Maria Schechter, CV

Education

Schiller International University, Heidelberg, Germany — 2007-2009
Master in International Business

New York University, New York — 2006-2007
Initiated graduate studies with NYU

Cornish College of the Arts at Seattle University, Seattle — 1994-1998
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design

Select Exhibitions

2026
SWOPE Art Museum, *82nd Wabash Valley Exhibition*, October - January 2027, Terre Haute, IN, group
Indiana University Art Gallery, *Rooted In Nature*, June - July, Kokomo, IN, group
Indiana Museum of Art, Newfields, Latino Artists Network, December - January, Indianapolis, IN, group

2025
Minnetrista Museum of Art and Gardens, *Open Space: Art About The Land*, November - January, Muncie, IN, group
Indianapolis Art Council, Gallery 924, *DeHaan Artist of Distinction*, October - November, Indianapolis, IN, group
Fishers Arts Council, *Celebración de la herencia hispana*, July - October, Fishers, IN, group
Anderson Museum of Art, *Open Space: Art About The Land*, November - January, Anderson, IN, group

2024
Hamilton Public Library, *24 Blooms & 24 Recipes*, September-October, Fishers, IN, solo
The Waldron Arts Center, *Blooming Earth*, August- September, Bloomington, IN, solo
Minnetrista Museum & Gardens, *The 34th Annual Juried Art Show*, March - May, Muncie, IN, group
Hamilton Public Library East - Ignite, *The 700's*, February - April, Fishers, IN, group
Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, *Gatekeepers Returns to Earth*, Gatlinburg, TN, solo
Minnetrista Museum & Gardens, *Open Space: Art About the Land*, November - January, Muncie, IN, group

2023
Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts,
Degrees of Commitment: Climate, Ecosystems, and Society, September - November, Gatlinburg, TN, group
University of Applied Sciences, *Captcha Design Festival*, September, Mannheim, Germany, group
City of Bloomington, *Black e Brown Arts Festival*, July, Bloomington, IN, group
Bloomington City Hall, *Eco-Heroes* Contest, May, Bloomington, IN, group
Michigan State University-Lansing, LookOut! Gallery, *Creativity in the Time of COVID-19*: Art as a Tool for Combating Inequity and Injustice (permanent collection: https://d.lib.msu.edu/ctc/104), MSU Libraries/Digital Repository
Creativity in The Time of Covid-19, March - April, group
Las Laguna Art Gallery, *Climate Changing*, February - March, Laguna Beach, CA, group
Las Laguna Art Gallery, *Botanical Illustration*, January - March, Laguna Beach, CA, group
Studio Alchemy Gallery, *Roots*, January, Indianapolis, IN, group

2022
Radical Mycology Convergence, *MushLove*, October, Portland, OR, group
EcoAware Gallery, *Dispose to Reuse*, February, India, group
Sacramento County Board of Chambers, *Women of Courage*, January - July, Sacramento, CA, solo
Palo Alto Public Library, *Blooming Earth*, Palo Alto, CA, solo

2021
Las Laguna Art Gallery, *Botanical Art and Illustration*, December, Laguna Beach, CA, group
Blue Line Arts, *Members Medley*, September, Roseville, CA, group
Humanifest Indy, *Health and Wellness Fair*, August, Indianapolis, IN, group

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Women Soaring Project: *Women Suffragists*, Online Exhibition, September, New York, NY, group 2020
Triton Museum, *Covid-19: Life in a Pandemic*, Online Pocket Exhibition, June, Santa Clara, CA, group
Triton Museum, *We Can't Breath*, Online Pocket Exhibition, May, Santa Clara, CA, group
Abrams Claghorn Gallery, *The Ground Upon Which We Stand*, April - May, Albany, CA, group
Palo Alto Art Center, *Happy Place: a Members Exhibit*: Womens Caucas for Art, Palo Alto, CA, group

Select Grants, Awards, Juror

Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Medical Emergency Grant, Administered by NYFA, New York, NY 2026
CERF+, Get Ready Grant 2025

DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award, Indianapolis Arts Council, IN, Award 2024
National Society of Arts and Letters, Visual Arts Competition, Juror
Hamilton Public Library East, Ignite Studio, The 700's, First Place, Fishers, IN, Award
Hamilton Public Library East, Solo Exhibition, Award

Artist Achievement Award, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, Award 2023
Eco-Heroes, 2nd place, City of Bloomington, Office of the Mayor
Environmental Commission, Bloomington, IN, Award
Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Emergency Grant, New York, NY, Grant 2022

16lb. donation of mycelium by Ecovative, New York, Donation 2021
Arts and Accessibility Grant, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, Grant
Center for Cultural Innovation, Los Angeles, CA, Grant

Fantastic Fungi Global Summit, Scholarship, Los Angeles, CA, Scholarship 2020
California Arts Council, UCLA, Arts and Accessibility, Grant 2020
Schiller Internatinal University, Benjamin Franklin, Heidelberg, Germany, Award 2007
MacArthur Award, Founder of What Is Art -What Is Sound?, Seattle, WA, Nominee 2003
Goethe Institute Mannheim, Kulturmittlerin (cultural liaison) from the Goethe-Institut New York, Grant 2002

Select Artist Residencies

1.Ayatana's Biophilium:
Artist Residencies (3 separate residencies)

- Mycology: Mushroom School for Artists: September
- Earth Pigments/WildCraft: August
- Ecology/Symbiosis: July, 2023

2. Hamilton Public Library, Fishers, Ignite:
Artist-In-Residency
I designed a community wide sustainable art curriculum to serve the community of Fishers for the summer May - August of 2026.

