



ELISABETH KLEY

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Pattern is a Habit

August 23 - September 29, 2025



THE DRAWING ROOM

55 Main Street 2nd floor East Hampton New York

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Open Friday through Sunday 11 to 5 pm

The Drawing Room is pleased to present an exhibition spotlighting New York artist Elisabeth Kley, whose acclaimed practice encompasses ceramics, painting, printmaking and textiles. Introducing selections from her oeuvre of the past decade, the gallery's first show of her work includes clay sculptures and works on paper, as well as functional objects that transcend the boundary of the decorative arts. A reception for the artist will be held from 4 to 6 pm on Saturday, August 23rd.



Kley's distinctive mark-making across varied bodies of work and mediums is immediately recognizable. Imbued with her bold, yet sensuous touch, geometric and botanical motifs are often juxtaposed within a single object. The layered brushwork of glazes and stains that enhances her bisque-fired terracotta vessels and sculpture is occasionally articulated with spontaneous sgraffito techniques. In a similar vein, her use of ink and watercolor on paper embraces the freedom and fluidity of those mediums.

Infused with Kley's appropriation of motifs drawn from her research across the vast history of visual culture, each artwork presents a new surface for the artist's transformation of ornamental traditions. Sources of inspiration range in origin from ancient Asian, Greek, Roman, and Egyptian civilizations to early 20th-century Wiener Werkstätte designs and the costumes created by Léon Bakst for the *Ballets Russes*.

The exhibition installation begins in the gallery's window, where a black-and-white painting on panel provides a lyrical backdrop for a trio of works: two glazed ceramic forms and a vibrant watercolor.

Kley's layered *mise-en-scène* extends upstairs, where the installation includes a five-tiered fountain, three multi-faceted sculptures, watercolors, painted ceramic tiles, and black-and-white relief prints. The graphic interplay between dark and light shapes riffs on the perception of foreground and background and at times resembles optical puzzles. Viewers are invited into an immersive, staged world of pattern upon pattern, where the tension between ornament and the spare white architectural setting is intricately balanced.

Elisabeth Kley (b. 1956, New York, NY) earned her BA from Empire State College and later studied at Hunter College. Her ceramics, watercolors, drawings and prints have been widely exhibited over the past twenty-five years. Recent solo exhibitions were presented at the Currier Museum, Manchester, NH (2024) and The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA (2021). A monograph on her work was published by Pre-Echo Press in 2019.

While best known as an artist whose ceramic sculptures, vessels, drawings and site-specific paintings have garnered critical recognition, Kley is also a published art writer whose reviews and features have been published in *ARTnews*, *Art in America* and *Ursula*. Earlier this year, she served as guest curator for White Columns' 15th Annual Exhibition, *Looking Back*.





Large Parasol Flask, 2016
glazed earthenware, 24 x 18 x 7 inches



(view 2) *Large Parasol Flask*, 2016
glazed earthenware, 24 x 18 x 7 inches



Large Red Benedictus Lotus, 2020
watercolor and graphite on paper, 48 x 30 inches





