

Mark Nelson
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"Mark Nelson began his formal education in the arts in the Republic of Panama where he was mentored in painting and live theater. Nelson continue his studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago completing a BFA and an MFA at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Nelson created interdisciplinary public installations for several decades to physically and conceptually engage his audiences. His work is often described as socially conscious and satirical. Many of Nelson's project byproducts, constructions and paintings can be found in private and public collections, including a canvas mural at the US Embassy, Republic of Panama. Nelson has also participated in a variety of public projects such as the 1999 Cows on Parade, Lighthouses on the Mag Mile and the embellishment of sculptural forms in Chicago's Greektown. Mark Nelson been awarded numerous grants and fellowships as an artist and educator from the Chicago department of Cultural Affairs–Office of Fine Arts, Illinois Arts Council, the Golden Apple Foundation, and the Oppenheimer Family Foundation. Mark Nelson is a permanent resident of Chicago's historic Pilsen neighborhood and arts community where his Gringolandia Studio and home has been open annually to the public in participation with the 18th Street Pilsen Open Studios."

EXHIBITIONS and ART PROJECTS

2025

Collective Narratives: Zhou B Art Ctr – Machay Gallery - Chicago, IL (Curated Collective)
One Inspired Evening: Inspiration Corporation - Chicago, IL (Benefit Auction)
Bike Show 2025: Agitator Gallery , Chicago, IL (curated)

2024

21st Annual Cardboard Show: Project Onward, Bridgeport Art Ctr., Chicago. – (fundraiser)
Dear Jazz 2024: Fulton Arts Record Collective, Chicago, IL (curated)
Policy of Truth: Bridgeport Art Center - 4th Floor Gallery, Chicago, IL (curated)
And Now: Agitator Gallery, Chicago, IL (curated)
Little Wise Owls: National Hellenic Museum/Greektown, Chicago (Public sculpture)
Love-Land-Deception: Chicago Art Dept–Anysquared Arts, Chicago, IL (juried collective)
BigAss Blues Collection: Citlalin Gallery & Theater, Chicago, IL (Solo)
Eternal Maternal: HAZroom Gallery, Chicago, IL (juried collective)
6x6: Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, NY (collective 2024 benefit)
One Inspired Evening: Inspiration Corp/Morgan Manufacturing - Chicago, IL (Benefit Auction)
Making Our History: NIU Art Museum - DeKalb, IL (Traveling Collection)
New Year Show: Colby Gallery, Chicago. – (curated collective)

2023

Cardboard Show: Project Onward, Bridgeport Art Ctr., Chicago. – (fundraiser)
Committed to Print: Prospectus Gallery - Chicago, IL (curated)
10 x 10: Jackson Junge Gallery - Chicago, IL (invitational)
Carlos Cortez 100 años: National Museum of Mexican Art , Chicago, IL (curated)
Have you Eaten? Agitator Gallery , Chicago, IL (curated)
Sweet Home Chicago: Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago (juried)
Animal-Agriculture Impact: Urban Art Retreat Center, Chicago
6x6: Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, NY (collective benefit)
Reflections of Resilience: HAZroom Gallery, Chicago, IL (juried)
Home Not Home: Anysquared project, Agitator Gallery , Chicago, IL (curated)
The Dance of Psyche: National Hellenic Museum, Chicago (Public sculpture)
Scapes: Jackson Junge Gallery - Chicago, IL (curated)

The Art Party: Evanston Art Center - Evanston, IL (Benefit Auction)
One Inspired Evening: Inspiration Corp/Morgan Manufacturing - Chicago, IL (Benefit Auction)
Freedom: The Art Center of Highland Park – Highland Park, IL (Juried)
46th Annual Competition: Beverly Art Center - Chicago, IL (Juried -Honorable Mention)
Making Our History: UIS Lincoln Legacy at Beverly Art Center - Chicago, IL (Permanent Collection)

