

Melissa Cody Biography

1983

Born in No Water Mesa, Navajo Nation, Arizona

Enrolled Member of the Navajo Nation
Lives and works in Los Angeles, California

EDUCATION

2007

Institute of American Indian Arts

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017

Future Tradition: Melissa Cody, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston, Texas, February 3–May 28

2023–2024

Melissa Cody: Webbed Skies, Museum of Art São Paulo (MASP), Sao Paulo, Brazil, October 10, 2023–January 21, 2024; MoMA PS1, New York, New York, April 4–September 2, 2024.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2007–2008

Family Ties: Young Navajo Weavers, Heard Museum West, Surprise, Arizona, September 8, 2007–March 30, 2008

2010

Turning Point: Navajo Weaving in the Late 20th Century, Cooper Gallery, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, Nebraska, October 1–November 30

2012

Messengers 2012, Rainmaker Gallery, Bristol, United Kingdom, June 13–July 25

2014

Navajo Weaving: Tradition and Trade, Stark Museum of Art, Orange, Texas, February 8–July 12

2017–2018

Connective Tissue: New Approaches to Fiber in Contemporary Native Art, Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico, July 7, 2017–January 21, 2018

2018

Edgewater Reflections, Ingham Chapman Gallery, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 22–February 27

Footprints Forward: Navajo Contemporary Artists Post-1868, Navajo Nation Museum, Window Rock, Arizona, October 26–December

2018–2019

SITELines.2018: Casa Tomada, SITE Santa Fe, New Mexico, August 3, 2018–January 6, 2019

2019

Interwoven, MASS Gallery, Austin, Texas, January 25–March 2

Self, Made, Exploratorium, San Francisco, California, May 23–September 2

Artists for a New Era: Nine 4 Ninety, Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona, June 23–October 13

Heritage, Rebecca Camacho Presents, San Francisco, California, October 4–November 9

2019–2020

Àbadakone | Continuous Fire | Feu continuel, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, November 8, 2019–October 4, 2020

2019–2022

Color Riot! How Color Changed Navajo Textiles, Heard Museum, Phoenix, Arizona, April 5–September 2, 2019; Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, Florida, December 19, 2020–March 14, 2021; Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, New Jersey, September 10, 2021–January 2, 2022

2021

Crafting America, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, February 6–May 31

2022

*Water, Wind, Breath: Southwest Native Art in
Community*, Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania, February 20–May 15

2023

Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living, Hammer Museum,
Los Angeles, California, October 1–December 31,
2023

2023–2024

Diné Textiles/Nizhónígo Hadadít'eh, RISD Museum,
Providence, Rhode Island, September 2, 2023–
September 29, 2024

*The Land Carries Our Ancestors: Contemporary
Art by Native Americans*, National Gallery of Art,
Washington D.C., September 22, 2023–January 15,
2024

2024

*To Take Shape and Meaning: Form and Design in
American Indian Art*, North Carolina Museum of
Art, Raleigh, North Carolina, March 2 – July 28,
2024

Selected Bibliography

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

The Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville,
Arkansas
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco,
California
Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Museu de Arte de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, California
Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence,
Rhode Island
Stark Museum of Art, Orange, Texas
Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

BOOKS AND CATALOGUES

Besaw, Mindy N., Candice Hopkins, Manuela Well-Off-
Man, eds. *Art for a New Understanding*. Fayetteville,
Arkansas: University of Arkansas Press, 2018.
Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand &
MoMA PS1, *Melissa Cody: Webbed Skies*. São Paulo:
MASP, 2023.
Quick-to-See Smith, Jaune, et al., eds. *The Land
Carries Our Ancestors: Contemporary Art by Native
Americans*. Washington D.C.: National Gallery of Art,
2023.
Site Santa Fe. *SITELines 2018: Casa Tomada*. Santa Fe:
SITE Santa Fe, 2018.
Webster, Laurie D, D. Y. Begay, Lynda Teller Pete, and
Louise Stiver. *Navajo Textiles: The Crane Collection at
the Denver Museum of Nature and Science*. Denver:
University Press of Colorado, 2017.
Well-Off-Man, Manuela, ed. *Connective Tissue: New
Approaches to Fiber in Contemporary Native Art*.
Santa Fe: Art Guild Press, 2017.
Wertz, Jay. *The Native American Experience*. New York:
Metro Books, 2012.
Williams, Lucy Fowler, ed. *Water, Wind, Breath:
Southwest Native Art in the Barnes Foundation*. New
Haven: Yale University Press, 2022.