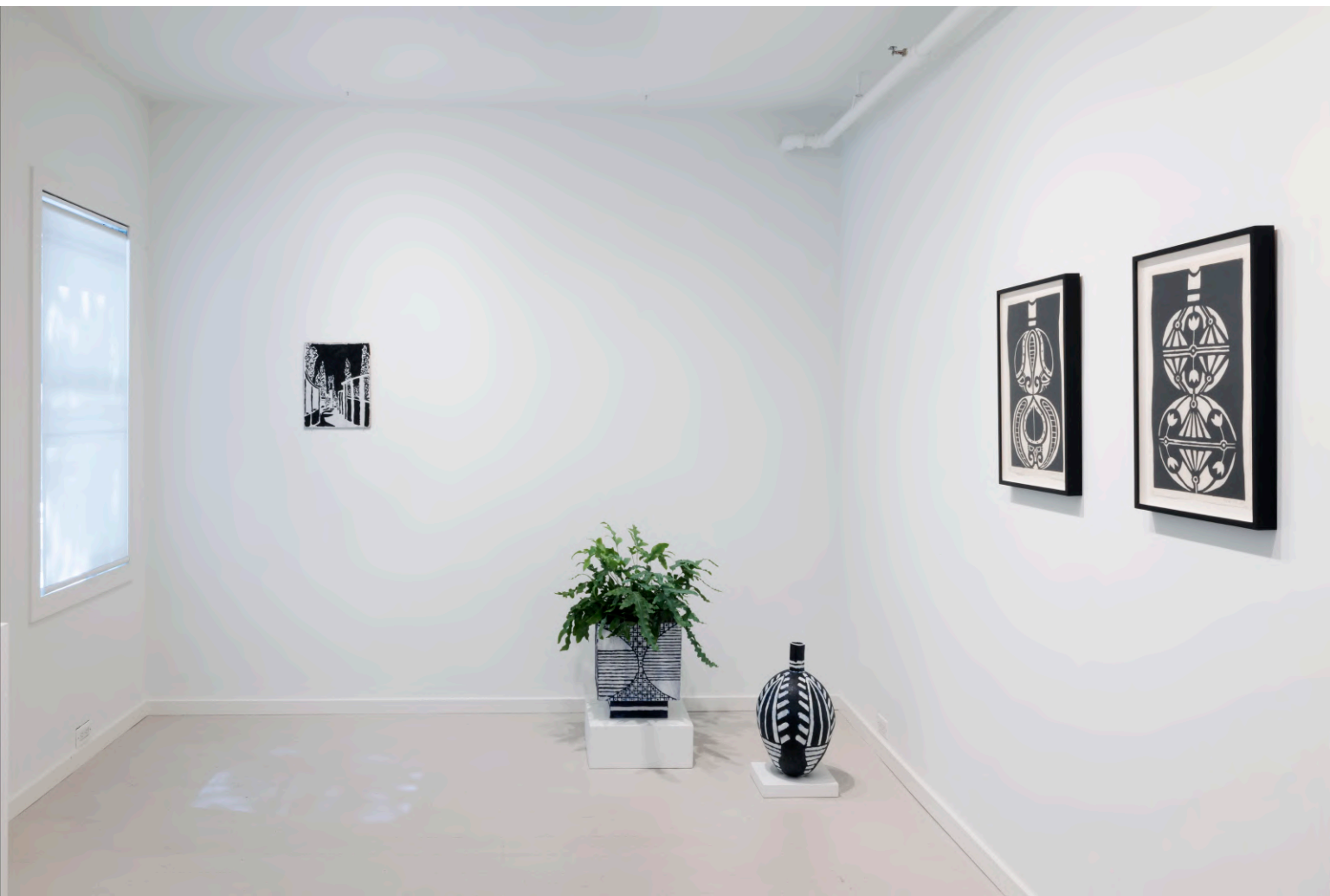
Hyoutan Bottle with Horizontal Lines, 2020
relief print on handmade Japanese paper, 19 1/4 × 13 inches, edition 1/4 + 1 AP



Hyoutan Bottle with Small Tulips, 2020
relief print on handmade Japanese paper, 19 1/4 × 13 inches, edition 1/4 + 1 AP



Hyoutan Bottle with Papyrus Flowers, 2020
relief print on handmade Japanese paper, 19 1/4 x 13 inches, edition 1/4 + 1 AP





Lotus and Water, 2021
glazed earthenware, 21 × 17 × 11 inches



Lotus with Diagonal, 2021
glazed earthenware, 17 1/2 × 15 × 8 1/4 inches



After Bakst, 2020
watercolor and graphite on paper, 24 x 19 inches



Vessel Interrupted by Emptiness, 2023
glazed earthenware, 26 1/2 × 14 × 10 1/2 inches