2022

Cardboard Show: Project Onward, Bridgeport Art Ctr., Chicago. – (collective)
10 x 10 Show: Jackson Junge Gallery, Chicago. – (invitational)
PIHCO Benefit: Silent Art Auction, Chicago. – (Curator/participant)
Lincoln Legacy Residency: University of IL in Springfield. – (juried)
20th Annual Pilsen Open Studios: Gringolandia Studio, Chicago (collective sites)
Pilsen Evening Art Walk: Citlalin Art Gallery/Theater, Chicago. – (Invitational)
Art in Place 2022: CNL Projects and Terrain, Chicago. – (International Collective)
Invisible/Visible: Noyes Cultural Arts Center – Evanston, IL – (juried)
My painted Lyre: National Hellenic Museum of Chicago. – (Public sculpture collective)

2021

Yellow Wallpaper Art Exhibition: Chicago Danztheatre Ensemble & RE|dance – (collaboration)
Art on Lockdown: Quad City Arts Ctr – Quad City, IL (Juried Group)
Quarantine Show: Parlor and Ramp Gallery - Chicago, IL (curated group)
Guest Artist: Pirate: Contemporary Art - Lakewood, CO (guest artist)
Liberty and Justice for all? Stola Contemporary Art Gallery - Chicago, IL (juried group)
Hands Up! Citlalin Art Gallery Theater - Chicago, IL (curated group)

2020

Who's Afraid of Red? Gallery Oh - Chicago, IL (juried group)
Re-encounter: Prospectus Art Gallery - Chicago, IL (curated group)
Dia De Los Muertos: The Art Center Highland Park, IL (curated group)
Where's the Revolution? Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, IL (curated group)
Sólo un poco aquí: Dia de los Muertos: National Museum of Mexican Art - Chicago, IL
Humanity Amorphic: Evanston Art Center - Evanston, IL (SOLO)
Art in place: CNL Projects - Chicago, IL (International collective)

2019

Human Rights: Uri Eichen Gallery - Chicago, IL (collective)
Confessions of an X-Zonian: Triton College Art Gallery – River Grove, IL (SOLO)
Journey to Korea: OPEN Ctr for the Arts - Chicago, IL (collective)
Fall Show: Oak Park Art League – Oak Park, IL (collective)
Colectivo: Triton College Art Gallery – River Grove, IL (collective)
Safe Passage: Chicago Teachers Union - Chicago, IL (loan)
Made in Pilsen XIV: Prospectus Gallery - Chicago, IL (collective)
Narratives of Necessity: Three Seeds Gallery - Chicago, IL (SOLO)
From the Vault: Prospectus Gallery - Chicago, IL (collective)
Opalescence: Oak Park Art League, Oak Park, IL (collective)
One Inspired Evening: Inspiration Corp - Chicago, IL (curated)
All Politics are Local: Jackson Junge Gallery - Chicago, IL (curated)

2018

Homecoming: Oak Park Art League – Oak Park, IL (members)
Made in Pilsen XIII: Prospectus Gallery - Chicago, IL (curated)
Cardboard Show: Co-Prosperity Sphere - Chicago, IL (curated)
Sounds of Music: Jackson Junge Gallery - Chicago, IL (curated)
Invisibilia: Governors State Univ. Art Gallery - Monee, IL (juried)
From the Vault: Prospectus Gallery - Chicago, IL (curated)

Lighthouses on the Mag Mile: “Dream” 626 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL
Fox River Arts Ramble 2018: Gallery 1904 - Aurora, IL (invitational)
Steam Punk Show: Triton College Art Gallery – River Grove, IL (invitational)
14th Annual Benefit: Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art - Chicago, IL
Sounds of Painting: Prospectus Gallery - Chicago, IL (SOLO)
Identity/People: Gallery 1904 - Aurora, IL (collective)

2017

Superstitions portfolio: Coronado Print Studio, New York, NY (curated)
Chornobyl - artists respond: Ukrainian Institute of America, New York, NY (curated)
Jazz Record Art Collective: Fulton St. Collective - 3/22/17, Chicago, IL (invitational)
Witness: the artist's response: Elephant Room Gallery - Chicago, IL (juried)
College Art Faculty Invitational: Gallery 215 - NIU at Dekalb, IL (juried)

