Karla Knight

Born 1958, New York, NY

Karla Knight is a visual artist born in New York City and currently living and working in Redding, CT. Her work has been widely exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions, and she is represented in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the Walker Art Center, and Emily Fisher Landau, among others. She has been the recipient of various awards and fellowships including The MacDowell Colony, Yaddo Corporation, and two Connecticut Artist Fellowships. Karla Knight's work consists of imaginary language, objects, diagrams, and symbols. It forms a pictorial language of symbol and writing whose underlying system is not known. Simultaneously ancient and futuristic, the work creates an alternative culture which plays with the mystery of life, and what lies hidden underneath.

EDUCATION

1980 Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI, BFA Painting

1980 RISD European Honors Program, Rome, Italy

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026

Karla Knight: Orbit, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

Karla Knight: Fine Tuner, Gallery Wendi Norris, San Francisco, CA

2023

Karla Knight: Universal Remote, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2022

Karla Knight: Road Trip, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2021

Karla Knight: Navigator, curated by Amy Smith-Stewart, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT

2020

Notes from the Lightship, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2018

Spaceship Drawings, EBK Gallery, Hartford, CT

2010

Life in Space: Charcoal Drawings, Artspace, New Haven, CT

2004

Pondering the Marvelous, Wave Hill Glyndor Gallery, Bronx, NY

1990

Lorence-Monk Gallery, New York, NY

1987

Lorence-Monk Gallery, New York, NY

1986

Dart Gallery, Chicago, IL

1981

William Francis Gallery, Providence, RI

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

Once Within a Time, curated by Cecilia Alemani, 12th SITE Santa Fe International, Santa Fe, NM

São Paulo Biennial presentation, Gomide&Co, São Paulo, BR

Drawn to Drawing, Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2024

The Imaginary Made Real, curated by Paul Laster, Berry Campbell Gallery, NY

Inner Sanctum, Chapel of Sacred Mirrors, Sanctuary of Visionary Art, Wappinger Falls, NY

2023

Sightings, Sun Valley Museum of Art, Ketchum, ID

Rituals of Devotion, McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

Schema: World as Diagram, Marlborough Gallery, New York, NY

2022

Thaw: Winter Group Show, The Landing Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2019

Summer Exhibition: Recent Works, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2018

April 14, 1561, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

21st Century Cyphers, 516 Arts, Albuquerque, NM

2017

Underlying system is not known, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL

Rhyme & Reason, Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism Gallery, Hartford, CT

2016

Intuitive Progression, Fisher Landau Center for Art, Long Island City, NY

Magic, curated by Tiffany Calvert, Mercer County Community College, NJ

2015

Digging: A Group Show, curated by Becky Kindder, Brooklyn Open Studios, Brooklyn, NY

2014

Momenta Art Benefit, Brooklyn, NY

2012

Diagram, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT

Momenta Art Benefit, Brooklyn, NY

Nurture Art Benefit, Brooklyn, NY

2011

Drawing and Illustration, Maslow Study Gallery for Contemporary Art, Marywood University, Scranton, PA

2010

All Things Being Equal, curated by Tiffany Calvert, Raritan Valley Community College, Bridgewater, NJ

Power to the People, Feature, Inc., New York, NY

2009

FIVE DECADES OF PASSION Part Two: The Founding of the Center, 1989-1991, Fisher Landau Center for Art, Long Island City, NY

White Columns, New York. Work instated in Curated Artist Registry.

Contemporary Women Artists: Work on Paper, Maslow Study Gallery for Contemporary Art, Marywood University, Scranton, PA

2008

Pierogi Flatfiles, New York, NY

Desire, Art Forum Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Worlds Away, Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism Gallery, Hartford, CT

2007

Paper, Fisher Landau Center for Art, Long Island City, NY

Pierogi Flatfiles, New York, NY

Artnews Projects, Berlin, DE

2006

Pierogi Flatfiles, New York, NY

Statements and Symbols: Selected Paintings and Prints from the Maslow Collection, Marywood University Suraci Gallery, Scranton, PA