PERIODICALS

"2017 SWAIA Report: Melissa Cody (Navajo)." *Native
American Art Magazine*, October/November 2017:

130.

"7 Extraordinary Artworks to Seek Out at the Newly
Returned ADAA Art Show in New York." *Artnet News*,
November 4, 2021.
Art in America 107, no. 2 (2019): cover.
Boyd, Kealey. "Porous Definitions of Home and
Belonging at the Santa Fe SITE Biennial."
Hyperallergic, November 29, 2018.
"Color Riot!" *Native American Art Magazine*, October/
November 2021.
Corriel, Michele. "Illuminations: Melissa Cody." *Western
Art and Architecture*, June/July 2019.
Davis, Kathryn M. "Connective Tissue: New Approaches
to Fiber in Contemporary Native Art." *Southwest
Contemporary*, September 1, 2017.
Durón, Maximiliano and Alex Greenberger. "L.A. Artists
to Watch: Melissa Cody." *Art News* 117, no. 4, 2019: 96.
———. "15 Los Angeles Artists to Watch." *ARTnews*,
January 9, 2019.
Durón, Maximiliano. "The Best Booths at ADAA's
2021 Art Show, From Vodou Flags to Tour-de-Force
Abstraction." *ARTnews*, November 4, 2021.
———. "United States Artists Fellowships Go to Olu
Oguibe, Melissa Cody, American Artist, Lonnie Holley,
and More." *ARTnews*, January 26, 2022.
Finkel, Jori. "Doing It Their Own Way." *W Magazine*,
February 8, 2023.
"Future Tradition." *Native American Art Magazine* 7,
February/March 2017: 118–122.
Goldberg, Julia, Ruby Woltring, Celia Raney, Maya
Forte and Bettina Broyles. "Place Making: Student
journalists explore SITE Santa Fe's 'Casa tomada'
and its re-envisioning of life in the Americas." *Santa
Fe Reporter*, November 21, 2018.
Green, Christopher. "Beyond Inclusion." *Art in America*
107, no. 2, 2019: 72–77.
Gussie, Fauntleroy. "Groundbreakers: Moving On."
Native Peoples Magazine 23, no. 1, 2010: 36–41.
Joyce, Erin. "The Hits and Misses of Santa Fe's Much-
Anticipated SITE Biennial." *Hyperallergic*, October 9,
2018.
Levin, Jennifer. "Weaving Modern Stories: Melissa
Cody." *Santa Fe New Mexican*, August 3, 2018.
Lopez, Antonio. "Focus Artists: Meet Three Artists
Whose Careers You Should Follow." *Southwest Art*

- 30, no. 3 (2000): 166–168.
- Lovelace, Joyce. "Clear Focus." *American Craft* 75, no. 4 (2015): 66–73.
- Mena, Diego Jesus Bartesaghi. "'Color Riot' — A vibrant look at Navajo resilience, at Montclair Art Museum." *Montclair Local*, October 9, 2021.
- Moreno, Gean. "SITElines 2018." *Art in America* 106, no. 10, 2018: 103–104.
- Nixon, Lindsay. "Indigenous Art Is So Camp." *Canadian Art*, November 21, 2019.
- Rana, Matthew. "Immigration and Colonization: Grappling with Past and Present New Mexico." *Frieze*, September 17, 2018.
- Ryckman, Tatiana. "Sing the Body Non-Electric: INTERWOVEN at MASS Gallery, Austin." *Glasstire*, February 18, 2019.
- "Shows to See." *American Craft* 77, no 1 (2017): 22–23.
- Szmulewicz, Ignacio. "Melissa Cody: MASP - Museu de Art de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, Avenida Paulista, 1578, October 20, 2023 - January 21, 2024." *Artforum*. January 2, 2024. <https://www.artforum.com/events/melissa-cody-545813/>.
- "United States Artists Announces 2022 Fellowships." *Artforum*, January 27, 2022.
- Vankin, Deborah. "United States Artists announces 2022 fellows, including six L.A. area artists." *Los Angeles Times*, January 26, 2022.
- Vanzalen, Jessica. "Weaver Melissa Cody on Native Rugs, New Style, and the Heard's 53rd Annual Indian Market." *Phoenix New Times*, March 3, 2011.
- "What Made America." *Native American Art Magazine*, April/May 2021.
- Williams, Maxwell. "Reweaving History." *LALA* (Spring 2019).