Albarelo with Sprigs, 2023
glazed earthenware, 22 x 9 x 9 inches





D'Annunzio's Path, 2018
glazed earthenware, 15 × 12 inches



Trees in Uzbekistan, 2018
glazed earthenware, 12 x 15 inches



Planter with Stars, 2024
glazed earthenware, 15 1/2 x 13 x 12 3/4 inches



Red Fan Lotuses, Green Background, 2020
watercolor and graphite on paper, 17 × 14 inches



Simple Tree, 2023
glazed earthenware, 20 × 12 × 12 inches



Small Egyptian Table, 2021
glazed earthenware, 12 1/2 x 10 1/4 x 7 1/2 inches



Blue Background, Red and Gold, Greek, 2020
watercolor and graphite on paper, 24 x 19 inches



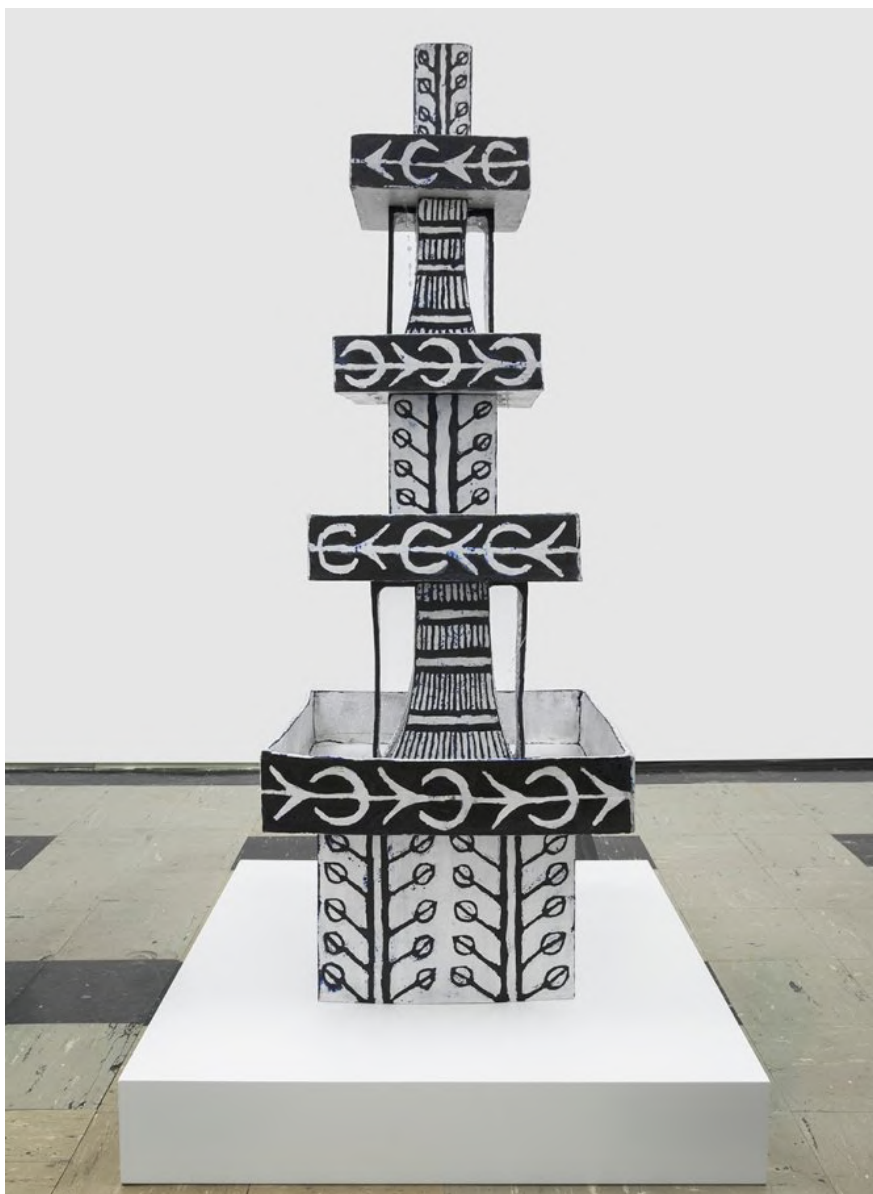
Small Planter with Curls, 2024
glazed earthenware, 4 1/2 x 4 3/4 x 4 1/2 inches