2002

40 by 40, Adam Baumgold Gallery, New York

2001

Double Visions, Adam Baumgold Gallery, New York

2000

Quirky, Adam Baumgold Gallery, New York

Ambiguity: Layers of Information, Contemporary Gallery, Marywood University, Scranton, PA

1998

Imaginary Friend, curated by Nayland Blake, Rupert Goldsworthy Gallery, New York, NY

1997

Invitational, Adam Baumgold Gallery, New York, NY

1995

Selections, Adam Baumgold Gallery, New York, NY

1993

The Return of the Cadavre Exquis, Drawing Center, New York, NY

1991

New Works on Paper, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY

1990

Art Against AIDS, Washington, DC

Lorence-Monk Gallery, New York, NY

1989

Group Show, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MA

Fawbush Gallery, New York, NY

1988

Works on Paper, Curt Marcus Gallery, New York, NY

Dart Gallery, Chicago, IL

The Power of Drawings, Center for Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL

1987

Group Painting Exhibition, Lorence-Monk Gallery, New York, NY

Art Against AIDS, Lorence-Monk Gallery, New York, NY

1986

Painting the Object, Lorence-Monk Gallery, New York, NY

1985

Real Surreal, Lorence-Monk Gallery, New York, NY

1980

European Honors Thesis Show, RISD, Palazzo-Cenci, Rome, Italy

Two-person exhibition, Woods-Gerry Gallery, Providence, RI

COLLECTIONS

The Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY

Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, NY

Emily Fisher Landau, Long Island City, NY

Hart-Abrams, Inc.

Maslow Collection, Scranton, PA

McCrory Corporation

Middlebury College Museum of Art, Middlebury, VT

The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

Prudential, Inc., Newark, NJ

Tamayo Museum, Mexico City, MX

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN

AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS/RESIDENCIES

2018

Yaddo Corporation, Saratoga Springs, NY: Artist Residency

2016

Yaddo Corporation, Saratoga Springs, NY: Artist Residency

2015

Connecticut Office of the Arts: Artist Fellowship

2014

The MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, NH: Fellowship

2012

Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant: Nominee

2006

Connecticut Office of the Arts: Artist Fellowship

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2026

Greenberger, Alex. “The Best Booths at Frieze New York, From Cindy Sherman’s Newest Photos to UFOs,” ARTnews, May 13.

Carollo, Elisa. “Frieze New York Opens Strong, But the Real Test Is Just Beginning,” Observer, May 14.

Kelly, Brian P. “The Best Art at Frieze New York,” The Wall Street Journal, May 14.

2026

Greenberger, Alex. “The Best Booths at Frieze New York, From Cindy Sherman’s Newest Photos to UFOs,” ARTnews, May 13.

Carollo, Elisa. “Frieze New York Opens Strong, But the Real Test Is Just Beginning,” Observer, May 14.

Kelly, Brian P. “The Best Art at Frieze New York,” The Wall Street Journal, May 14.

Karl, Brian. “Karla Knight’s Cosmic Conspiracies,” Hyperallergic, May 22.

Spradley, Phillip Edward. “I Want to Believe Karla Knight,” Whitehot Magazine, May 29.

Valladares, Carlos. “Why Is Everyone Obsessed with UFOs Right Now?” Art in America, June 19.

2025

Karl, Brian. “Speaking Soil and Glowing Skies: What Not to Miss at SITE SANTA FE International,” Observer, August 4.

Watlington, Emily. “A Must-See SITE Santa Fe International Captures the Power of Storytelling,” Art in America, July 2.

Scott, Chad. “A New Way to See Santa Fe: 12th Site Santa Fe International,” Forbes, July 3.

Benzine, Vittoria. “New York Gallery for Visionary Art offers an inner journey in time for the vernal equinox,” The Art Newspaper, March 12.

2023

Schwedener, Martha. "What to See in NYC Galleries in August," The New York Times, August 4.

Carey, Brainard. “Karla Knight,” Radio Interview on Praxis, WYBC Yale University Radio, November 19.

Guillaume, Florelle. “13 superb Paris+ stands worth braving the crowds for,” BeauxArt, October 19.

