

MELISSA HYATT FOSS

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Instrument-maker, musician, composer-performer, and teaching artist specializing in sculptural ceramic instruments and electroacoustic composition. I design and lead hands-on, interdisciplinary learning experiences that connect sound, material exploration, and cultural history. Through instrument-building and performance, my work engages participants of all ages in creative inquiry, linking art, science, and music while fostering curiosity, collaboration, and self-expression.

EDUCATION

<i>Master's Degree in Musical Creation, New Technologies, and Traditional Arts</i>	2018
Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero Buenos Aires, Argentina	
<i>Bachelor of Arts in Art History</i>	2006
James Madison University Harrisonburg, VA	
<i>Year-long study abroad program</i>	2004-2005
Wells College Paris, France	

LANGUAGES

English (Native speaker)
Spanish (Bilingual)

SELECTED TEACHING ARTIST EXPERIENCE

Instrument-making workshop series, Enoch Pratt Libraries	2024-Present
Instrument-Making Class & Workshop series, Creative Alliance	2021-Present
Maryland Traditions Artist-in-Residence, UMBC	2024-2025
Guest Lecturer, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, (CT)	2026
Programming series, Baltimore County Public Libraries	2026
Programming series, Howard County Public Libraries	2026
Instrument Demo, BMA Lexington Market	2025
Performance, National Gallery of Art (DC)	2025
Residency, Phyllis E. Williams Spanish Immersion Elementary School	2025
Residency, Notchcliff Nature Center: Association for Nature-Based Education	2025
Residency, Staley YMCA Head Start Center	2025
Residency, Kids Vila Waring Station	2025
Residency, Running Brook Elementary School	2025
Residency, Bel Pre Elementary School	2025
Residency, City Neighbors Charter School	2025
Residency, Pathways School	2025
Residency, Kettering Middle School	2025
Instrument-making Summer Camp, Creative Alliance	2025

Residency, The Carl and Norma Miller Children's Center	2024
Residency, Arlington Elementary School	2024
Performance, Ronald McDonald House	2024
Residency, William Wirt Middle School	2023, 2024
Residency, Overlook Elementary School	2023, 2024
Residency, Capitol Heights Elementary School	2023, 2024
Residency, Neelsville Middle School	2022
Workshop, Baltimore Museum of Art	2022
Audiovisual Conference, Shepherd University (WV)	2022
Workshop, Potters Guild of Frederick (MD)	2022
Audiovisual Conference, Potters Guild of Frederick (MD)	2021
Adjunct Professor, National University of Argentina at Tres de Febrero (ARG)	2014 – 2019

AWARDS, COMMISSIONS & AQUISITIONS

Featured work, MUSLAB International Electroacoustic Music Exhibition (Ecuador)	2024
Leah Reid Electroacoustic and Music Technology Prize	2024
Finalist, Baker Artist Awards	2024
Commission, The Walters Art Museum	2021-2024
Commission to build two working historical replicas of musical instruments for permanent installation.	
Acquisition, Baltimore Museum of Art	2023
Original double flute acquired for interactive educational installation.	
Recommended Work, International Rostrum of Composers (France)	2019
First Prize, Contemporary Music Category, Argentine National Music Council (Argentina)	2018
Commission, Orchestra of Indigenous Instruments & New Technologies (Argentina)	2014-2018
Commission to build three hand-carved wooden rattles for permanent collection and performance use.	

EXHIBITIONS

Solo Exhibitions

<i>Kith & Kin: A Rewilding of Sound and Form.</i> Penn State University (PA)	Forthcoming, Sep 2026
<i>Kith & Kin: A Rewilding of Sound and Form.</i> Creative Alliance	2025

Group Exhibitions

<i>Off the Web.</i> The Peale	2024
<i>The Big Show.</i> Creative Alliance	2024
<i>Come Through.</i> Amalie Rothschild Gallery, Creative Alliance	2024
<i>Reaching Out.</i> Amalie Rothschild Gallery, Creative Alliance	2023
<i>The Big Show.</i> Creative Alliance	2023
<i>Artist in Residence Exhibition.</i> Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild (NY)	2023
<i>The Big Show.</i> Creative Alliance	2022

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

Solo Performances

2640 Space	Forthcoming, March 2026
Creative Alliance	2025
Mid Atlantic Wilderness at 2640 Space	2024
Current Space	2024
Baker Artist Awards Finalist Showcase at Baltimore Theatre Project	2024
Rhizome (DC)	2023
Mid Atlantic Wilderness at The Crown	2023

Performances with the Orchestra of Indigenous Instruments and New Technologies (Selected)

Concert at Creative Alliance	2026
III Simposio de la Sección de Estudios del Cono Sur, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2019
Conferencia Regional de Educación Superior de América Latina y el Caribe, Córdoba, Argentina	2018
Bienal Sur, Museo de los Inmigrantes, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2017
Día de la Diversidad Cultural, Congreso de la Nación, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2017
Descolonizando la Música, Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico	2016
9° Encuentro Bienal Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo de América del Sur, Córdoba, Argentina	2016
Inauguración del Monumento de Juana Azurduy, Casa Rosada, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2015
TedX Río de la Plata, Teatro de la Usina del Arte, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2015
Celebración del Día de la Tradición, Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2015
VI Festival de Música de Cámara Leo Brouwer, Havana, Cuba	2014
Embajada de Argentina en Francia: Sons de l'Amérique Cachee, Paris, France	2014
Berlioz Festival, Hector Berlioz Museum, La Côte-Saint-André, France	2014
The College Music Society International Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2013

ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS

<i>Confluences</i> , Self-Published	2025
Composition for field recordings and handmade flutes.	
<i>Palingenesis</i> , Self-Published	2024
Composition for hand-built triple flute, field recordings, and electronics.	
<i>Whewan</i> , Self-Published	2023
Composition for electronic instruments, hand built horn and flutes, and tree branch.	
<i>Innervision</i> , Published by Shika Shika (France)	2021
Composition for electronics and hand-built double flute, noise generator, and turú.	
<i>Hanblecheyapi</i> , Self-Published	2018
Composition for voice, electronics, and hand-built ocarina, rattles, and whistling bottle.	

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Barro Residency (Chubut, Argentina)	2023, 2025
Creative Alliance (Baltimore, MD)	2021-2024
Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild (Woodstock, NY)	2022