2016

Traditional to Contemporary: Oak Park Arts League, Oak Park, IL – (juried)
Inequity Reversal: West Suburban Medical Center, Oak Park, IL (solo)
Democritique; Hairpin Arts Center, Chicago, IL - Curated
Members Show; Oak Park Arts League, Oak Park, IL - juried
Art on Cardboard Show; Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago
ConTextual; Oak Park Arts League, Oak Park, IL - juried
Made in Pilsen XI: Prospectus Art Gallery, Chicago - Curated
Triumph over Chaos: Vleck Gallery - Catholic Theological Union, Hyde Park, IL
Chuee Taxua: Ferguson Art Gallery - Concordia Univ. Chicago, River Forest, IL
Endangered Species: Prospectus Gallery, Chicago, IL (SOLO)
Places Spaces: Oak Park Art League, Oak Park, IL
2nd Annual Educator Show: Bridgeport Art Ctr., Chicago – Honorable Mention

2015

Art on Cardboard Show: Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, IL (collective).
Chuee Taxua: Museo de Arte Indígena Contemporáneo en Cuernavaca Mor., Mexico - (Curated)
La Muerte Nina/Dia de los Muertos: National Museum of Mexican Art-Chicago, IL (Curated)
Made in Pilsen X: Prospectus Gallery - Chicago, IL (Curated)
Folktales and Legends: John Michael Kohler Arts Center - Sheboygan, WI (juried)
Climate Crisis Solutions: Water Street Studios Gallery, Batavia, IL. (Juried)
Art Educators Show: Illinois Institute of Art, Chicago. (Collective)

2014

Annual Cardboard Show: Project Onward-Bridgeport Art Center; Chicago, IL (collective)
So Much More: Swedish Covenant Hospital; Chicago, IL (juried collective)
Made in Pilsen IX: Prospectus Gallery, Chicago, IL (curated)
Southside MANIFESTO: Co-Prosperity Sphere; Chicago, IL (collective)
Survival, Spirit, ... Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art; Chicago, IL (4 person show)
Artists on Board, ... Reverie Gallery-Lacuna Artist Lofts; Chicago, IL & Portland, OR
Paraná; Paperish Mess, Chicago, IL (Installation)
Gestos Graficos: Rene Arceo and Friends; Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, IL (collective)

2013

CTU Strike 1yr Anniversary Art Show: URI-EICHEN Gallery; Chicago, IL (collective)
Haiyan Relief Fundraiser: Co-Prosperity Sphere; Chicago, IL (collective)
11th Annual Cardboard Show: Bridgeport Arts Center; Chicago, IL (collective)
Made in Pilsen VIII: Prospectus Gallery, Chicago, IL (collective)
Passages: Swedish Covenant Hospital, Chicago - Juried (collective)
Indecent Liquidation: Prospectus Gallery, Chicago - 1 Person Show
One Inspired Evening-Benefit: Stephen M. Bailey Auditorium, Chicago - Juried (Collective)

2012

Made in Pilsen VII: **Prospectus Gallery**, Chicago, IL
Hanal Pixan: food for the Souls; **National Museum of Mexican Art**, Chicago
A Conspiracy of Silence*; **Triton College Gallery, River Grove, IL
We are the Awakening, 6902 N. Glenwood, Chicago, IL
Keepers; **National Museum of Mexican Art**, Chicago, IL
Santitos Portfolio; **Casa Tres Mundos**, Chicago, Granada, Nicaragua (Traveling group show)

2011

*Reverse Engineering; **Carlos & Dominguez Fine Arts Gallery**, Chicago
Made in Pilsen; **Prospectus Gallery**, Chicago, IL
Testimony of Being; **Swedish Covenant Hospital**, Chicago - Juried
Arceo Press Print Portfolio; **Ferguson Art Gallery**, Concordia Univ., River Forest, IL

2010

Made in Pilsen V; **Prospectus Gallery**, Chicago
From the Wash; **Antena**, Chicago
Collective Show; **Old Town School of Folk Music**, Chicago

2009

Collective Show; **Casa Aztlan**, Chicago
Mutations; **Douglas Park Field House**, Chicago
Made in Pilsen IV; **Prospectus Gallery**, Chicago
Peace in Pilsen Benefit Auction; **Carlos and Dominguez Fine Art Gallery**
End of the 80's; **Avram Eisen Gallery**, Chicago
Los Artistas de la Calle 18; **World Gym-Pilsen**, Chicago
One Inspired Evening-Juried Benefit; **River East Art Center**, Chicago
Celebration 2009; **Prospectus Gallery**, Chicago

2008

If Artist Ran the Media; **C33 Gallery**, 33 East Congress Ave., Chicago
*Art of the Ride: **Motoworks Chicago** - SOLO
Experiencing the War in Iraq: **Machines with Magnets**, Pawtucket, Rhode Island
30 Years and Moving On: **Prospectus Gallery**, Chicago
Made in Pilsen III: **Prospectus Gallery**, Chicago

2007

Collective Show: **Colby Gallery**, Chicago
18th St. Pilsen Open Studios: **GringoLandia Studio**, Chicago
Pass it On: **Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art**; Chicago
Mural Acquisition: Permanent Collection for **U.S. Embassy, Panama**
Made in Pilsen 2: **Prospectus Gallery**, Chicago
*Dusk to Dawn: **Cafe Duvall**, Chicago - SOLO
Kigali Rwanda Benefit: **Univ. of IL** at Chicago
POLVO Benefit: 18th Street, **POLVO**, Chicago
Art of Teaching: **Gallery 37 Center Space**, Chicago

2006

Made in Pilsen: **Prospectus Gallery**, Chicago
Chicago Art Open: **Zhou B. Art Center**, Chicago
Bare Walls: **SAIC** - 847 W. Jackson Bldg., Chicago
Beyond Teaching I: **South Shore Cultural Center**, Chicago
Beyond Teaching II: **Cafe Mestizo**, Chicago
Beyond Teaching III: **Casa Michoacan**, Chicago

Greed: **Pilsen Cultural Celebration**: Harrison Pk, Chicago
Opt-in: **Chicago Music Garage**, Chicago
The Art of Teaching: **Gallery 37 - Center Space**, Chicago
Navigating the Landscape:* **Prospectus Gallery, Chicago – SOLO

2005

Classic Cymbals: **Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra**, Traveling exhibition through 2006
Art for Animals Auction: **Chicago Cultural/Center Tree House Animal Foundation**
18th St. Pilsen Open Studios: **GringoLandia Studio**, Chicago
Hometown Video Festival: **Alliance for Community Media**, Monterey, California
Eminent Domain: **Pilsen Cultural Celebration, Harrison Park**, Chicago
POLVO Benefit: **POLVO**, Chicago
Chicago Homeland Expo: **McCormick Center**, Chicago - SOLO
Art of Teaching: **Gallery 37 Center Space**, Chicago
Cardboard 2: **Birdhouse museum installed on S. Morgan St.**, Chicago

2004

Chicago Art Open: **Vietnam Veterans Art Museum**, Chicago
Artist as Terrorists 2: **POLVO**, 18th St, Chicago
Art and War: the artists voice **Aldo Castillo Gallery**, Chicago
War and Peace: **Gallery 415**, Chicago
Portraits of Imagination: **CCT Gallery**, Chicago
Barewalls: **SAIC** 847 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago
18th St. Pilsen Open Studios: **GringoLandia Studio**, Chicago
Tu Casa es Mi Casa: **POLVO**, Chicago

2003

Alas de Papel: 2000-2004 **Montreal, Mexico City, Cordova, Chicago, Managua**
Chicago Solution Show: **Gallery on Lake**, Chicago
Globalization Show: **Hothouse Gallery**, Chicago
Chicago Art Open: **847 W. Jackson Blvd.**, Chicago
Art & Industry: **Union Street Gallery** - Chicago Heights, IL
Bare Walls: **SAIC-847 W. Jackson Blvd.**, Chicago
Urban edge: **BAAC**, Barrington, IL
Visual Candy: **Butcher shop**, Chicago
Artist as Terrorist: **POLVO**, Chicago
The El: **Hothouse Gallery**, Chicago
Artists against the War: **Chicago Athenaeum-Museum**, Schaumburg, IL.
18th St. Pilsen Open Studios: **Gringolandia Studio**, Chicago
The Art of Teaching: **Gallery 37 Center Space**, Chicago

