

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information

Rebekah Baker | Gallery Director

312-738-0400 | general@womanmade.org



Bodies Luminous

May 23 – June 20, 2026 | Reception: Saturday, May 23 | 6–8 PM

Artists Walkthrough: Saturday, June 20 | 2–4 PM CST

Curating Team: Madeline McConico, Sarah Peecher, Ren Buchness



Artwork by Jennifer Warren

CHICAGO—Woman Made Gallery (WMG) presents *Bodies Luminous*, an exhibition featuring two- and three-dimensional works and installations by 30 women and non-binary artists working across a wide range of mediums.

Inspired by Diamond Forde's poem "Fat girl Dances with a Stranger at a Block Party," the exhibition explores our complex, evolving, and deeply personal relationships to our bodies. Embracing expressions of joy, *Bodies Luminous* fosters a space where all bodies are seen, celebrated, and luminous.

The works reflect the rich diversity of ways artists interpret themes of embodiment, from the dysmorphic to the beautiful, the tender to the exuberant, with a particular embrace of body celebration and hope.

Exhibition Events

The exhibition opens with an artist reception at Woman Made Gallery, 1332 S. Halsted St. in Chicago, on Saturday, May 23, from 6 to 8 p.m.

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The Closing Reception includes an Artist Walkthrough on Saturday, June 20 from 2 to 4 p.m., offering a final opportunity to meet the participating artists in person. Events at WMG are free and open to the public.

Exhibiting Artists: Julieta Beltran Lazo, Maura Benson, Molly Borth, Liya Du, Sarah Gerbasi, Julie Glass, Erin Gleason, Amy Hanks, London Heist, Hippo Artz, Anke Huyben, Mia Johnson, Lili Jones, Dahye Jung, Yuliya Klochan, Laurie LeBreton, Teresa Magana, Glenda Mah, Kathie Foley-Meyer, Mercury.N, Jacqueline W. Nuzzo, Kayla D. Smith, Daun Suh, Susanne Swanson Bernard, Skye Terry, Jennifer Warren, Leni Mae Wiegand

Art and Poetry Pairs: Izzy Cho & Dawn Angelicca Barcelona, Xakilah Daniel & Deanna Whitlow, Nitya Mehrotra & Tanya Leon-Moreno, Kinsey Nelson & Kala Wahl, Mariana Noreña & Alyx Chandler, Emi O’Brochta & Bea Forkan

Curating Team: Madeline McConico, Sarah Peecher, Ren Buchness

Madeline McConico is an interdisciplinary poet, editor, and curator with an MFA from Columbia College Chicago, currently pursuing her PhD in English at Georgia State University. She serves as Editor-in-Chief of Frontier Poetry and Co-Founder of Unwoven Literary & Arts Magazine.

Sarah Peecher is a Chicago-based poet, educator, and editor holding an MFA from Columbia College Chicago. She teaches at Roosevelt University, serves as Associate Editor of Frontier Poetry, and is the author of the debut chapbook KEELING (Finishing Line Press, 2025).

Ren Buchness (they/them) is a Tucson-based contemporary artist and fat, queer activist whose painting and performance work explores queer and trans experiences. They hold an MFA from the University of Arizona and teach fine art at local colleges and universities.

View the exhibition online: <https://womanmade.org/bodies-luminous>

Gallery Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 12–5 PM

Woman Made Gallery | <http://womanmade.org> | 312-738-0400 | general@womanmade.org | 1332 S. Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60607 | Street parking; parking garage nearby

IG: <https://www.instagram.com/womanmadegallery/> | [facebook.com/womanmadegallery.1992](https://www.facebook.com/womanmadegallery.1992)

Statement on Organizational Neutrality

As a registered Illinois 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Woman Made Gallery does not endorse or oppose political candidates or parties and refrains from promoting personal ideological or religious beliefs. All exhibitions, partnerships, and communications are guided by the gallery's mission — supporting women and non-binary artists through inclusive, equitable programming — with a focus on artistic merit, diversity of perspective, and respectful dialogue. Staff, board members, and affiliates are expected to distinguish personal opinions from organizational positions and to use WMG's platform solely in service of its mission.

Woman Made Gallery is supported in part by grants from [The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events](#); [The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation](#); [The Illinois Arts Council Agency](#); a major anonymous donor; and the generosity of its members and contributors.