Paisley on Yellow, 2020
watercolor and graphite on paper, 17 x 14 inches



Small Planter with Crossed Petals and Arrows, 2024
glazed earthenware, 4 3/4 x 5 1/2 x 4 1/2 inches



Fountain with Crescents and Leaves, 2019
glazed earthenware, pump, epoxy, wax, and coins, 50 1/2 × 18 × 18 inches





FW installation with Yellow Floor, 2020
watercolor, ink, and graphite on paper, 14 x 17 inches

ELISABETH KLEY

b. 1956, New York, NY

BA, Empire State College, New York, NY

SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Pattern is a Habit*, The Drawing Room, East Hampton, NY
- 2024 *Hello Faun*, Cooper Cole, Toronto, ON
Cymodocea, Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH
- 2023 *Kabinett*, Art Basel Miami Beach 2023, Miami, FL
A Seat in the Boat of the Sun, CANADA, New York, NY
- 2022 *Solo installation*, Art Collaboration Kyoto, Kyoto International Conference Center Event Hall, Kyoto, Japan
- 2021 *Minutes of Sand*, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA (traveled to Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, NE)
- 2019 *Garden*, Elisabeth Kley and Tabboo!, Gordon Robichaux, New York, NY
Elisabeth Kley, Window on Broad, Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA
Elisabeth Kley and Sanou Oumar, organized by Matt Connors, South Willard, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 Solo booth with CANADA, Independent Art Fair, New York, NY
- 2017 *Flowers out of Water*, Pierre Marie Giraud, Brussels, Belgium
- 2016 *Ozymandias*, CANADA, New York, NY
- 2015 *translucent threads of dawn* (two-person exhibition with Conrad Ventur), Regina Rex, New York, NY
A Sign of Eternal Beauty (two-person exhibition with Florence Derive), Gavlak, Palm Beach, FL
- 2014 *Red Lotus Sun with Yellow Face*, 39 Great Jones, New York, NY
Triple Masquerade: Ink Drawings, Vessels, Notebooks, Schema Projects, Brooklyn, NY
- 2012 *The Queen's Feathers*, John Tevis Gallery, Paris, France
- 2011 *Peacocks and Bottles*, organized by Nana Kipiani in conjunction with *Artisterium*, The Georgian National Museum Dimitry Shevarnadze National Gallery, Tbilisi, Georgia
Forever and Never, One More Time (two-person exhibition with Shannon MacConnell), Season, Seattle, WA
- 2010 *Birdbaths and Birdhouses*, Le Petit Versailles, New York, NY
- 2009 *Bazvalon*, Rose Burlingham Projects, New York, NY

- 2007 Momena Art, Brooklyn, NY
 2001 *Your Humble Servant the Genius* (two-person exhibition with Rob Wynne), Rupert Goldsworthy Gallery, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Paper Tiger*, CANADA, New York, NY
Sacred Geometry: Tamara Gonzalez, Elisabeth Kley and Robert Storr, curated by Gina Mischianti, Peninsula, New York, NY
Deep Color, curated by Joseph Hart, Halsey McKay Gallery, East Hampton, NY
Modular Rhythms, CANADA, New York, NY
- 2024 *4 x 4*, organized by Ryan Preciado, Karma, New York, NY
Group Shop, Bridget Donahue, New York, NY
Cover Band, Asya Geisberg Gallery, New York, NY
To Have & To Hold, Hughes Memorial Library, West Cornwall, CT
15 X 15, Independent Art Fair, New York, NY
- 2023 *South Willard*, Gordon Robichaux, New York, NY
CANADA on Paper, CANADA East Hampton, East Hampton, NY
- 2022 *Other People's Projects: Pre-Echo Press*, White Columns, New York, NY
The Deep End, CANADA East Hampton, East Hampton, NY
The Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY
- 2021 *Tangerine*, Acquavella Gallery, Palm Beach, FL
I know where I'm going. Who can I be now, The Modern Institute, Glasgow, Scotland
Launch F18 – Ten Years, (OVR), Launch F18, New York, NY
Downtown 2021, curated by Sam Gordon, La MaMa Galleria, New York, NY
- 2020 *The Essential Goods Show*, Fisher Parrish, Brooklyn, NY
The Planter Show, Fort Makers, New York, NY
Finding Our Way, lumber room, Portland, OR
Sculpture from a Distance, Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
A Page from My Intimate Journal (Part II), Gordon Robichaux at Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 *CANADA b/w Drag City*, curated by Dan Nadel, Soccer Club Club, Chicago, IL
Notebook, curated by Joanne Greenbaum, 56 Henry, New York, NY
A Show of Shows, Kiosk, Cité Radiuse, Marseille, France
Free Association, Affective Care, New York, NY
- 2018 *A Concentration of Power*, Joost van den Bergh, London, United Kingdom