Saltz, Jerry. “Things To Do: See: ‘Karla Knight: Universal Remote,’” New York Magazine, December 4.

2022

Packard, Cassie. “Karla Knight On Living With the Unknown,” Artforum, June 21.

McCoy, Anne. “Karla Knight: Road Trip,” The Brooklyn Rail, June 7.

Fateman, Johanna. “Karla Knight: Road Trip,” The New Yorker, June 3.

Battista, Kathy. “ArtSeen: Karla Knight Navigator,” The Brooklyn Rail, March 1.

Keenan, Annabel. “Karla Knight at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum,” artillery, March 8.

Sharma, Manu. “Karla Knight Traversing Beyond the Material,” stirworld, March 1.

Keats, Jonathan. “Better Than The X-Files: Artist Karla Knight Probes Alien Worlds In Order To Observe Our Own,” Forbes, January 11.

Rosenberg, Karen. “In Her Studio, the Paranormal Is Normal,” The New York Times, January 6.

2021

Saltz, Jerry. “The Best New York Art Shows of 2021,” Vulture, December 16.

Halle, Howard. “How I Made This: Karla Knight’s Otherworldly Art,” ARTnews, October 13.

Heinrich, Will. “These Are the Art Shows and Events to See This Season,” The New York Times, September 17.

Ma, Sophia. “Trusting Hands at Andrew Edlin Gallery,” Art Spiel, September 20.

Steinfeld, Daniela. “Independent Art Fair: Karla Knight,” Voices on Art Podcast, August 17.

2020

Benfield, Thomas. “The Couch Gallery Crawl,” Vulture, July 10.

Goodman, Jonathan. “Karla Knight: Notes from the Lightship,” The Brooklyn Rail, June 1.

Laster, Paul. “Upcycling: 5 Artists Inventively Using Reclaimed Materials,” Art & Object, April 6.

Haber, John. “Believe It or Not,” Haber’s Art Reviews, April 1.

Saltz, Jerry. “The Art World Goes Dark,” Vulture, March 20.

Zanardi, Eva. “Independent 2020: A Cornucopia of Leading-Edge Art,” Art & Object, March 8.

Saltz, Jerry. “13 Great Things to Do in New York,” Vulture, March 2.

2019

Smith, Roberta. "What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week," The New York Times, January 9.

2018

Halle, Howard. "April 14, 1561," Time Out New York, December 17. Photo repro.

Halle, Howard. "The Top five New York art shows this week," Time Out New York, December 17. Photo repro.

Roberts, Kathaleen. "21st Century Cyphers," Albuquerque Journal, May 13. Photo repro.

Dunne, Susan. "Karla Knight's Spaceship Drawings at EBK in Hartford," Hartford Courant, June 16. Photo repro.

2016

TimesLedger, "Intuitive Progression," Fisher Landau Center for Art, Long Island City NY Steve Barnes, August 25

2014

Post Road Magazine, Issue 26, "Ground Control."

2012

The Hartford Courant, "Diagram at Real Art Ways," Susan Dunne, Nov. 14

Samelson, Henry. Buddy of Work, blog. February 19.

2010

New Haven Advocate, "Knowing and Forgetting," Geoffrey Detrani, April 5

“All Things Being Equal”, curated by Tiffany Calvert, Raritan Valley Community College, Bridgewater

2004

The New York Times, “You and Them!” October 31, Arts and Leisure

Wave Hill News, Autumn 200

The Riverdale Press, “Natural Notions,” September 23

1991

Brooklyn Museum Newsletter, Summer 1991

1989

Dorsey, John. "Works by Emerging Artists," Baltimore Sun, February 1989

1988

Cohrs, Timothy. “Karla Knight,” Arts, January

1987

Cameron, Dan. "Opening Salvos, Part One," Arts, December

1986

Cohrs, Timothy. “Group Show,” Arts, February

Bomb, Spring 1986, pp. 32, 33. Photo repro.

Saltz, Jerry. Beyond Boundaries, New York’s New Art, Alfred van der Marck Editions