station, Jamaica Line, MTA Arts for Transit  
**2002** Wurlitzer Foundation Residency Grant

## Public Collections

Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH  
Art in Embassies, US Department of State, Washington, DC  
Bayerische Landesbank, New York Branch, New York, NY  
The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH  
The Ewing Gallery of Art and Architecture, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN  
The International Artists’ Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel  
The Landesbank Schleswig-Holstein Girozentrale (LB Kiel) New York Branch New York, NY  
The Metropolitan Transit Authority of New York  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY  
MoMA Library Special Collection, New York, NY  
Muhlenberg College Art Collection  
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
The New York Public Library, New York, NY  
Phillips Collection of Art, Washington, DC  
US Embassy, Beijing Embassy Annex, Beijing, China, Art in Embassies, US Department of State, Permanent Collection  
Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery, Nashville, TN  
Whitney Museum’s Library Collection, New York, NY  
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT