

Woolpunk

Born in Summit, New Jersey, 1971.
Lives and works in Jersey City, NJ

EDUCATION

2001 Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, MFA
2001 Douglas College, Rutgers University, Women's Studies Certificate
1993 Catholic University, Washington, DC., BA in Studio Art

HONORS

2018 New Jersey Arts Annual
2018 Advisory Board Committee, Apple Tree House, City of Jersey City, NJ
2017 Visual Arts Committee, Jersey City Arts Council, NJ
201614C Art Fair Committee, Jersey City Arts Council, NJ
2016 Advisory Board Committee, Educational Arts Team, Jersey City, NJ
2014 Guest Lecturer, JerseyScapes, New Jersey City University, NJ
2013 Robinhood Foundation Grant, "Sandy, One Year..", Hoboken Museum, NJ
2011 Woman of Action Award for PSE&G Mural Program, City of Jersey City, NJ
2011 "Grant Street..", Collection of Hudson County Community College, NJ
2010 "Pacific Court", Collection of Jersey City Museum, NJ
2009 _gaia Residency Program, NJ
2008 New Jersey Arts Annual
2007 "Hunt and Gather" Guest Lecturer with Paddy Johnson of Art F City, Jersey City Museum, NJ
2007 Guest Lecturer and Curator, Pace University, NYC
2007 Guest Panelist, Lateral Attitudes, Raritan Valley College, NJ
2005 New Jersey Public Radio State of the Arts: Artist of the Month
2005 Guest Panelist, Circa Craft, Jersey City Museum
2005 New Jersey Crafts Annual
2004 "Cast" Collection of Casaterra Residency Program, Puglia, Italy
2004 Geraldine Dodge and Fine Arts Work Center Grant Award, MA
2004 Casaterra Residency Program, Italy
2004 Goldman and Sachs Arts Grant Award, NJ
2004 Puffin Foundation Artist Award, NJ
1999-01 Teaching Assistantship, Rutgers University, NJ
1994-95 Artist in Residence, RCVolunteers, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, SD

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015 Gimme Shelter Project, Windows at Columbus, Jersey City, NJ. Eileen Ferara, Curator
2014 Gimme Shelter Project, Owen Grundy Pier, Jersey City, NJ. Luca Cusolito, Curator
2013-14 Tornado II, South Mountain Conservancy Wildflower Sculpture Park, South Orange, NJ
2011 Love Your River Project, Pierro Gallery, South Orange, NJ. Sandy Martiny, Curator
2010 Interference, Lion Brand Yarn Studio, NY
2009 Water falls., Hunterdon Museum, Clinton, NJ. Mary Birmingham, Curator
2008 Threads, Object and Thought Gallery, Denver, Colorado
2007 Knot Constructs, The Garage, Jersey City, NJ. Margaret Murphy, Curator
2006 Communal Ties, City Hall, Jersey City, NJ
2005 Bound, Jersey City Museum, NJ. Rocio Aranda-Alvarado, PHD., Curator
2003 Shroud Series, Salve Regina Gallery, Washington DC
2002 Re-Form, Brunswick Window, Jersey City, NJ, Roger Sayre, Curator
2001 Knitting Lessons, Mason Gross Galleries, New Brunswick, NJ

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 Morir Sonando, Knock Down Center, NY. Alex Santana, Curator
2018 Maurice Sendak School Art Auction, NY. Chris Bors & Ketta Iannidou, Curators
2017 The Matrix, Long Island City University, NY. Fred Fleisher, Curator
2017 Quantum Overdrive, Hudson County Community College, NJ. Fred Fleisher, Curator

2016 La Storia, Casa Colombo Center for the Arts, NJ
 2016 Contemporary Hudson, Hudson County Community College, NJ. Laurie Riccadonna, Curator
 2015 The Big Show, Art Factory, Paterson, NJ. Matt Gosser, Curator
 2014 Jerseyscapes, NJCU University, NJ. Midori Yoshimoto, Curator
 2014 Threads, Art Factory, Paterson, NJ. Lillian Ribiero, Curator
 2012 Perception Shifts, Stockton College, NJ. Heather Gibson, Curator
 2012 Digital Weavings: Pat Lay & Michelle Vitale Loughlin, Woolpunkstudios
 2011-12 Value of Water, St John Cathedral, NY. Fredericka Foster, Curator
 2011 Home, _gaia, NJCU University, NJ. Doris Cacoilo, Curator.
 2011 Aljira Auction, Aljira: A Center for Contemporary Art, Newark, NJ
 2010 Emerging Patterns, Arts Council of Morris, NJ. Midori Yoshimoto, Curator
 2010 Natural Selections, Greylocke Arts, North Adams, MA
 2010 (Re)Fashioning Fiber, Green Spaces, NY. Abigail Doan, Curator
 2009 New Look, Same Great Taste, Jersey City Museum, NJ. Rocio Aranda-Alvarado, PHD., Curator
 2009 Uncommon Threads, Seton Hall University, Jeanne Brasile, Curator
 2009 Money!, ABC NO RIO, NY, Vandana Jain & Doris Cacoilo, Curators
 2008-09 Your Documents Please, International traveling exhibition to Arts & Crafts Museum in Japan, Galerie Kurt
 I'm Hirsch in Berlin, among others. Daniel Georges & Rumi Tsuda, Curators
 2008 Of The Cloth, Shore Institute of Contemporary Art, Long Branch, NJ
 2008 Sprawl, NJ Arts Annual, Jersey City Museum, NJ. Catalogue.
 2008 Sculptoure, The Shore Institute of Contemporary Art, Long Branch, NJ
 2007 This Is That, Pace University, Westchester & Manhattan, NY
 2007 Lateral Attitudes, Raritan Comm. College, NJ. Catalogue. Tom Mc Glynn, Curator
 2007 Noah's Ark, Shore Institute of Art, NJ. Brendan Carroll, Curator
 2006 Faculty Exhibition, Newark Museum, NJ
 2006 The Sum of All Parts, The Hogar Collection, Brooklyn, NY
 2005 "(K)nots", NJCU University, NJ. Michelle Vitale, Curator, Catalogue
 2005 Contemporary Drawing, Brookdale Community College, NJ. Aaron Williams, Curator
 2004 Nomadic Poets, Casaterra, Italy
 2004 AV Club, Victory Hall, Jersey City, NJ. Michelle Vitale, Curator

