

# Electra Michael Pelias

(EE-lek-truh MY-kuhl pEEL-E-us)

electrapelias@gmail.com | (504) 258-3177 | [www.electramakes.com](http://www.electramakes.com) |

## EDUCATION

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### Master of Fine Arts, Studio Arts

*George Washington University*

August 2024 – May 2026 (expected)

GPA: 3.94

### Bachelor of Science in Psychology

*Loyola University New Orleans*

August 2020 - May 2024

GPA: 3.64

### Ceramics coursework

*Tulane University New Orleans*

August 2022 - May 2024

GPA: 3.90

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Exhibitions and Programs Intern

*Transformer Gallery*

January 2026 – Current

As an Exhibitions and Programs Intern at Transformer Gallery, I support the planning, installation, and public presentation of contemporary art exhibitions and events. My responsibilities include assisting with exhibition research and logistics, helping to prepare gallery spaces for installs and openings, supporting artist talks and public programs, and contributing to audience engagement efforts. I also assist with administrative tasks, documentation, and communications, gaining hands-on experience in nonprofit gallery operations while working closely with curatorial and programs staff to ensure exhibitions and events run smoothly.

### Retail Assistant

*Anthropologie*

September 2025 – December 2025 (seasonal)

As a Retail Assistant at Anthropologie, I supported the creation of a welcoming, inspiring in-store experience rooted in creativity, storytelling, and customer connection. I assisted customers with personalized styling, product knowledge, and thoughtful recommendations while maintaining the brand's elevated aesthetic and service standards. My role included merchandising and visual upkeep, processing transactions, replenishing inventory, and collaborating with team members to ensure smooth daily operations. Through attention to detail and a passion for design, I contributed to an environment that encouraged discovery, self-expression, and meaningful customer engagement.

### Retail and Production Assistant + Artist-in-Residence

*Relume Co*

April 2025 – August 2025

After 8 months with Relume Co. as a Retail and Production Assistant, I was additionally given the role as Artist-in-Residence. In my new role, I collaborate with the management team to conceptualize and develop original in-house products such as laser cut acrylic earrings, stickers and prints for both retail and wholesale, as well as design and construct immersive, whimsical window and in-store displays and social media graphics. Tasks include conducting trend research using platforms like Shopify, Pinterest, and TikTok to inform product and display design and prototyping, managing budgets, sourcing materials and equipment, rendering graphic designs for prints, stickers, earrings, etc using Canva, and Adobe suite, fabricating both new products and handmade window displays, as well as shop furniture such as shelving and displays and leading seasonal display installation processes with support from the retail team. I also am still responsible for the retail and production tasks outlined previously.

### Student Museum Assistant

*Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at The George Washington University*

February 2025 – August 2025

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Student Museum Assistants help with curatorial and exhibit-related operations across the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at The George Washington University museums and galleries. Tasks include preparation of exhibit installations and pieces, assisting with creation and planning of exhibitions, construction and design of exhibition spaces; handling, maintaining, and preserving art and other artifacts; and assisting in editing and formatting documents.

## Retail and Production Assistant

*Relume Co*

*September 2024 – April 2025*

Relume is a woman-owned, Washington DC-based home goods & accessories brand. As a Retail and Production Assistant, my responsibilities vary from day to day. This includes cleaning and restocking the store, assisting customers of all ages with craft bar activities (candle-making, charm jewelry, watercolor, and/or beading), set up stations for different crafts, processing new inventory arrivals through Shopify, informing customers of shop promotions and events, processing customer payments through Point-of-Sale system, wick, pour, and decorate candles in bulk, perform permanent jewelry application and as well as other production related tasks.

## Ceramic Arts Teacher

*Country Day Creative Arts*

*June 2024 – July 2024 (seasonal)*

Country Day Creative Arts (CDCA) is a unique 5-week program in which children ages seven through fourteen, select five classes from over thirty choices in the visual arts, performing arts, and sports. After many years as a Summer Art Teacher Assistant, I was promoted to the status of Ceramic Arts Teacher, teaching four classes of seven to nine-year-olds for five weeks beginning. In my class, I introduce the students to techniques, processes, and aesthetic concerns of ceramics as a studio art medium. I additionally developed original projects, class plans, schedules, budgets, and a final exhibition of their works.

## Writing, Math Models, Statistics and Psychology Tutor

*Office of Writing and Learning Services, Loyola University New Orleans*

*January 2023 – May 2024*

The Office of Writing and Learning Services at Loyola University New Orleans offers free peer tutoring to all full-time undergraduate students by their own peers. As a writing tutor, I assisted many different individuals with all writing needs, including prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. As a psychology tutor, I provide both psychology and non-psychology majors assistance with the concepts and methods of psychology. This semester I was asked to additionally take on the task of tutoring math models and statistics.

## Summer Art Teacher Assistant

*Country Day Creative Arts*

*June 2016 – July 2023 (seasonal)*

Country Day Creative Arts (CDCA) is a unique 5-week program in which children ages seven through fourteen, select five classes from over thirty choices in the visual arts, performing arts, and sports. As a Summer Art Teacher Assistant, I interacted daily with over 360 young artists aged 6 - 14, including those with special needs and behavioral disorders such as Autism, Selective Mutism, and ADHD and assisted senior staff in four different classes, concentrating in areas relating to ceramics, theater, and music.

