Elizabeth Alley
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Elizabeth Alley is a sketcher and painter from Memphis who makes paintings and drawing installations about places experienced first-hand, informed by on-location sketching.

Selected Group Exhibitions

11.2025 Polishing the Stone • ShapeShifter Art School and Gallery, Memphis, TN
07.2025 *Summer Lovin'* • Wavelength Space, Chattanooga, TN
12.2023 *Gathered Together* • Wavelength Space, Chattanooga, TN
10.2022 *Art of the South* (Juror: Katie Delmez, Frist Art Museum) • Zeitgeist Gallery, Nashville, TN
12.2019 *Feast Your Eyes* • Flicker Street Studio, Memphis TN
04.2019 *First Saturdays* • Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis TN
12.2017 *Small Worlds* • Flicker Street Studio, Memphis TN
12.2016 *Let Me Whisper in Your Ear* • Flicker Street Studio, Memphis TN
04.2016 *Belongings* • Crosstown Arts, Memphis TN
02.2016 *In-Form* • Crosstown Arts, Memphis TN
12.2015 *The Instructors* • Flicker Street Studio, Memphis TN
06.2014 *This Art Has Cooties* • Marshall Arts, Memphis TN
08.2013 Memphis Urban Sketchers • Crosstown Arts, Memphis TN
04.2013 *The Unicorn Show* • Marshall Arts, Memphis TN
01.2013 *Present Tense* (Curator: John Weeden) Dixon Gallery and Gardens • Memphis TN
01.2013 Memphis Urban Sketchers • ANF Architects, Memphis TN
11.2012 Two-Person Show with Martha Kelly • ANF Architects, Memphis TN
12.2011 *Found* (Curator: Nancy Cheairs) • Flicker Street Studio, Memphis TN
10.2011 *Fragments* (Curator: David Hinske) Harrington Brown Gallery • Memphis TN
09.2010 *Cooper Young Artist Invitational* • David Perry Smith Gallery, Memphis, TN
02.2009 *The Feast* (Juror: Liz Hickok, Blue Studios, San Francisco CA) • Harry Krug Gallery, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg KS
10.2008 *WhiteBoxGroupShow2* • [5]art, Tampa, FL
01.2008 *1 x 41: 1 Piece by 41 Artists* • Perry Nicole Fine Art, Memphis, TN
09.2007 *Nia Salon Three* (Curator: frank d. robinson, jr.) • Delta Axis @ Marshall Arts, Memphis
11.2006 Two-person exhibit with Susan Maakestad • Perry Nicole Fine Art, Memphis, TN
07.2006 *Nia Salon Two* (Curator: Vitus Shell) • Memphis College of Art On the Street Gallery, Memphis TN
01.2006 *Red* • Perry Nicole Fine Art, Memphis, TN
11.2005 *Eye Candy* (Juror: Arlyn Ende) • AVA Center Gallery, Chattanooga TN
06.2004 *People and Places* • Dyersburg State Community College, Covington, TN
04.2002 *Venus Envy 2002* (Curator: Allana Clarke) • Memphis, TN
04.2002 *Plain Arts IV International Juried Exhibition* (Juror: Sandra Blain, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts) • Pittsburg State University Gallery, Pittsburg KS
01.2002 *It's a Human World* (Curator: Hamlett Dobbins) • Delta Axis @ Marshall Arts, Memphis
10.2001 *Arts in the Park* (Juror: Shamim Momin) • Memphis, TN
06.2001 *Go Figure: The Contemporary Realist Impulse* • Perry Nicole Fine Art, Memphis, TN
08.2000 *The Price Is Right* • David Lusk Gallery, Memphis, TN

Selected Solo Exhibitions

05.2026 *Feels like earth but not* • ShapeShifter Gallery • Memphis, TN
04.2019 *Place Shapes* • Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis TN
12.2018 *Two Stories of Iceland* • Crosstown Arts, Memphis TN