- Inaugural Group Exhibition*, Gavlak Palm Beach, Palm Beach, FL
10 years/100 sculptures, curated by Todd von Ammon and Joseph Ian Henrikson, anonymous gallery, Mexico City, Mexico (traveled to Paris, Los Angeles and New York) *Painting*, Gavlak Palm Beach, Palm Beach, FL
A Page from My Intimate Journal (Part I), Gordon Robichaux, New York, NY
White Columns Benefit Exhibition and Auction, White Columns, New York, NY
- 2017 *FOTG*, Mitchell Alpus Gallery, New York, NY
Epochal Aeration: Or, The Slow Hand, curated by Trinie Dalton, Fourteen 30 Contemporary, Portland, OR *the form is stone, the dress is rain*, curated by Rafael Sanchez, AMP, Provincetown, MA
Gordon Robichaux Print Portfolio Launch, Gordon Robichaux, New York, NY
The First Ever & Only East Hampton Biennial, curated by Woobie Bogus and Adrienne Rubenstein, The Barn, East Hampton, NY
Flaming June VII (Flaming Creatures), Gavlak, Los Angeles, CA
NUT Group Show and Book Launch, Maw, New York, NY
Spielplatz, curated by William Corwin and Jonathan Goodman, Geary Contemporary, New York, NY
- 2016 *I, Cyborg*, curated by Will Corwin, Gazelli Art House, London, United Kingdom
Fort Greene, curated by Adrienne Rubinstein, Venus over LA, Los Angeles, CA
Going Home: 43 5th Avenue, Bortolami, New York, NY
Mayest, curated by Kathleen Aungier, Orgy Park, Brooklyn, NY
Tomorrow's Man, curated by Jack Pierson, Sheppard Contemporary Gallery, University Nevada, Reno, NV
2 Years of Looking, New Art Projects, London, United Kingdom
- 2015 *10th Anniversary Exhibition*, Gavlak, Los Angeles, CA
Devotion, curated by Will Corwin, Catinca Tabaracu Gallery, New York, NY
Uterior Motif, curated by Naomi Cahn, The Painting Center, New York, NY
Harum Scarum: Jack Pierson, Florence Derive, Elisabeth Kley, Richard Tinkler, Albert Merola Gallery, Provincetown, MA
Artisti Italian e Non 3, curated by Ilka Scobie and Luigi Cazzaniga, Spazio Soncina, Soncina, Italy
Summer Group Exhibition, Gavlak Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Palm Beach Summer Show 2015, Gavlak, Palm Beach, FL
Inside the Episode (organized by Jack Pierson), Launch F18, New York, NY
Digging, curated by Becky Kinder, Bushwick Open Studios, Brooklyn, NY
Pick One, Harbor/Regina Rex, New York, NY
- 2014 *Prophetic Diagrams*, curated by Will Corwin, Cheymore Gallery, Tuxedo, NY

