

Electra Michael Pelias

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

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EDUCATION

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: 3.9

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

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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

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

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.

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Summer Art Teacher Assistant

Country Day Creative Arts

June 2016 – July 2023 (summers)

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.

SMALL BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

Freelance Graphic Design

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

May 2020 – present

Founded ElectraMakes in 2020, my personal brand for all my artistic endeavors. I manage a comprehensive online presence through my website, Fairie, Shopify shop, Instagram, and TikTok, with steady growth in both engagement and sales. Additionally, my products are sold in 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.

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 nights theme of "70's prom."

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GPSAW Sticker Design Contest

George Washington University

Spring 2025

Voted best sticker design, 1,000 stickers with the original design were available for free at every event during Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week.

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

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Laser Safety Awareness Training, *xTool Official*

May 2025 (Credential ID 202505300854448527)

PUBLICATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

Solo Exhibitions:

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

Group Exhibitions:

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

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- January 2025 Open Exhibit, *Art League* (2025)
- First Year MFA Show, *Corcoan 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

SKILLS

Artistic and Technical Skills

- **Ceramics:** Handbuilding, wheel throwing, glazing, firing techniques (e.g., raku, stoneware, earthenware)
- **Sculpture:** Modeling, casting, assemblage, mixed media
- **Textile Arts:** Sewing, embroidery, upcycling, fiber arts
- **Digital Art & Design:** Digital manipulation, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Canva, Procreate
- **Carpentry:** Intermediate experience with fabrication and woodworking as well as with power tools (saws, drills, CNC, laser, etc)
- **Screen Printing:** Design, preparation, printing techniques
- **Molding & Casting:** Creating forms and molds for sculpture and ceramics
- **Mixed Media:** Combining traditional and non-traditional materials in art creation
- **Product Design:** Conceptualization, prototyping, user-centered design
- **Laser Cutters & 3D Design:** Operating laser cutting equipment and creating digital 3D models

Project Management & Organizational Skills

- **Budgeting & Cost Management:** Managing project budgets and sourcing materials
- **Event Planning & Coordination:** Organizing art exhibitions, pop-up markets, and community events
- **Team Leadership:** Leading and coordinating a team, especially in the installation of art and displays
- **Research & Trend Analysis:** Using platforms like Pinterest, Shopify, and TikTok for trend research and development
- **Client Relations:** Experience in customer service and client communication in both retail and commissioned art

Educational and Teaching Skills

- **Art Education:** Designing lesson plans, teaching artistic techniques, student engagement
- **Public Speaking:** Presenting research and leading workshops or classes
- **Curriculum Development:** Developing and implementing educational programs for children and adults

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- **Mentorship:** Supporting student and artist development through personalized feedback and guidance

Community Engagement & Social Responsibility

- **Fundraising & Charity Work:** Organizing and running events for local causes
- **Sustainable Practices:** Using eco-friendly materials and processes in art production
- **Volunteer Coordination:** Leading and managing volunteers for events or charitable activities

Software & Technical Tools

- **Microsoft Office Suite:** Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- **Point-of-Sale Systems:** Experience with customer payment processing, inventory management
- **Shopify & E-commerce Platforms:** Setting up and maintaining online stores

Soft Skills

- **Collaboration:** Working across departments or disciplines in art and retail settings
- **Attention to Detail:** Precision in crafting, teaching, and design
- **Adaptability:** Flexibility in responding to creative, technical, or logistical challenges
- **Problem-Solving:** Innovative thinking in overcoming challenges, both in art production and business management
- **Creativity:** Innovating new concepts, processes, and solutions across various mediums and projects, blending artistic vision with functional design.