2002

Udderly Suite: **Chicago Historical Society** - Museum
Casa Michoacan auction: **Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum**, Chicago
SPECTRUM: **Chicago Athenaeum-Museum**, Schaumburg, IL
Sept. 11 Show: **Chicago Athenaeum-Museum**, Schaumburg, IL
911 Show & Erotic Show: **JettSett Gallery**, Chicago
Bare Walls: **SAIC- 847 W. Jackson Blvd.**, Chicago
Chicago Art Open: **847 W. Jackson Blvd.**, Chicago
The Art of Teaching: **Marwen-833 N. Orleans**, Chicago

2001

Hemingway Show: **Hemingway Museum**, Oak Park, IL
Art for Sara's Sake: **Swedish American Museum**, Chicago
Operation Icarus: **Gringolandia Studio**, Open-air installation launching
24th Annual Exhibition: **Beverly Art Center**, Chicago

2000

Chicago PingPong 2000: Pump Station Gallery-Water Tower, Chicago Public Art Program

Absolut Visions-art 2000: Gwendajay A. Gallery, Chicago

The Midway Show: Las Manos Gallery, Chicago

**Tales from GringoLandia: Harry S. Truman College*, Chicago – SOLO

1999

Sightings: Gwendajay A. Gallery, Chicago

Cows on Parade: Hancock Tower Building on Michigan Ave., Chicago

**Original Recipe: Builders Bank*, Chicago

1998

Chicago Art Open: 847 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago

Against the Nightstick: Casa Guatemala, Chicago

Bok Guai: A.T.Coyote Festival, Chicago

**GringoLandia HeirLines: Chicago Public Library*, Chicago - SOLO

Collective Exhibitions: Las Manos Gallery, Chicago

1997

West Town Realty Scandals: A.T. Coyote Festival, Chicago

Lost and Found: Gallery 7000, Chicago

1996

Americana Show: Imperfect Fluids Gallery, Chicago

GringoLandia 22: A.T. Coyote Festival, Chicago

1994

Erotica Show: Naked "T" Gallery, Saint Charles, IL

Full Box/Empty Culture: Process Bldg., 935 N. Damen, Chicago

1993

Mr. Whitey's Wild Ride: Crux Gallery, Chicago

Disco Gazebo: APO Bldg., 18th St., Chicago

Red Line: Feral Dog Gallery, Chicago

New Art Examiner Auction: World Tattoo Gallery, Chicago

Collective Show: LayAway Gallery, Chicago

1992

ReCycle America: Reicher Gallery-Barat College-Lake Forest, IL North Pier, Illinois St.- Chicago

Collective Show: Beret International Gallery, Chicago

Artist-in-Residence Show: Oak Park Civic Arts Council, Oak Park, IL

1991

GringoLandia II: North Lakeside Cultural Center, Chicago

Collective Show: Erie Street Gallery, Chicago

1990

**GringoLandia: ARC Gallery RAW SPACE*, Chicago - SOLO

Your Message Here: Randolph Street Galley, Chicago

**Terratenientes: Galeria Uniques*, Panama City, R.P. – SOLO

1989

13th Annual Competition: Beverly Art Center, Chicago

Prints by Illinois Artists: State University of New York, Stony Brook, NY

Artists Define Furniture: **ARC Gallery**, Chicago
Landscape/Mindscape: **ARC Gallery**, Chicago
Black and White Show: **ARC Gallery**, Chicago

1988

Modern Love: **ARC Gallery**, Chicago
N.A.M.E. Re-Membered: **203 W. Lake St**, Chicago
Art Fun/Life Serious: **Prairie Avenue Gallery**, Chicago
The Historical Moment: **Gallery 400**, UIC, Chicago
15 Years 15 Walls: **ARC Gallery**, Chicago
The Incredible Museum:* **A.M. Ward Gallery, Chicago – SOLO

1987

Hung Jury: **NAB Gallery**, Chicago
Chicago Transit: **Prairie Avenue Gallery**, Chicago
11th Annual Exhibition: **Beverly Art Center**, Chicago
Dia de los Muertos: **Objects Gallery**, Chicago