Select Teaching

2022 - Present
Yale University: Teacher Leadership Program
The Teacher Leadership Program is led by Jessica Sack, the Jan and Frederick Mayer Curator of Public Education; Wurtele Gallery teachers; and Education Department staff. In this program, educators explore innovative ways to connect their curricula and interest in art with the Yale University Art Gallery's collection. The sessions also address online and in-person teaching methodologies.

Bloomingfoods, A city-wide eco-printing workshop inviting the Bloomington community to explore sustainable art-making through botanical materials, celebrating creativity, environmental stewardship, and our connection to the natural world during EarthFest. 2026

Bloomington Community Orchard, Eco-Printing: A Documentation of the Orchard invited Bloomington families to explore and document the Community Orchard through three botanical printmaking methods, capturing the site's ecological character, seasonal textures, and community connections through art. 2025

Bloomington Forestry School: ForagAs a guest instructor, I collaborated with youth programs to develop Forage, Fossils, and Fun, an experiential learning program exploring nature, geology, and creative discovery.

Monroe County Public Library Southwest Branch, Led an adult workshop in Bloomington, Indiana, exploring natural pigment-making by transforming avocado seeds into a sustainable pink dye through hands-on experimentation with organic materials. 2025

Hamilton Public Library East, Led an adult workshop in Fishers, Indiana, exploring botanical pigment-making and painting through hands-on experimentation with natural color and plant-based materials. 2024

The FAR Center on Contemporary Art, Led a one-hour youth workshop in Bloomington, Indiana, inspired by Romanian sculptor Constantin Brâncuși, encouraging young artists to explore abstraction, form, and movement through the creation of bird-inspired sculptures. 2023

The FAR Center on Contemporary Art, Led a three-hour adult workshop in Bloomington, Indiana, exploring mycelium as an artistic medium, the ecological significance of trees, and the integration of botanical materials into sustainable art-making and botanical palette development.

Studio Alchemy Gallery, Led a three-hour adult workshop hosted by Alchemy Gallery and Studio in Indianapolis, exploring mycelium as an artistic medium, the ecological importance of trees, and the creation of botanical color palettes. 2022

Crocker Art Museum, August, Teacher Training, (E.S.L) Emotional, Social, Learning, online program, Sacramento, CA 2021

Private Online instruction: Teaching; Drawing, Painting and Art History

Palo Alto Arts Center, Arts Instructor, City of Palo Alto, CA 2020

Membership: Board Member

Seattle University, Alumni Association, Women of Seattle University, Board Member;
Social & Communications Committee Member and Education 2026-Current

Select Publications

Women United Art Movement, Maria Schechter, https://www.womenunitedartmovement.com/artistdirectory/maria-schechter, Autumn, 2026.

Amin, Lakshmi Rivera, Hyperallergic, "A View from the Easel," Https://hyperallergic.com/a-view-from-the-easel-321/, January 2026.

Newfields (Indianapolis Museum of Art). "Arte Club." Waller Gallery, IMS at Newfields. December 2025.
Spagnoli Gabardi, Chiara, "Eco Friendly Artists Who Will Blow Your Mind." Eco Home Magazine, July, 2025.

WFIU-NPR, Maria Schechter, Interview: Pop of Culture. S02 E29: *We Can't Stop the Beat. In Pop of Culture*. Indiana Public Radio. Retrieved August 22, 2025, https://indianapublicradio.org/popofculture.

Honored Listee, Marquis Who's Who of American Women, 2025.

Mack, Justin, "DeHaan Artists of Distinction. Axios Indianapolis, February 2025, https://www.axios.com/local/indianapolis/2025/02/06/dehaan-artists-of-distinction.

Schechter, Chris."Foraging as a way of life." INTERALIA MAGAZINE, April 2024, https://www.interaliamag.org/articles/maria-medina-schechter-foraging-as-a-way-of-life.

Adams, Megan. "Arrowmont Welcomes Bio Artist Maria Schechter's Mycelium Sculpture The Gatekeepers to Campus." Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, January 24, 2024, https://www.arrowmont.org/arrowmont-welcomes-bio-artist-maria-schechters-mycelium-sculpture-the-gatekeepers-to-campus.

Hirschten, Addie. "The Studio Alchemy Podcast: Episode 99, Bio Art with Maria Medina-Schechter." May 21, 2023, https://tunein.com/podcasts/Arts--Culture-Podcasts/The-Alchemy-of-Art-p1369555/?topicId=286708344.

Emily's Blog. "Maria Medina-Schechter." February 10, 2023, https://myriverside.sd43.bc.ca/emilym2019/2023/02/10/inquiry-long-term-project.

Schechter, Maria, "Enchanted." NATUREVOLVE Magazine, June 23, 2023, https://issuu.com/naturevolve/docs/210623_naturevolve.

Spagnoli Gabardi, Chiara, "ECO FRIENDLY ARTISTS WHO WILL BLOW YOUR MIND." ELUXE Magazine, February 24, 2022, https://eluxemagazine.com/culture/articles/eco-friendly-artists.

Schechter, Maria, "Organic Art." The Ecological Citizen, July, 2022, chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.ecologicalcitizen.net/pdfs/epub-063.pdf.

Scola, Anna, "Meditations on Music." WhiteHot Magazine, Brooklyn, NY, April 29, 2019, https://en.palungjit.org/threads/wm-whitehot-magazine-of-contemporary-art-maria-schechter-meditations-of-music-and.6912/.