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## SMALL BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

### Freelance Graphic Design

*Electra Makes*

*January 2024 – present*

I provide custom graphic design services for small businesses, artists, and creative brands, with a focus on visually compelling storytelling. My work includes branding, social media content, product design., print materials, and digital assets, always tailored to reflect each client's unique voice and aesthetic. I manage projects from concept to completion, ensuring clear communication and impactful results.

### Small Business Owner

*Electra Makes*

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*May 2020 – present*

Founded Electra Makes in 2020, my personal brand for all my artistic endeavors. I manage a comprehensive online presence through my website, Faire, Shopify shop, Instagram, and TikTok, with steady growth in both engagement and sales. Additionally, my products are sold in 20+ retail stores and through wholesale platforms. My work merges whimsy with vulnerability, utilizing a variety of materials to explore themes of innocence, trauma, and emotional resilience. I create accessible artworks that invites emotional reflection while maintaining an approachable, engaging quality. I have additionally participated and hosted pop-up events that raise funds for mutual aid, including the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, NO/AIDS Task Force and The New Orleans Abortion Fund, generating over \$1,000 in donations.

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## AWARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

### **Visionary Leaders Circle Print Commission**

*Transformer Gallery*

Fall 2025

Commissioned by Transformer Gallery to design limited run of 100, 8"x10" risograph prints to give to Visionary Leaders Circle members. The Visionary Leaders Circle is annual fund launched Fall 2021 to champion Transformer's support of emerging artists & arts leaders. Each member will receive one of my original prints at Transformer's 21st Annual Benefit Art Auction & Gala.

### **Lydia at Prom: Matisse, Pattern, and the Art of Showing Up**

*National Gallery of Art*

Spring 2025

Presented 10-minute research presentation on Woman Seated in an Armchair, 1940 by Matisse at NGA's National Gallery night, connecting the work to both my practice and the night's theme of "70's prom."

### **Dr. Gerald S. Clack Community Engagement Award**

*Loyola University New Orleans*

Spring 2024

This award is presented to a psychological sciences major who exemplifies, in an outstanding fashion, the service-oriented feature of professional behavior.

### **Janet Mary Riley Award for the Advancement of Women's Issues**

*Loyola University New Orleans*

Spring 2024

The Magis Student Leadership Awards is a ceremonial salute to university excellence. The Janet Mary Riley Award for the Advancement of Women's Issues is presented to a Loyola student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership on issues central to women on campus and in the larger community. The student promotes the mission of Loyola University New Orleans and has demonstrated commitment to women's issues through programming, research, leading an organization, or through other academic efforts.

### **Dean's List**

*Loyola University New Orleans*

Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024

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## PUBLICATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

### **Solo Exhibitions:**

- Soft Targets, *Corcoran School of Art and Design* (expected: 2026)

### **Group Exhibitions:**

- Dovetail, 52 O Street Studios (2026)
- Imparted Gifts, *Corcoran School of Art and Design* (2025)
- On Display: A 21st Century Salon de Refusés, *Tulane University* (2025)
- Magnolia Ball, *Ogden Museum of Southern Art* (2025)
- WallMountables, *DC Arts Center* (2025)

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- Out of our heads, *Corcoran School of Art and Design* (2025)
- Clay: A Southern Census, *the Clay Center* (2025)
- In the Making: A Spectrum of Student Creativity, *Studio Gallery* (2025)
- January 2025 Open Exhibit, *Art League* (2025)
- First Year MFA Show, *Corcoran School of Art and Design* (2024-2025).
- Degas House Art Festival, *Degas House* (2024)
- Clusterfunk, *Loyola University New Orleans* (2024)
- Crescent City Clay Fest Selected Artist (2023).
- Undergrad Juried Exhibition, *Tulane University* (2023).
- NON-REPRESENTATIONAL & UNREAL Juried Art Contest, *Gallery 4%* (2023).

## Publications:

- Phoebe, George Mason University, Issue 54 Volume 2
- Campus Changemakers: Students innovate and create with the Earth in mind (2024). The Wolf, Loyola University New Orleans, Issue 2 Volume 78.
- Loyola artist creates sustainable art for community (2023). The Marron, Loyola University New Orleans
- Emerging Student Artists: Loyola creatives find community on campus (2022). The Marron, Loyola University New Orleans

## REFERENCES

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### Academic:

- Michele Carlson  
Program Head - Studio Arts, *Corcoran School of the Arts & Design*  
[michelecarlson@gwu.edu](mailto:michelecarlson@gwu.edu)
- Maria del Carmen Montoya  
Director of Graduate Studies – Fine Arts, *Corcoran School of the Arts & Design*  
[carmen@gwu.edu](mailto:carmen@gwu.edu)

### Professional:

- Em Petro  
Exhibitions & Programming Associate, *Corcoran School of the Arts & Design*  
[empetro@gwu.edu](mailto:empetro@gwu.edu)
- Camille DeSanto  
Exhibitions & Program Coordinator, Transformer Gallery  
[camille@transformerdc.org](mailto:camille@transformerdc.org)

### Character:

- Joey Enríquez  
Adjunct Faculty, *Corcoran School of the Arts & Design*  
[joeyenriquez@email.gwu.edu](mailto:joeyenriquez@email.gwu.edu)
- Susan Giselson  
Director, *Country Day Creative Arts*  
[susan\\_gisleson@mpcds.com](mailto:susan_gisleson@mpcds.com)

## LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

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### Laser Safety Awareness Training, xTool Official

May 2025 (Credential ID 202505300854448527)