

# JESSICA LABATTE

b. 1981, Salt Lake City, UT

Lives and works in Chicago, IL

## EDUCATION

- 2009 Master of Fine Arts, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2004 Bachelor of Fine Arts, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Ordinary Wonders* (two-person show with Cecil McDonald, Jr.), Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN
- 2023 *Come. Hither. Look!*, Specialist Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2022 *Knee-deep in the cosmic overwhelm*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2020 Elgin Community College, Elgin, IL
- 2019 *Shadowier Herbarium*, Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove, IL
- 2018 *Shade Garden*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2015 *Underwater Highway*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2012 *Jessica Labatte*, Golden, New York, NY
- 2010 *Jessica Labatte: UBS 12 x 12 New Artists/New Work*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
*Solo Show: Jessica Labatte*, Humble Arts Foundation, New York, NY  
*Lazy Shadows*, Golden, Chicago, IL
- 2009 *Bright Branches*, Scott Projects, Chicago, IL
- 2002 *If You Do You Will Eat My Head*, Lounge Gallery, Chicago, IL

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Transcendental Arrangements: 109<sup>th</sup> Annual AAP Exhibition*, Miller ICA at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2020 *scry til you know why*, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation Offices, Chicago, IL
- 2019 *Extended Self: Transformations and Connections*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL

- 2018 *Picture Fiction: Kenneth Josephson and Contemporary Photography*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
- 2017 *INDECISIVE MOMENT*, Ringel Gallery, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN  
*Painters & Photographers*, Reilly Gallery, Smith Center for the Arts, Providence College, Providence, RI  
*The Newest Romantics: Sculptors of Botanical Photography*, New Art Center, Newtonville, MA  
*Underlying system is not known*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2016 *Karolina Gnatowski, Anna Kunz, Jessica Labatte*, Metropolitan Capital Bank, Chicago, IL  
*How High?*, Left Field, 1242 Monterey Street, Suite #110, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
*Workshop in Light and Color: The Legacy of the New Bauhaus*, Atrium Gallery, University of New Mexico, Ranchos de Taos, NM  
*Photography is Magic*, Aperature Foundation, New York, NY  
*Materials and Processes*, Silver Eye Center for Photography, Pittsburgh, PA.  
*Habeas Corpus*, Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art.
- 2015 *Radical Color*, Newspace Center for Photography, Portland, OR
- 2014 *New Cats in Art Photography*, Humble Arts Foundation, New York, NY  
*Fragments of an Unknowable Whole*, Urban Arts Space, OSU, Columbus, OH
- 2013 *Think First/Shoot Later*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
*Color Acting*, Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL  
*Fragment: Sampling the Modern*, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL  
*James Hyde & Jessica Labatte*, Horton Gallery, New York, NY
- 2012 *duckrabbit*, Adds Donna, Chicago, IL  
*Sense & Sensibility*, Golden, Chicago, IL  
*Dramatic Chromatic*, Plug Projects, Kansas City, MO  
*The Kipper and the Corpse*, Robert Bills Contemporary, Chicago, IL  
*Anagram City*, Golden, Chicago, IL
- 2011 *Wax Apple*, Bodega, Philadelphia, PA  
*Always the Young Strangers*, Higher Pictures, New York, NY  
*Notes on Notes on "Camp"*, Invisible Exports, New York, NY  
*The Collector's Guide to New Art Photography*, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY  
*Fact of the Matter: Ali Bailey and Jessica Labatte*, Poppy Sebire Gallery, London, UK
- 2010 *Days of Plenty*, Hyde Street Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Fast Hands*, Elephant, Los Angeles, CA  
*Partisan*, Art Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*P's & Q's*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL (curated by Shannon Stratton and Jeff Ward)  
*The Triumph of Patience*, Diana Lowenstein Gallery, Miami, FL
- 2009 *Second Stories: Artists Making Do & Fixing Up*, Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Antler/Necklace*, Half/Dozen Gallery, Portland, OR  
*School of the Art Institute of Chicago MFA Thesis Exhibition*, Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL  
*Vita Activa*, 1213 Sharp, Chicago, IL  
*False Lashes*, 1213 Sharp, Chicago, IL  
*Ship in a Bottle*, Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL

- 2006 *Fool's Paradise*, Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2005 *New Batch*, Plane Space, New York City, NY  
*Items May Have Shifted*, Plane Space, New York City, NY
- 2004 *The Summer Show*, Gallery 312, Chicago, IL  
*Art by Our Favorite Artists of the SAIC BFA Show*, Up the Stairs Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*The School of the Art Institute of Chicago Bachelor of Fine Arts Thesis Show*, Gallery 2, Chicago, IL
- 2003 *Extension*, LG Space, Chicago, IL  
*240 Minutes*, The Base Space, Chicago, IL  
*What are you working on?*, Siragusa Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Short Film and Video Screening*, Siragusa Gallery, Chicago, IL

