

LENORE TAWNEY

Born 1907 in Lorain, Ohio, US

Died 2007 in New York, US

EDUCATION

- 1964 Textile Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US
- 1954 Penland School of Crafts, Penland, North Carolina, US
- 1948 Study with Alexander Archipenko in Chicago and Woodstock, New York, US
- 1947 Institute of Design, Chicago, Illinois, US
- 1945 University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois, US
- 1942 School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, US

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 'Lenore Tawney: Holding us in wonder', The Gund at Kenyon College, Ohio, US
- 2024 'Lenore Tawney & Toshiko Takaezu: A Remarkable Friendship', Alison Jacques, London, UK
- 2023 'Takaezu & Tawney: An Artist is a Poet', Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, US
- 2021 'Lenore Tawney: Part Two', Alison Jacques, London, UK
'Lenore Tawney: Part One', Alison Jacques, London, UK
- 2019 'Ephemeral and Eternal: The Archive of Lenore Tawney', John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, US
'Lenore Tawney: Even Thread Has a Speech', John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, US
'Lenore Tawney: Cloud Labyrinth', John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, US
'In Poetry and Silence: The Work and Studio of Lenore Tawney', John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, US
- 2013 'Wholly Unlooked For', University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US
- 2012 'Wholly Unlooked For', Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland, US
- 2003 'Lenore Tawney: Visions in Time', Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, Vermont, US

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- 2000 'Lenore Tawney: Celebrating Five Decades of Work', browngrotta arts, Wilton, Connecticut, US
- 1998 'Lenore Tawney: Shrines Part II', Donahue / Sosinski Art, New York, US
Tenri Gallery, New York, US
- 1997 'Lenore Tawney: Vestures of Water', Allentown Art Museum, Pennsylvania, US

'Lenore Tawney: Meditations', Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, New York, US
- 1996 'Lenore Tawney: Meditative Images', Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, US

'Lenore Tawney: Roots, Tendrils, Threads', Schick Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, US

Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

'Lenore Tawney: Shrines', E.M. Donahue Gallery, New York, US
- 1995 'Lenore Tawney: Boundless World', Perimeter Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, US
- 1994 Tenri Gallery, New York, US
- 1992 Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland, US
- 1991 'Lenore Tawney: A Retrospective', Renwick Gallery, National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, US
- 1990 'Lenore Tawney: A Retrospective', Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, US

'Lenore Tawney: A Retrospective', American Craft Museum, New York, US

Fairweather Hardin Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, US
- 1988 Helen Drutt Gallery, New York, US
- 1986 Mokotoff Gallery, New York, US
- 1985 Mokotoff Gallery, New York, US
- 1981 'Lenore Tawney: Fibers/Collages', Tacoma Art Museum, Washington, US

Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York, US

'Lenore Tawney and Toshiko Takaezu', Foster Gallery, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, US
- 1980 Fairweather Hardin Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, US

Sawhill Gallery, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, US
- 1979 New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey, US

'Lenore Tawney and Toshiko Takaezu: Form and Fiber', Cleveland Institute of Art, Ohio, US
- 1978 'Lenore Tawney: A Personal World', Brookfield Craft Center, Connecticut, US

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- 1975 California State University, Fullerton, California, US
Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York, US
- 1974 Willard Gallery, New York, US
- 1970 Hunterdon Art Center, Clinton, New Jersey, US
Peale Galleries, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US
Willard Gallery, New York, US
- 1969 Fairweather Hardin Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, US
Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York, US
- 1968 Adele Bednarz Galleries, Los Angeles, California, US
- 1967 Willard Gallery, New York, US
Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York, US
- 1962 'Woven Forms by Lenore Tawney', Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, US
- 1961 Staten Island Museum, New York, US
- 1960 'Tapestries by Lenore Tawney', Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, US

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 'The Sun and The Moon', Saatchi Gallery, London, UK (forthcoming)
'Made in Tension', The Soloviev Foundation, New York, US (forthcoming)
- 2025 'Toshiko Takaazu: Diaploues in Clay', Princeton University Art Museum, New Jersey, US
Last Night I dreamt of Manderley' curated by Daniel Malarkey, Alison Jacques, London, UK
- 2024 'Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction', National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada
'Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art', Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
'Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction', National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., US
'516: The Artists of Coentis Slip', The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US
'Subversive, Skilled, Sublime: Fiber Art by Women', Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian Museum of American Art, Washington DC., US

