

# Arlene Byster

## ARTIST STATEMENT

There was a time when I felt endlessly creative—living in a flow that felt natural and fulfilling. But over time, I found myself spending more and more hours online—scrolling, consuming, comparing, and calling it “staying connected.” I told myself it was just part of modern life, but in truth, it drained me. I became fragmented, anxious, and distant from the parts of myself that once felt whole.

Eventually, I hit a breaking point. I knew I needed to disconnect in order to reconnect—with my art, with nature, and with who I really am.

This latest body of work, especially my new lenticular pieces, is the result of that shift. It’s deeply personal—a reflection of time spent in quiet places, closely observing light, texture, and life outdoors. It’s about healing through creativity and returning to what grounds me.

My hope is that this work offers you a breath, a pause, and perhaps a small sense of reconnection—just as it has done for me.

Through photography, layering, and mixed media, I explore the healing power of light, organic textures, and intimate moments in the natural world. It’s a visual reclaiming of time and space—a push back against the noise—and an invitation to rediscover presence, beauty, and connection beyond the screen.

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**Arlene Byster** is a contemporary artist based in Highland Park, Illinois. She holds a B.S. degree from Arizona State University and pursued further studies in art and photography at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Columbia College Chicago. She also studied figure drawing and watercolor at the renowned Palette & Chisel Academy of Fine Arts.

Arlene’s work is held in numerous private and corporate collections, including at the St. Regis and other distinguished locations. Her artistic contributions have been featured in high-profile exhibitions such as **Dining by Design (DIFFA/Chicago)**, the **Lake Forest Showhouse & Gardens**, and the **Adler Showhouse** in Chicago. Her work has been highlighted in national publications including *Elle Décor* and *Traditional Home*.

She was formerly represented by Echt Gallery, where she participated in numerous group exhibitions. Most recently, her work was featured in the curated group show “**Where We Dwell**” at **The Art Center of Highland Park** (June 20–August 2, 2025), presented by Echt Gallery.