1986

Two by Two: **International Art Expo - Navy Pier**, Chicago

1985

American Artists in Panama': **U.S. Embassy Residence, Panama'**
Subasta Pro Museo: **Museo de Arte Contemporaneo**, Panama'

1984

Mark Nelson '84:* **Teatro Anayansi, ATLAPA Center, Panama' - SOLO

1983

ArteGulf 83: **Museo de Arte Contemporaneo**, Panama'

EDUCATION:

SAIC (**42 Post Grad. Credits**) 1996-2013
University of Illinois at Chicago (**MFA**) 1988
School of the Art Institute of Chicago (**BFA**) 1986
Canal Zone College, Panama (**AA**) 1982
Escuela Nacional de Artes Plasticas, Casco Viejo – Panama 1982-83
Universidad Nacional de Panama', Arquitectura/Diseno Grafico 1981- 82

AWARDS

2023 Honorable Mention – 46th Annual Competiton, Beverly Art Center, Chicago
2015 Project Micheaux – Donorschoose.org
2014 Photography Program Award – Chicago Photographic Society
2013 Oppy Award – Oppenheimer Family Foundation
2012-2013 Intuit Teaching Fellowship, Intuit Center, Chicago
2008 Teacher of Distinction, Golden Apple Foundation
2006 1st Place-Art of Teaching, Gallery 37
2005 Honorable Mention-Hometown Video Festival
2005 2nd Place-Art of Teaching, Gallery 37
2003, 1991 Illinois Arts Council Fellowship
2003 First Place Award, Barrington Area Arts Council
2003 Academic Achievement through the Arts-CPS
1999, 2002, 03, 04, 06, 08 Chicago Foundation for Education
1997, 96, 2001, 04, 06 Chicago Cultural Affairs CAAP
1997 IAC Special Assistance Grant
1993, 94, 2001, 02 Chicago Cultural Affairs NAP

1997, 99, 02, 03, 04, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, **16 Oppenheimer Teaching Grant**
2001, 2002 CPS Art Enhancement Grant
2008, 2012 Donors Choose Funded Teaching Projects

REVIEWS and INTERVIEWS

2024 CAN TV/TRENDNATION – Ch 19 Interviews; series 8 Episodes 3 & 4
2022 Making Our History/The Storytellers Studio – Video Produced by UIS
2020 Chicago Gallery News- Mark Nelson: Humanity Amorphic
2020 Virtual Artist Talk/Humanity Amorphic – Video by Evanston Art Center
10-20-19 Badass Teachers Association – CTU Strike Artistic Representation
10-16-16 Vocalo Radio 91.1 FM, Chicago - artists exchange ideas on social issues
10-11 Arte del Barrio -Univision, Enrique Ortiz - Emmy Award Recipient 2012
10-08 1Tail.com/sa/news - Oct 2
11-07 La Raza, Chicago
7-07 La Prensa, Panama'
5-06 Chicago Artists News
6-02 ArtScope.net
9-99 Sun Times
4-99- Hyde Park Herald
5-99 Lerner News
4-93- Chicago Tribune
4-93- Chicago Sun Times
4-93- New Art Examiner
6-91- Chicago Reader

PUBLISHED & SCREENED

2012 *Video Shorts for MNRR-NPS, Youtube.com/missouririvernp*
2011 *Pancho," the art of Francisco Mendoza, Chicago CAN TV April*
2010-2011 *Video Shorts for PEFO-NPS, Youtube.com/petrifiedforestnp*
2006 Chicago Artists Resource: Artist Story: Mark Nelson
2000 *Urban Art Chicago: Olivia Gude and Jeff Huebner, Ivan R. Dee: Publisher*
1999 *Cows on Parade in Chicago: Neptun Art Press*
2005 *Vecinos: Hometown Video Festival, Olympia-Washington & Monterey, California*
2004 Comcast Cable Stations (11 Chicago Suburbs, Chicago CAN TV-Ch.21,
Meztili Cinema/Gallery; 556 W. 18th St., Chicago, POLVO; 18th ST., Chicago