## RESIDENCIES, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

- 2014 Light Work, Syracuse, NY
- 2013 Grellner Scholarship, Ox-Bow School of Art, Saugatuck, MI
- 2012 CAAP Grant, Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Chicago, IL
- 2010 Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT  
Ox-Bow School of Art, Saugatuck, MI
- 2008 MFA Fellowship, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL  
James Weinstein Memorial Fellowship, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL  
Student Association Artist Grant, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL

## COLLECTIONS

Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2022 Chicago Reader. Cardoza, Kerry. "Jessica Labatte finds beauty in the detritus of everyday life." October 27  
New City. Rigou, Vasia. "The Vibrant Highs and Lows of Pandemic Life: A Review of Jessica Labatte at Western Exhibitions." October 28, 2022  
New City. Cardoza, Kerry. "Art Top 5: September 2022 — 1. Jessica Labatte: Knee-deep in the cosmic overwhelm." August 28, 2022  
New City. Cardoza, Kerry. "Jessica Labatte finds beauty in the detritus of everyday life." October 27, 2022.
- 2018 Chicago Tribune. Lori Waxman, "The blooming West Town gallery scene: Why so many artists are into plants and vases this fall." November 27, 2018.  
Chicago Business. Thomas Connors, "Best art exhibits at local galleries this winter." November 1, 2018.  
Chicago Magazine. Kate Sierzputowski, "Photographer Jessica Labatte's Floral Arrangements Are Capsules of Time and Memory." November 2, 2018.

- 2017 [Newcity Art](#). Chris Miller, "Colors and Forms Delight in a Panoply of Styles." January 26, 2017.
- 2016 [Lenscratch](#). Kelli Connell, "Jessica Labatte: The States Project: Illinois." September 24, 2016.
- 2015 [Mutual Art](#). Natalie Hegert, "Barbara Kasten: New Peers in Contemporary Photography." April 22, 2015.  
[Artforum.com](#). Zachary Cahill, "Critic's Pick (Jessica Labatte)." April 7, 2015.  
[Newcity](#). Matt Morris, "Eye Exam: Stand in the Sun (Jessica Labatte)." April 2, 2015.
- 2012 [Art ltd.](#) Robin Dluzen, "Critic's Picks: (Jessica Labatte)." March 2012.  
[The New Yorker](#). Peter Schjeldahl, "Jessica Labatte." May 21, 2012.  
[Make Space](#). "Other Investigations: Jessica Labatte." February 20, 2012.
- 2011 [Chicago Magazine](#). "Best of Chicago: Artist to Collect Now Jessica Labatte." August 2011.  
[Flak Photo](#). Andy Adams, "Feature: The Collector's Guide to New Art Photography vol. 2: Jessica Labatte." 18 March 2011.  
[thisartist.tv](#). Alan Del Rio Ortiz and Ben Poster. "Jessica Labatte," January 6, 2011.  
[Fantom Photographic Quarterly](#). Di Nardo, Arianne. "Jessica Labatte: Surface Effects." Winter 2011: 3-11.  
*The Collector's Guide to New Art Photography Vol. 2*. Jon and Amani Olu. New York: Humble Arts Foundation Feinstein. 2011.  
[Art Agenda](#). Paddy Johnson, "Art Basel, NADA, PULSE and SEVEN, Miami." February 5, 2011.  
[Print Magazine](#). Yasmin Kahn and Michael Worthington, "Print's 20 under 30: New Visual Artists 2011." April 2011.
- 2010 [Humble Arts Foundation](#). Jon Feinstein, "Solo Show: Jessica Labatte." June 15, 2010.  
[Chicago Review](#). Joshua Adams, "Jessica Labatte." 55.2 (2010): Cover.  
[Chicago Art Magazine](#). Madeleine Bailey, "Jessica Labatte at Golden." 12 May 2010.  
[Fantom Photographic Quarterly](#). Selva Barni and Cay Sophie Rabinowitz, "The Cover, From our Next Issue: Jessica Labatte." Cover: Autumn 2010.  
[Beautiful Decay](#). Ryan Travis Christian, "Jessica Labatte." June 14, 2010.  
[CS Magazine](#). Jessica Cochran, "Power Up! 10 to Watch in the Chicago Art World." Page 54. Dec. 2010.  
[Newcity](#). Jason Founberg, "Breakout Artists." Page 5. April 29, 2010.  
[Flavorpill](#). F Laura ox, "UBS 12 x 12: Jessica Labatte." December 4, 2010.  
[Art Slant](#). Dan Gunn, "Frustrating and Metaphorical Relationships: P's & Q's." March 8, 2010.  
[Artforum.com](#). Claudine Ise, "Critic's Pick: Jessica Labatte." May 14, 2010.  
[ArtCity](#). Paddy Johnson, "All Heart, NO INTERNET!" December 3, 2010.  
[Newcity](#). Thea Liberty Nichols, "Ps & Qs: Hyde Park Art Center." March 22, 2010.  
[Time Out Chicago](#) Madeline Nusser, "Around Town: Your Perfect Weekend." April 8, 2010.  
[Art:21.com](#). Meg Onli, "Interview with Jacob Meehan." April 13, 2010.  
[FNews Magazine](#). Ariel Pittman, "Friendly Formalism, Whimsical Buddhism." April 29, 2010.  
[I Heart Photograph](#). Laurel Ptak, "Jessica Labatte." April 17, 2010.  
[Portland Monthly Magazine](#). Lisa Radon, "Antler Necklace at Half/Dozen Gallery." April 8, 2010.  
[Gapers Block](#). Britany Robinson, "UBS 12 x 12 Presents 100th Artist." December 2, 2010.  
[Chicago Art Review](#). Steve Ruiz, "Seven Artists of the Week." May 5, 2010.  
[Chicago Art Criticism](#). Bret Schneider, "Gradients." July 7, 2010.  
[Jettison Quarterly](#). Peter Skvara, "Through the Lens of Jessica Labatte." Pages 28-34. February 6, 2011.  
[The Photography Post](#). Kate Steciw, "Go Here! Do this!" December 1, 2010.  
[The Photography Post](#). Kate Steciw, "Jessica Labatte and Wyne Veen Will Seduce You." June 14, 2010.  
[Trent Fine Art Advisory](#). Nilani Trent, "Art Basel Miami 2010: Highlights." December 6, 2010.  
[Time Out Chicago](#). Candice Weber, "Jessica Labatte." May 20, 2010.  
[Newcity](#). Michael Weinstein, "Jessica Labatte." May 17, 2010.