12.2013 *Learning to Say I Love You in Spanish* • Memphis Botanic Gardens, Memphis TN
09.2011 *Go Change* • Flicker Street Studio, Memphis TN
09.2009 *Ladies' Parties* • Twist Gallery, Nashville TN
12.2008 *Separate Story* • The Ned R. McWherter West Tennessee Cultural Arts Center, Jackson, TN
10.2008 *1, 2, 3, 4, 5* • CaseWorks, University of Memphis, Memphis TN
05.2008 *Class of '88* • Material Art Space, Memphis TN
05.2007 *Please don't leave anything behind* • Delta Axis @ Marshall Arts, Memphis TN
05.2005 *Tennessee II* • Renaissance Center, Dickson, TN
04.2005 *Picture Book* • Perry Nicole Fine Art, Memphis TN
02.2005 *Expectation II* • Middle Georgia College, Cochran GA
09.2004 *Architectural Paintings* • Bartlett Performing Arts Center, Bartlett, TN
08.2004 *More people, more places* • Harry Krug Gallery, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg KS
05.2004 *Expectation* • Southside Gallery, Oxford MS
03.2004 *Tennessee* • Flying Solo Exhibit, Arts in the Airport, Nashville International Airport
04.2003 *Something Old Something New* • University Gallery, Christian Brothers University, Memphis TN
09.2002 *Here We Are* • Perry Nicole Fine Art, Memphis TN
09.2001 *Weekday Special* • Fogelman Executive Center, Memphis, TN
04.2001 *On the Square* • Shainberg Gallery, Memphis Jewish Community Center
04.2000 *Letterboxed* • Hal Miller Gallery, Theatre Memphis, Memphis TN

Art Talks

07.2026 Sketching in the Arctic – Artist Talk • Sketcher Fest, Edmonds, WA
05.2026 *Feels like earth but not* – Gallery Talk • ShapeShifter Gallery, Memphis, TN
02.2026 Sketching in the Arctic – Artist Talk • Artists Link, Memphis, TN
01.2026 Sketching in the Arctic – Artist Talk • Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis TN
08.2025 Sketching the Arctic – Lecture • Urban Sketchers International Symposium, Poznan, Poland
05.2023 Practical Sketching for Technical Communication • Society for Technical Communicators 2023 Summit, Atlanta, GA
06.2021 *Grounded* – Artist Talk • Bridging the Distance grant, UrbanArt Commission, virtual
04.2021 Practical Sketching for Technical Communicators • STC Rochester Spectrum Conference, virtual
05.2020 Practical Sketching for Technical Communicators • Society for Technical Communicators 2020 Summit, virtual
09.2019 *Place Shapes* – Artist Talk • Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis TN
07.2019 How Is Sketching Like Technical Communication? – Pecha Kucha • Urban Sketchers International Symposium, Amsterdam, Netherlands
06.2019 *First Saturdays* – Panel Discussion, Moderator • Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis TN
05.2019 How Sketching Is Like Technical Communication • Society for Technical Communicators 2019 Summit, Denver CO
02.2018 *Two Stories of Iceland* – Artist Talk • Crosstown Arts, Memphis TN
06.2016 Hustle: Travel and Art – Panel Discussion • Crosstown Arts, Memphis TN
05.2016 Germantown Art League – Artist Talk • Germantown TN
05.2015 Artists Link – Artist Talk • Memphis TN
12.2014 Art in the Making Community Art Program by River Arts Festival – Artist Talk • Arlington High School, Arlington TN
02.2013 *Present Tense* – 5 Minute Artist Talks • Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis TN

Residencies

05.2025 Arctic Circle Residency • Svalbard

Grants

06.2021 Bridging the Distance, UrbanArt Commission • Grant winner for Grounded project

Art Instructor

07.2026 Finding Your Focus: Lessons from the Arctic for Choosing Your Subject • Sketcher Fest, Edmonds
05.2026 What's in Your Bag workshop • ShapeShifter Art School and Gallery, Memphis, TN
01.2026 Getting Comfortable with Your Sketchbook class • ShapeShifter Art School and Gallery
03.2023 Your Day in Sketches workshop • Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis TN
07.2020 Sketching Your Day • Virtual Sketching Workshop with DePaul Art Museum
2011-2020 Sketching, oil painting, acrylic painting, watercolors • Flicker Street Studio, Memphis
09.2019 Your Day in Sketches workshop • Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis TN
06.2016 Sketching Workshop • Carpenter Art Gardens, Memphis TN

Curatorial Work

06.2014 *This Art Has Cooties* • Marshall Arts, Memphis TN
08.2013 Memphis Urban Sketchers • Crosstown Arts, Memphis TN
01.2013 Memphis Urban Sketchers • ANF Architects, Memphis TN
01.2005 *Something of Our Common Feeling* • Marshall Arts, Memphis TN

Commissions

2010 Women's Foundation 2010 Legends Award, oil painting honoring Representative Lois DeBerry
2010 Church Health Center 2010 Holiday Card, acrylic painting for holiday card
2007 Memphis in May International Festival Fine Art Poster honoring Spain

Volunteering and other employment

2026 Interim Director • ShapeShifter Art School and Gallery, Memphis, TN
2010-2019 Lead Organizer • Memphis Urban Sketchers, Memphis TN
2013-2016 President/Symposium Organizer • Urban Sketchers (International Nonprofit Organization)
1998-2010 Director of Public Art/Public Art Project Manager • UrbanArt Commission, Memphis TN