- Improvised Showboat, Brooklyn, NY
Anthropocene, CANADA, New York, NY
Purple States, curated by Sam Gordon, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
 NADA Art Fair, New York, NY (Season, Seattle, and Regina Rex, Brooklyn)
New York Women: Diana Cooper, Rosy Keyser, Elisabeth Kley, Nancy Haynes, & Joan Waltemath, curated by Barbara MacAdam, G Gallery, Houston, TX
 Volta Art Fair, New York, NY (solo booth with Season, Seattle)
- 2013 *Artisti Italian e Non 2*, curated by Ilka Scobie and Luigi Cazzaniga, Spazio Soncina, Soncina, Italy
Endless Summer, Brian Morris Gallery, New York, NY
All Fucking Summer, Gavlak, Palm Beach, FL
Nude Descending a Staircase: An Homage, Francis M. Naumann Fine Art, New York, NY
- 2012 *Modern Times*. Lesley Heller Workspace, New York, NY *Claxons* (four-person exhibition), curated by Walter Robinson, Haunch of Venison, New York, NY
 Grey Area, New York, NY
- 2011 *Color Theory*, Storefront, Brooklyn, NY
- 2010 *The Visible Vagina*, Francis M. Naumann Fine Art & David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY
- 2009 *Modern & Contemporary Ceramics*, A.M. Richard Fine Art, Brooklyn, NY
- 2007 *French Kiss*, organized by Rob Wynne, JGM Galerie, Paris, France *The Demoiselles Revisited*, Francis M. Naumann Fine Art, New York, NY
 NADA Art Fair, Miami, FL (Momenta Art booth)
- 2006 *The Studio Visit*, Exit Art, New York, NY
- 2005 *Picture Window*, (site specific, city organized), Baltimore, MD
- 2004 *Hall of Portraits*, Pinkard Gallery, Maryland College Institute of Art, Baltimore, MD
- 2003 *The Recurrent*, Haunting Ghost, Francis M. Naumann Fine Art, New York, NY
Sleight of Hand, Salena Gallery, Brooklyn Campus, Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY
- 2002 *Kismet*, The Work Space, New York, NY
- 2001 *Bad Touch*, Lump gallery/projects, Raleigh, NC (also traveled to Keith Talent Gallery, London, Rose Museum, Brandeis University, Boston, Space 1026, Philadelphia; & UIMA, Chicago)
Beautiful You, curated by Larry Krone, Mark Pasek Gallery, New York, NY
Nijinsky, Rupert Goldsworthy Gallery, New York, NY
- 1999 *The Fin-de-Si cle Salon*, curated by J. A. Poisson, P.S. 122, New York, NY
- 1998 *Re: Duchamp*, curated by Mike Bidlo, Abraham Lubelski Gallery, New York, NY
Bowie, Rupert Goldsworthy Gallery, New York, NY
- 1997 *The Whole World in a Small Painting*, Trans Hudson Gallery, New York, NY
- 1996 *Cadmium Cathode*, Sauce, Brooklyn, NY

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
lumber room, Portland, OR

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2015 Troedsson Villa Residency, Nikko, Japan
1998 The Pollock-Krasner Foundation

CURATION

2025 *Looking Back/The 15th White Columns Annual*, White Columns, New York, NY

LECTURES AND VISITING ARTIST

2020 92nd Street Y Ceramics Department
2019 Cranbrook University

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2025 Shafkind, Erin, "Pattern, Obsession and History: Visual Interpretation with Elisabeth Kley," *Ceramics Monthly*, May 2025 (illus.)
Saltz, Jerry, "Go to Looking Back, The Fifteenth White Columns Annual," *New York Magazine*, February 10-23, 2005
- 2024 "The Currier Museum of Art Announces a New Collaboration with Elisabeth Kley for Its Welcome Gallery", *Artdaily*, May 16
- 2023 Stephanie Sporn, "10 Must-See Booths at Art Basel Miami Beach", *Elephant*, December 9
Annabel Keenan, "Miami Art Week Report: Day 3", *Artillery Magazine*, December 7
David Colman, "David Colman on Elisabeth Kley", *Artforum*, September
Barbara A. MacAdam, "Elisabeth Kley: A Seat in the Boat of the Sun", *The Brooklyn Rail*, May
Johanna Fateman, "Goings on about Town ", *The New Yorker*, May 1
- 2022 Maiko Kikuchi, "Doors Leading to Galleries around the World Gathered at the Art Fair in Kyoto ", *ETOKI*, November 26
Elisabeth Kley, "Three Women", *Hauser & Wirth*, January 28
- 2021 David Whelan, "March Avery and Elisabeth Kley at parts and Labor, Beacon NY", *Arte Fuse*, December 16