# JESSICA LABATTE

b. 1981, Salt Lake City, UT  
Lives and works in Chicago, IL

Jessica Labatte's photographic work is an investigation in photographic illusion, while respecting the material processes of photography. Labatte's two recent interrelated series of color photographs explore photographic notions of the visible and invisible, the present and withdrawn as they champion beauty in the everyday as a radical gesture in our contemporary moment.

*Almanac for Shade Gardeners* is a series of floral still lifes —small and medium sized prints installed in a salon-style fashion in the gallery alongside three monumentally scaled prints— that mark impermanence in the everyday domestic space of her home and garden as Labatte has photographed every flower that bloomed over the course of one growing season. The pictures incorporate indexes of nurturing and the clutter of objects and materials that accompany parenthood and artistic practice within domestic spaces. Challenging myths of artistic practice and motherhood espoused by early feminist artists, Labatte's photographs look to depict new definitions of feminist art practice.

The second series of photographs capture the experience of being in the garden, as color and dappled light are constantly in flux. In seemingly abstract works, color, light, and shadow explore an imagined virtual space beyond traditional notions of photographic representation. Drawing inspiration from Hilma af Klint and early photographic abstractionists such as László Moholy-Nagy, her *Shadow Plants* photographs meditate on color, time, and sensation. To create these brightly colored images, Labatte uses film and a large format camera to capture multiple exposures of collaged color paper. Her process allows one image to fuse with another, obscuring and revealing forms, textures, and the fleeting effects of light and shadow, creating a metaphorically virtual space for the visible and invisible within society, photographic image making, and art.

Past bodies of work address and employ light and color as a model for space and time; the barely visible, such as dust particles; minerals as pigments; and digital or antique photographic processes. For her *Spotting* series each image starts as colorful, studio-constructed collage and is then transformed by her unwitting collaborators — her assistants; they removed dust from scanned negatives in Photoshop and Labatte chose to save the traces of their labors by making the erasure layer visible in the final image. On [Artforum.com](http://Artforum.com), Zachary Cahill discusses this series in depth, writing "In a blurring of authorship, Labatte creates these images with her assistants and includes their first names parenthetically in the individual photographs' titles. Together, they composed pictures by an accretion of digital erasures, most notably in *Spotting #11* (Elyse, Jessica), 2014. If the process sounds complicated to understand, that's because it is, though the end results aren't. The photographs are visually generous and are marked by blasts of color that register the living quality of time itself."

Her work has been exhibited in numerous galleries and museums including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL; Elmhurst Art Museum; Hyde Park Art Center; Higher Pictures, NYC; Golden Gallery, and Horton Gallery, NYC. Her work has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Artforum.com*, and *Chicago Magazine*. Labatte received an MFA and a BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is represented by Western Exhibitions in Chicago and lives and works in the Chicagoland area.