

Miguel Arzabe



Miguel Arzabe — About

Miguel Arzabe (b. 1975) is a Bolivian-American artist based in Oakland, California, working across painting, weaving, and video. His practice operates at the intersection of abstraction, material deconstruction, and textile traditions, producing a distinct visual language that bridges modernist painting with the structural and cultural logic of Andean weaving.

Arzabe's work begins with acts of collection and analysis—sourcing paper ephemera from exhibitions, reproductions of modernist artworks, and other cultural remnants—which he systematically deconstructs and reconstructs through intricate processes of cutting, layering, and weaving. This methodology functions as both a formal and conceptual framework, positioning his work as a form of reverse-engineering that interrogates authorship, value, and the circulation of images within contemporary culture.

Drawing from the visual systems and techniques of Indigenous Andean textiles, Arzabe collapses distinctions between painting and weaving, creating hybrid works that exist simultaneously as image and object. His compositions retain the gestural immediacy of abstraction while embedding the physical structure of the weave, producing surfaces that oscillate between control and improvisation, fragmentation and cohesion.

Positioned within a broader reconsideration of textile-based practices in contemporary art, Arzabe's work contributes to critical dialogues around cultural inheritance, labor, and the translation of craft into the language of abstraction. By embedding Andean textile methodologies within a contemporary, globally informed practice, he expands the possibilities of painting while challenging entrenched hierarchies between fine art and craft.

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Arzabe's work has been exhibited internationally at institutions including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the de Young Museum, the Berkeley Art Museum, and the CCA Wattis Institute, as well as in global exhibitions and festivals such as Hors Pistes at the Centre Pompidou and the Geumgang Nature Art Biennale. His work is held in numerous public collections, including the de Young Museum, the Oakland Museum of California, the Albuquerque Museum of Art, and the Harn Museum of Art.

Miguel Arzabe — CV

Born in St. Louis, MO
Lives and works in Oakland, CA

Education

- 2010 MFA University of California, Berkeley, CA
- 2000 MS Environmental Fluid Dynamics, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- 1998 BS Mechanical Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 Animales Familiares, Johansson Projects, Oakland, CA
- 2021 Tejido Cultural, Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles, CA
Cóndor de Cuatro Cabezas / Four-Headed Condor, Johansson Projects, Oakland, CA
- 2017 Weavings, Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz, CA
Videos, Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA
- 2016 Cultural Fabric, deYoung Museum, San Francisco, CA
I Can't Make It by Myself, Recology, San Francisco, CA
- 2015 Las Cosas que Pintan / Painting in an Expansive Field, Verge Gallery, Sacramento, CA
- 2014 /*Reject Algorithms*/, Cult Exhibitions, San Francisco, CA
Sightlines, StoreFrontLab, San Francisco, CA
- 2013 El otoño mío es tu primavera, Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, NM
- 2011 falling in, Ampersand International Arts, San Francisco, CA

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Group Exhibitions

- 2025 Prayer/Pattern/Prayer, Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York, NY
NADA Art Fair, David B. Smith Gallery, Miami, FL
Waiting for the Wind, Compound YV, Yucca Valley, CA
35 Years at Recology AIR, Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA
Dallas Art Fair, Davis B. Smith Gallery, Dallas, TX
EXPO Chicago, Eric Firestone Gallery, Chicago, IL
Smorgasbord, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hamptons, NY
Back to the Earth, Roberts Projects, Los Angeles, CA
Studio Miguel Arzabe LLC 1240 Minnesota St. San Francisco, CA
From Their Hands to Ours, MACLA, San Jose, CA
Lucid Plane, Heron Arts, San Francisco, CA
La Raíz, Strike-Slip, San Francisco, CA
- 2024 About Place: Bay Area Artists from the Svane Gift, deYoung Museum, San Francisco, CA
The Poetics of Dimensions, Institute of Contemporary Art San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Desire Lines, David B. Smith Gallery, Denver, CO
Praxis of Local Knowledge, Main Gallery, San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco, CA
Art EXPO Chicago, Johansson Projects, Chicago, IL
FOG Art Fair San Francisco, Johansson Projects, San Francisco, CA
- 2023 Á Pleins Poumons, Fondation Bullukian, Lyon, FR
Cumbi, Tucson Art Museum, Tucson, AZ
- 2022 Tikkun, Jewish Contemporary Museum, San Francisco, CA
Resonance of Place, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA

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- 2021 Untitled Art Fair, Johansson Projects, Miami, FL
Festival Sillon / Itinéraire Art Drôme, Annecy, FR
Community Garden, Johansson Projects, Oakland, CA
After the Fire, Round Weather, Berkeley, CA
Once Removed, Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 Geumgang Nature Art Biennale, Gongju, KR
Works on Water Triennial, Governor’s Island, New York, NY
In This Light, McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, San
Francisco, CA
Bay Area Visual Artist Exhibition Production Relief Grant,
Ever Gold[Projects], San Francisco, CA
- 2019 Resonance: Lyon Biennial, Musée d’art Contemporain de
Lyon, Lyon, FR
de.Paysen, L’arteppes/Mikado, Annecy, FR
Teatro dei Fauni, Locarno Film Festival, Locarno, CH
Nocturnes, Images Passages, Annecy, FR
BelVedere, Milan Artist Run Space, Milan, IT
Special Projects, Untitled Art Fair, San Francisco, CA
Deviate/Landscape, San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA
Trove, San Marco Gallery, Dominican University, San Rafael,
CA
- 2018 Recontres Internationales, Paris/Berlin
Billboard Creative, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 Mystery Theater Sports Bar, Philbrook Museum, Tulsa, OK
VIGOROUS, Minimicro Cinema, Cincinnati, OH
- 2016 Perhaps We Could Chat Through a Few Specifics, FIFI
Projects, Mexico City, MX
Open Studio of Alejandro Almanza Pereda, Mexico City, MX
I Never Learned the Title of the Song I Always Sing,
Minnesota Street Projects, San Francisco, CA
Photography and Video Retrospective of the Recology
Program, SF Camerawork, San Francisco, CA

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- 2015 The Satellite Show, North Beach, Miami, FL
Carry On, The Red Tree House, Mexico City, MX
Caprichos Anatomicos, Works, San Jose, CA
Indigo Mind, StoreFront Lab, San Francisco, CA
The Possibilities of Paper, Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, CA
- 2014 Above/Below, Wright State University, Dayton, OH
Fun and Games, Montalvo Art Center, Saratoga, CA
- 2013 Unseen, Cult Exhibitions, San Francisco, CA
Sea Stories Between the Tides, Highlight Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Featured Alumna, Elizabeth Leach Gallery, Portland, OR
Thinking Like the Universe, K. Imperial Fine Art, San Francisco, CA and Hatch Gallery, Oakland, CA
Out the Window Project, LA Freewaves, Los Angeles, CA
Wood Anniversary, Marylhurst University, Portland, OR
- 2012 Hors Pistes 2012, Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR
I am Crime, SOMArts, San Francisco, CA
Random Acts, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Ana, CA
Traps, Space 1026, Philadelphia, PA
Open Studios, Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, NM
- 2011 Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, Montréal, Canada Summer
Drift, Rm Gallery, Auckland, NZ
Hors Pistes 2011, Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR
Darkness and Light, Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA
Leyendas, 35mm Ciné Café, Cochabamba, BO
Walking on Thin Ice, Ampersand International, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 The More Things Change: Shadow Shop, San Francisco
Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

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- 2010 The farther away the better I see you, Painting Salon, San Francisco, CA
No Right Angles, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA
- 2009 Passive/Aggressive, Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA
Immediate Future, San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, San Francisco, CA
LAND/ART, The Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, Albuquerque, NM
John Muir Text Messages, The Great Wall, Oakland, CA
Free Time, Worth Ryder Gallery, Berkeley, CA
- 2008 Naturations, Ego Park Gallery, Oakland, CA

Residencies & Awards

- 2024 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art Award Finalist
- 2023 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant
Sam and Adele Golden Foundation Residency, New Berlin, NY
- 2022 San Francisco Bay Area Artadia Award
Millay Arts Residency, Austerlitz, NY
- 2019 San Francisco International Airport Public Art Commission
- 2018 Lucid Art Foundation Artist in Residence, Inverness, CA
- 2017 Facebook Artist in Residence
- 2016 deYoung Museum Studio Artist, San Francisco, CA
Recology San Francisco
- 2015 Kala Art Institute Residency, Berkeley, CA
Project 387 Artist Residency, Gualala, CA
Bayview Artist Residency
- 2014 Foundations Visiting Artist, University of Georgia, Athens, Athens, GA
- 2013 Montalvo Art Center Irvine Fellowship, Saratoga, CA