- Elaine Markoutsas, "Pattern Play", *Howl*, Issue 03, Inspiration for Creatives from WolfGordon, October 25
- Holland Cotter and Roberta Smith, "Art Gallery Shows to See Right Now", *The New York Times*, February 16
- William Corwin, "Elisabeth Kley: Minutes of Sand", *Brooklyn Rail*, July-August
- Paul Laster, "Out in Philly—Four Museums and Nine Shows in Eight Hours", *Whitehot Magazine*, August
- 2020 Johanna Fateman, "Johanna Fateman's top ten highlights of 2020", *Artforum*, December
- 2019 Johanna Fateman, "Elisabeth Kley and Tabboo!", *The New Yorker*, October 1
- "Ceramicist and Painter Elisabeth Kley's Cultured Commission Is a Vessel To the Past", *Cultured Magazine*, October 15
- Roberta Smith, "Elisabeth Kley and Tabboo!", *The New York Times*, October 30
- Jerry Saltz, "The Ten Best Art Shows of 2019," *New York Magazine*, December
- Harry Tafoya, "Two Artists Invite You to Bask in Their Garden", *Hyperallergic*, November 5
- 2018 Rachel Wetzler, "Twenty Years of Canada," *Independent Features*, January 2018
- "Elisabeth Kley - Episode 31", *Deep Color Podcast*, January 21
- "Interview with Alix Dana Fair Director at Independent," *BMW Art Guide*, March
- Paul Laster, "What to See at the Armory Show, Volta, NADA, and the Independent," *Galerie*, March 5
- Will Heinrich, "The Don't-Misses at Independent and NADA," *The New York Times*, March 8
- James Miller, "Independent art fair goes its own way and reaps rewards," *The Art Newspaper*, March 9
- David Cohen, "War of Independence," *artcritical*, March 11
- Kat Herriman, "Snowed Under: Armory Week 2018," *Ocula*, March 16
- 2017 Casey Lesser, "These 20 Artists Are Shaping the Future of Ceramics," *Artsy*, February 22
- 2016 James Panero, "Gallery chronicle," *The New Criterion*, February
- William Corwin, "Elisabeth Kley: Ozymandias," *The Brooklyn Rail*, February 3
- Barbara A. MacAdam, "Elisabeth Kley at Canada," *Artnews*, February 5
- Josie Luciano, "World of tomorrow," *Reno News & Review*, April 28
- Marina Cashdan and Casey Lesser, "The 20 Best Booths at Frieze New York," *Artsy*, May 5
- Alanna Martinez, "Frieze was Fun, but is Damian Hirst's Pickled Sheep Killing You?," *Observer*, May 5

