

Jen Clay — About

Born in 1985 in Mountain View, North Carolina, Jen Clay holds a BFA in Sculpture from UNC Charlotte (2011) and an MFA in Sculpture from the University of Florida (2014), with additional studies in costume design and applied behavioral analysis.

Their work has been presented at the Girls' Club Collection, Norton Museum of Art, and MOCA North Miami, including *Welcome to You&Me* (2019), an interactive installation for neurodiverse children. Clay's solo exhibition at Emerson Dorsch in 2023 featured interactive quilted works incorporating sewn messages that addressed collective anxiety. Their touch-friendly work *Soft Night Watching* was exhibited at the Ackland Art Museum in 2025–2026.

Clay has completed residencies at Oolite Arts, Atlantic Center for the Arts, Vermont Studio Center through a Windgate Fellowship, Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center, McColl Center, and The Studios at MASS MoCA. In 2023, Clay received a Knight Arts New Work Award for a quilted-animation video game and installation at Locust Projects. They were also commissioned by Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places to create a permanent work installed in 2022. The short documentary *The Texture of Anxiety*, about Jen Clay, received a regional Emmy in 2020 through South Florida PBS.

In February 2027, Clay will install their video game *Eyes of the Skin*, along with other works, at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, followed by the wide digital release of the accompanying textile-based visual novel on itch.io and Steam. Clay is represented by Baker—Hall Gallery in Miami, Florida.

Jen Clay — CV

B. 1985, Mountain View, NC

Education

- 2014 MFA, Sculpture, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 2010 BFA, Sculpture, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC

Solo Exhibitions

- 2027 Forthcoming, Solo Exhibition, Houston Center of Craft, Houston, TX
- 2026 I've seen a bird before, Baker—Hall, Miami, FL
- 2025 Blasted Belonging, Girls' Club Collection, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 2023 The World Doesn't Belong To You, Emerson Dorsch Gallery, Miami, FL
- 2022 Our Canopy, Pompano Beach Cultural Center, Pompano Beach, FL
- 2019 Welcome To You&Me, Young At Art Museum, Davie, FL
- 2018 We All Share, Practice Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2027 Faithful to the End, Green Wood Cementary, curated by Harry Weil, NYC
- 2023 Summer Gatherins, Project Art Space, New York City, NY
- Imaginary Persons, Patient Info, Chicago, IL
- Wild Garden, Wasmer Art Gallery, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL
- Our Canopy, The Frank Gallery, Pembroke Pines, FL
- SouthXeast: Contemporary Art Triennial, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
- 2022 Lean-to, 924 Gallery, Oolite Arts, Miami Beach, FL
- 2020 Fruiting Bodies, Florida Biennial, Hollywood Art and Culture Center, Hollywood, FL
- Mound, Idioms and Taxonomies, Oolite Arts, Miami, FL

Baker—Hall

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- 2019 Soft Sanity, Performance, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL
 Welcome Friends, South Florida Cultural Consortium, Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL
- 2018 Crawl Out, Cubed: Luminous, Pensacola Museum of Art, Pensacola, FL
 Steady Lack, The Front, New Orleans, LA
- 2017 Steady Lack, Rough Textures, Artists & Fleas, Brooklyn, NYC
 Nearing, Off-site Performance Series, Girls' Club Collection, Commissioned by the Venue, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 2016 Stewardess, Pink Noise: Flexing The Frequency, Girls' Club Collection, Commissioned by the venue, Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Live Show, Performance, Swine Gallery, Chattanooga, TN
- 2015 UnderNeath, Outdoor Projection Series, Girls' Club Collection, Commissioned by the venue, Fort Lauderdale, FL
 SpaceShow, Miami Performance International Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL
- 2014 Mothers and Fathers, Art Grease, public broadcasting, Squeaky Wheel, Buffalo, NY
 Live Show, Haunted Mill, Wassaic Projects, Wassaic, NY
- 2012 Go, Invitational, Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL
- 2010 Monsters, Fresh, Association of Visual Arts, Chattanooga, TN
 Visitors, Changing Places, Levine Museum of The New South, Charlotte, NC

Commissions & Public Projects

- 2023 Eyes of The Skin, Locust Projects, Miami, FL

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- 2022 We Grew When You Weren't Looking, Miami-Dade Art In
Public Places, Brisas Del Este, Miami, FL
- 2021 Patterns, Light The Night, Broward County Cultural
Division, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Notable Collections

Oolite Arts, Miami Beach, FL
Girls' Club, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Residencies & Fellowships

- 2026 Mass Moca artist residency, Oolite Arts Home & Away Program
Awardee, North Adams, MA
- 2025 South Florida Cultural Consortium fellowship, Broward, FL
McColl Center, Winter AIR, Windgate Artist Fellow, Charlotte,
NC
Broward Innovation Grant, Broward County, FL
SouthArts Individual Artist Career Opportunity Grant
- 2024 Vermont Studio Center, Windgate Artist Fellowship,
Johnson, VT
BMC Active Archive Residency at Black Mountain College,
Black Mountain, NC
- 2022 Studio Resident, Oolite Arts, Miami, FL
- 2020 Home + Away Residency, Oolite Arts x Atlantic Center for
the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL
- 2019 South Florida Cultural Consortium fellowship, Broward, FL
- 2017 Existent Books, Nocturnal Press and IS Projects, Fort
Lauderdale, FL
- 2015 Digital Residency, North and Found, London, England
- 2014 The Wassaic Projects, Wassaic, NY
- 2011 Bakehouse Art Complex, Studio Resident Artist, Miami, FL

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Grants & Awards

- 2022 Knight New Work Award, Knight Foundation, Miami, FL
- 2016 Creative Investment Program Grant, Broward, FL
- 2013 Visiting Artist Grant, New World School of Arts, Miami, FL
Travel Grant, UFL, Gainesville FL
- 2010 Women's Achievement Award, Charlotte Charter Women's Fund, Charlotte NC

Selected Press & Publications

- 2026 The best booths at NADA NY, May 2025, ARTnews
- 2025 I'll Never Let you Go: The Forest & Jen Clay, Journal of Black Mountain College Studies, Volume 16, September 2025, Tyler Emerson-Dorsh
- 2023 Creating Spaces, episode 1101, Artist Loft, South FL PBS
- 2022 Katz, Jason, Stange Bodies, Strange Days, Burnaway
- 2020 Stories Cultivated by Oolite Arts, episode 811, Art Loft, Special Episode, South Florida PBS
- 2019 LaVelle, Ciara, Jen Clay's Annihilation-Inspired Exhibit at Young at Art Isn't Just for Kids, Miami New Times
- 2018 Soller, Kristen, Episode 12: Beautiful Unsettling Things, Kidnapped For Dinner, Jolt Radio
- 2017 De Los Angeles, Maria, Artist Jen Clay on Nearing, Sesame Street, and Ghosts in the Woods, Miami New Times
Barbist, Maria Theresa; Batista, Elysa D., Volume 20, Rocking Chair Sessions, Podcast
Ramos, Olivia, Conversation between Jennifer Clay and Olivia Ramos, WorkUntitled Magazine