SELECTED PRESS & PUBLICATIONS

2018 "In Conversation with Alex Santana: On Curating Morir Sonando.." Jasmin Hernandez, gallerygurls.tumblr.com
 2018 "Morir Sonando", artnews.com
 2017 "The Matrix" Long Island City University Exhibition Catalog, Fred Fleisher
 2017 "Protest Quilt With Bazooka", Remembering Why We Need Impeachment", thetrumppeachment.net
 2016 "La Storia: Jen Mazza, Laurie Riccadonna and Michelle Vitale", This Week Must See, artfcity.com
 2016 "Michelle Vitale", chicpeaJC, www.chicpeajc.com
 2015 "As Artists We Protest Everyday. We inspire change.." Becky Nickolls, artistscribes.com
 2015 "Michelle Vitale, American Artist..", Branding a Better You Podcast with Susan Newman
 2015 "Choosing a Community", featured at Parsons School of Design
 2015 "Gimme Shelter Project", Push Pause, Verizon Fios Channel 1
 2015 "Gimme Shelter Stitch In" featured on Channel 12 News
 2015 "A Stitch In Time Can...", Matthew Speiser, Jersey Journal
 2015 "Jersey City Artist..", Summer Dawn Hortillosa, Jersey Journal
 2013 "Colorful Life Returns to Jersey City", Brendan Carroll, Hyperallic
 2013 "Oral Histories of Sandy", Tammy La Gorce, New York Times
 2012 "Value of Water", St John Divine Cathedral, World Policy Blog
 2012 "Value of Water", St John Divine Cathedral, Vimeo
 2012 "Newly Opened Woolpunk.." Summer Dawn Hortillosa, Jersey Journal
 2011 "Former Jersey City..." Brendan Carroll, Jersey City Independent
 2010 Woolpunk Extraordinaire, Abigail Doan, Eccoeco
 2009 "New Meanings..", Sabrina Gschwandter, Interweave Magazine
 2009 "Family Skills for the 21st Century", Hildy York, Surface Design Journal
 2009 "Home Sweet Home", Jessica Hemmings, Embroidery Magazine
 2009 Sprawl Exhibition Catalog, Rocio Aranda-Alvarado PHD
 2007 "This Is That", Patty Johnson, Art F City
 2007 Lateral Attitudes Exhibition Catalog, Tom McGlynn
 2006 (K)nots Exhibition Catalog, Michelle Vitale

2006 Circa Craft Exhibition Catalog, Rocio Aranda-Alvarado, PHD
2005 "State of the Arts", NJN Radio, Peter Shea
2005 "Taking Art To The Streets", Jersey City Magazine, Peter Zinsil
2005 "Shrouds Series No 2", Featured in Puffin Foundation Catalog

"The resonance in Michelle Vitale's work results from her willingness to layer and integrate visual and physical components, image and architecture, photography and traditional craft, environmental conscience and unconventional colorful installation. Vitale is an artist in mid-reach, and a big and brave reach it is, testing a number of creative possibilities".

Hildreth York, Surface Design Journal, 2009

Woolpunk (aka Michelle Vitale) is an American artist born in Summit, NJ in 1971. Woolpunk, inspired by an immigrant seamstress grandmother who sewed American flags for a living, machine knits fiber installations, quilts sculptures and embroiders photographs. She has created large-scale site specific forms for a variety of institutions including the Cathedral of St John the Divine in Manhattan, Hunterdon Museum in Clinton, New Jersey, Lion Brand Yarn Studio in Manhattan, and Casaterra Artist Residency in Puglia, Italy. Her work has been exhibited at The Arts and Crafts Museum in Itami, Japan, ABC No Rio in Manhattan, and Galerie Kurt I'm Hirsch in Berlin, Germany. Woolpunk has been highlighted in several publications including Surface Design Journal and Embroidery Magazine. She has received grants from the Puffin Foundation, Goldman Sachs, Geraldine Dodge Foundation, The Fine Arts Work Center, among others.