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- 2012 Vermont Studio Center Full Fellowship, Johnson, VT
Signal Fire Residency, Portland, OR
Santa Fe Art Institute Residency, Santa Fe, NM
- 2011 Don Blanche Residency, Ontario, CA
- 2010 Headlands Center for the Arts Graduate Fellowship,
Sausalito, CA
Harry Ford Lord Fine Arts Award
University of California Berkeley Center for Race and
Gender Arts Grant
- 2009 Murphy & Cadogan Fellowship in the Fine Arts
- 2008 University of California Berkeley Graduate Fellowship,
Berkeley, CA
- 2006 Jentel Artist Residency Program, Banner, WY

Collections

U.S. State Department, Embassy in Gaborone, Botswana, Africa
NYC Department of Education, Public Art for Public Schools
deYoung Museum, San Francisco, CA
Crocker Museum, Sacramento, CA
Harn Museum, Gainesville, FL
Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, NM
Civic Collection, City of Houston, TX
Oakland Museum of California
Wright State University, Dayton, OH
San Francisco Arts Commission
County of Alameda
State of California
University of California, San Francisco
Hospital Children's Medical Center, Omaha, NE
University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center
Making Waves Academy, Richmond, CA

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Beth Rudin DeWoody
Anne and Paul Wattis
kW Engineering, Inc.
Stranger & Stranger, Inc.
CBRE, Inc.
JP Morgan
YouTube
Facebook
Google
Stanford University, Stanford, CA

Press

- 2025 Textiles x Art - How textiles are shaping contemporary art, Ramona Barry and Beck Jobson, Thames and Hudson AU, 2025
Montalvo, MACLA come together for Latino artists' exhibit, Nollyanne Delacruz, San Jose Mercury News, December 9, 2025
Issue #130, ZYZZYVA, A San Francisco journal of arts & letters, Fall 2025
Circle Ahead, Issue 5, Fall 2025
The Poetics of Dimensions at ICA San Francisco, Caroline Picard, Artforum, March, 2025
Sacred Threads: 'Prayer / Pattern / Prayer' Weaves Art and Spirituality at Morgan Lehman Gallery, NYC, Terra Keck, Arte Fuse, January, 2025
Prayer / Pattern / Prayer at Morgan Lehman, Will Kaplan, Art Spiel, January 23, 2025
- 2024 From plastic bags to shoelaces, the art in this California show is made entirely of trash, Saumya Roy, The Guardian US, October 27, 2024

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- 2024 Rolex, ICA SF and Wilkes Bashford Debut New Spaces, by Katie Sweeney, Nob Hill Gazette, Oct 24, 2024
SFJazz Collective's latest inspiration? De Young artists, by Andrew Gilbert, SF Chronicle, Oct 21, 2024
Harn Museum kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month, Juliana DeFilippo, The Independent FL Alligator, September 16, 2024
'About Place' at the de Young showcases new contemporary works by Bay Area artists, Lou Fancher, Bay City News, September 13, 2024
Landscape, reinvented, by Ray Mark Rinaldi, Denver Post, June 9, 2024
These 5 can't-miss art shows are coming to The City this summer, By Max Blue, The Examiner, June 6, 2024
Warp and Weft, by Lauren Gallow, Luxe Interiors + Design, June 2024
5 Favorites from the 10th Edition of FOG Design+Art, by Lauren Gallow, Whitewall, January 2024
Cover Image, The Stars Align in Sonoma, by Kendra Boutell, California Homes Magazine, January-February 2024
- 2023 Driggers, Kristopher. CUMBI: Textiles, Society, and Memory in Andean South America, Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block: Tucson, AZ.
Process + Place: Headlands at 40, Headlands Center for the Arts: Sausalito, CA.
Nonnenburg, Sheryl, "A look at the art collection now open to visitors at Google campus' new community space," Palo Alto Weekly, Nov. 8.
Maes, Agustín, "Miguel Arzabe's Kaleidoscopic Thunderbolt," New Haven Independent, Oct. 23.
"Monday Gallery," Harper's Magazine, Oct.
Pilatti, Estefanía, "El lugar de cada uno en el universo," Letra Urbana, Sep. 26.