- Zach Fischman "Elisabeth Kley", *Little Star Weekly*, May 13
- 2015 Will Corwin, "Elizabeth Kley", *The Interview Show: Clocktower Radio*, January 26
 "Elizabeth Kley", *Gorky's Granddaughter* (video interview), May 1
 Michael Anthony Farley and Corinna Kirsch, "We Went to Regina Rex and 247365",
Art F City, July 9
 Jonathan Stevenson, "Elisabeth Kley and Conrad Ventur:
 Improbable harmony at Regina Rex," *Two Coats of Paint*, July 17
 Howard Halle, "Check out summer's top group exhibitions in NYC," *TimeOut*, July 20
 Jacob Kiernan, "Translucent Threads of Dawn by Elisabeth Kley," *On-Verge*, July 21
 Steve Desroches, "Tomorrowland: Harum Scarum at Albert Merola Gallery,"
Provincetown Magazine, August 15
 Cate McQuaid, "In Provincetown: cinematic sweep, alluring dunes, hidden patterns",
The Boston Globe, September 1
 David Cohen, "'Cyborg' at Zürcher Gallery, 'Devotion' at Catinca
 Tabacaru Gallery" *Artcritical*, December 29
- 2014 Robin Cembalest, "29 Artists With Their Work at New York Art Fairs," *Artnews*,
 March 7
 Walter Robinson, "Art Show Anxiety: An Artist's-Eye View From
 Inside the Whitney Biennial and Armory Week", *Artspace Magazine*, March 7
 Benjamin Sutton, "The Imaginations Runs Wild at Volta NY 2014", *Artnet News*,
 March 7
 Elisabeth Kley, "The Textile Ceramic: Elisabeth Kley at Volta NY," *Installation
 Magazine*, March 12
 Ian Wallace, "This Clay's On Fire! Behind the Surprising New Renaissance in Ceramic
 Art" *Artspace Magazine*, April 17
 Ben Davis, "Finding Something at NADA New York", *Artnet News*, May 9
 Hrag Vartanian, "NADA New York Does It Better Than Ever", *Hyperallergic*, May 10
 Eric Sutphin, "Review: Anthropocene at Canada", *Painting is Dead*, August 5
 Michael Bilsborough, "Hybrid States", *SVA Continuing Education Blog*, August 13
 Thomas Micchelli, "More Now than Then: When Art Reaches Back", *Hyperallergic*,
 August 16
- 2013 Barbara A. MacAdam, "Nude Descending Staircase: An Homage," *ARTnews*, April
 Rachel Cole Dalamagas, "Interview: Elisabeth Kley", *zingmagazine*, August
- 2010 S. Schmerler, "Modern and Contemporary Ceramics", *Art in America*, May
 G. Roger Denson, "Women Artists Sweep Best of 2010 NYC Arts," *Huffington Post*,
 December 8

- 2007 Roberta Smith, "Art in Review: Elisabeth Kley - Momena Art", *The New York Times*, February 16
 Barbara Pollock, "Elisabeth Kley", *ARTnews*, April
 "French Kiss", *Paris Capitale*, June/July
- 2006 Roberta Smith, "The Studio Visit", *The New York Times*, February 24
- 2004 Walter Robinson, "Weekend Update," *Artnet Magazine*, March 9
- 2002 Ken Johnson, "Kismet", *The New York Times*, September 6 L. Wei, "Kismet,"
ARTnews, November
 Wei, Lily, "Kismet," *ARTnews*, November 2002, p. 275-6
- 2001 Walter Robinson, "Weekend Update", *Artnet Magazine*, February 20

PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 "A Garden Manifesto," edited by Olivia Lang and Richard Porter, published by Pilot Press
- 2023 "Minutes of Sand," exhibition catalog published by The Fabric Workshop and Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts
- 2022 "Three Women: on learning from Joan Mitchell and Joyce Pensato," *Ursula Magazine*, January
- 2021 Print published by White Columns for 50th anniversary benefit
- 2019 Monograph published by Pre-Echo Press, essays by Paul P. and Edward Leffingwell
- 2016 Print published by Exhibition A
- 2014 Tomorrow's Man 2, edited and published by Jack Pierson "The Aesthetic Gold of the Ravished Spouse of the Godhead," *Art Journal*, Spring
- 2013 "Resurrected Ornaments," *zingmagazine* #23, August "Very Cute for You," in *Tabboo! The Art of Stephen Tashjian*, edited by Lia Gangitano
- 2011 "Tabboo!'s Fairy Tale Renaissance," in *Dead Flowers*, edited by Lia Gangitano
- 2008 Cover drawing: alLuPiNiT, edited by Rafael Sanchez & Kathleen White