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- 2023 Ebert, Grace, “Fantastic Creatures and Common Animals Materialize in Miguel Arzabe’s Woven Bestiaries,” *Colossal*, Sep. 11.
Dulout, Stéphanie, “Á Pleins Poumons,” *Acumen*, Issue 33, Mar.
- 2022 *New American Paintings: Pacific Coast #163*, ed. Gheith, Jenny. The Open Studios Press: Boston, MA. Dec. 2022/ Jan. 2023.
Resonance of Place, ed. Bekele, Selam, Lauren Sorresso, and Yu Jin Sung. Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts: San Francisco, CA.
Escobedo, Theresa, “Boom Time for the Arts,” *Texas Monthly*, Dec.
Tzvi Russell, Anthony Mordechai, “Woven artwork at CJM speaks to our broken world,” *The Jewish News of Northern California*, Oct. 26.
Corbin, Mary, “A weaving of worlds: Miguel Arzabe explores ch’ixi,” *48 hills*, Sep. 22. Kosman, Joshua, “3 Bay Area Artists Awarded \$10,000 Each,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, Jul.
- 2021 *New American Paintings: Pacific Coast #157*, ed. Molon, Dominic. The Open Studios Press: Boston, MA. Dec. 2021/ Jan. 2022.
Zappas, Lindsay Preston, “KCRW Art Insider: Miguel Arzabe at Shulamit Nazarian,” *KCRW Art Insider*, Oct. 26.
Morris, Barbara, “Miguel Arzabe Cónдор de Cuatro Cabezas/Four-Headed Condor,” *Artcultures*, Jul. 2.
Quick, Genevieve, “Miguel Arzabe’s ingenious hybridizations summon mythic forces,” *48 hills*, Jun. 9.
- 2020 “Miguel Arzabe Talks Recuperation as a Form of Resilience,” McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, Aug.
The Racket: Quarantine Journal, Vol.1, No. 19, ed. Sanders, Noah. *The Racket*: San Francisco, CA. Aug.11.

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- 2020 Leaf Litter: The Storyteller Issue, No. 8. Signal Fire Arts: Portland, OR.
- 2018 Liborio Ramos, Floricel, “What it’s like when Ice detains you: ‘They own you. You’re impotent’,” The Guardian, Jul. 16.
Yurkina, Olga, “Dans la baie, artistes cherchent studio désespérément,” Le Temps, Oct. 5.
Kost, Ryan, “Weaving the present fight with past,” San Francisco Chronicle, Mar. 22.
- 2016 Carroll, Alisa, “Dedicated Space,” San Francisco Cottages and Gardens, Oct. 2015
Ober, Cara, “The Anti-Fair: Artist-Run Miami Beach,” Bmore Art, Dec. 7.
Dalkey, Victoria, “Artists’ unusual work redefines painting in ‘Las Cosas Que Pintan’,” Sacramento Bee, Apr. 23.
- 2014 Valencia, Andrea, “Hacking the view from the Transamerica building,” SFGate, Oct. 8.
Gelardin, Arianne, “sightlines,” StoreFrontLab, Sep. 19.
Baker, Kenneth, “Arzabe at Cult by appointment, but hurry,” SFGate, Apr. 21.
Lutz, Leora, “Two Solo Shows in SF,” Whitehot Magazine, Apr.
Khadivi, Jesi, ed. Begusch, Bonnie “Miguel Arzabe /*Reject Algorithms*/,” Carets and Sticks, Apr. 17.
Dillon, Pam, “Experience landscape in a new way,” Dayton Daily News, Feb. 7.
Finney, Carolyn, Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors. The University of North Carolina Press: Chapel Hill, NC. Jun.
- 2013 Baker, Kenneth, “CULT Objects,” San Francisco Chronicle, Nov. 17.
- 2012 Abatemarco, Michael, “The Art of Miguel Arzabe,” Santa Fe New Mexican, Dec. 14.

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- 2012 Motley, John, “Signal Fire Heats Up Artists’ Connection with Nature,” *The Oregonian*, Mar. 8.
- 2011 Baker, Kenneth, “Thin Ice at Ampersand,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, Feb. 12.
Begusch, Bonnie, *Falling In. Ampersand Intl Arts: San Francisco, CA. (catalogue)*
- 2010 LAND/ ART New Mexico, Radius Books: Santa Fe, NM. Feb. 28.
- 2008 Cheng, DeWitt, “Post-Apocalypse Now: Miguel Arzabe and Evan Holm imagine an alternative mentality,” *East Bay Express*, Mar. 26.