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- 'Toshiko Takaezu: Worlds Within', The Noguchi Museum, Long Island City, New York, US
- 'Beyond Form: Abstract Art by Women Artists, 1950-1970', Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK
- 'Weaving Abstraction in Ancient and Modern Art', The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US
- 'Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art', Barbican Gallery, London, UK
- 'The Art of Fabric', Kunsthalle Emden, Germany
- 2023 'Making Their Mark', curated by Cecilia Alemani, Shah Garg Foundation, New York, US
- 'Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction', Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California, US
- 'The Art of Fabric', Kunsthalle Vogelmann, Heilbronn, Germany
- 'Of Mythic Worlds: Works from the Distant Past through the Present' Drawing Center, New York, US
- 'Scandinavian Design and the United States, 1890-1980', Milwaukee Museum of Art, Wisconsin, US
- 'Craft Front and Center: Exploring the Permanent Collection', Museum of Arts and Design, New York, US
- 'Inspired Encounters: Women Artists and the Legacies of Modern Art', David Rockefeller Creative Arts Center, Tarrytown, New York, US
- 'Scandinavian Design and the United States, 1890-1980', Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- 2022 'New York: 1962 - 64', The Jewish Museum, New York, US
- 2021 'Whose Tradition?', Tate Liverpool, UK
- 'Women in Abstraction', Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain
- 'Craft Front & Center', Museum of Arts and Design, New York, US
- 'Women in Abstraction', Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- 'Stories from Storage', Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, US
- 'Crafting America', Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, US
- 'Objects: USA 2020', R & Company, New York, US
- 2020 'Never Done: 100 Years of Women in Politics and Beyond', The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College Saratoga Springs, New York, US
- 2019 'Making Knowing: Craft in Art, 1950-2019', Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, US

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- 'Off the Wall: American Art to Wear', Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania, US
'Women Take the Floor: Beyond the Loom – Fiber as Sculpture/Subversive Threads', MFA, Boston, Massachusetts, US
'Weaving Beyond the Bauhaus', Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, US
'Bauhaus Imaginista: Learning From', Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
- 2018 'Bauhaus Imaginista: Learning From', SESC Pompéia, São Paulo, Brazil
'Materials and Objects: Beyond Craft', Tate Modern, London, UK
- 2017 'Between Land and Sea: Artists of the Coenties Slip', The Menil Collection, Houston, Texas, US
'Making Space: Women Artists and Postwar Abstraction', MoMA, New York, US
'Liminal Focus', Barbara Mathes Gallery, New York, US
'Process and Practice', The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US
'Gathered Resources', University Museum, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, US
- 2016 '3 Women', The Landing Gallery, Los Angeles, California, US
- 2015 'Pathmakers: Women in Art, Craft and Design, Mid-century and Today', National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC, US
'Pathmakers: Women in Art, Craft and Design, Mid-century and Today', Museum of Arts and Design, New York, US
'Fiber: Sculpture 1960-Present', Des Moines Art Center, Iowa, US
'Influence and Evolution: Fiber Sculpture... Then and Now', browngrotta arts, Wilton, Connecticut, US
'Fiber: Sculpture 1960-Present', Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio, US
- 2014 'Thread Lines', The Drawing Center, New York, US
'Fiber: Sculpture 1960-Present', ICA, Boston, Massachusetts, US
'Art=Text=Art: Works by Contemporary Artists', UB Anderson Gallery, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, US
- 2013 'Art & Textiles: Fabric as Material and Concept in Modern Art from Klimt to the Present', Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany
'The Art of Handwriting, Archives of American Art', Lawrence A. Fleischman Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, US

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- 'Art=Text=Art: Works by Contemporary Artists', Hafnarborg:
The Hafnarfjörður Centre of Culture and Fine Art, Iceland
- 'Textiles: Open Letter', Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach, Germany
- 2012 'Art=Text=Art: Works by Contemporary Artists', Zimmerli Art Museum
at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, US
- 'To Be a Lady', 1285 Avenue of the Americas Art Gallery, New York, US
- 'Retro/Prospective: 25+ Years of Art Textiles and Sculpture', browngrotta
arts, Wilton, Connecticut, US
- 2011 'Art=Text=Art: Works by Contemporary Artists', Harnett Museum of Art,
University of Richmond Museums, Virginia, US
- 2008 'Messages and Magic: 100 Years of Collage and Assemblage in American
Art', John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, US
- 'Circa 1958: Breaking Ground in American Art', Ackland Art Museum,
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, US
- 2004 'Traditions/Transformations: The Changing World of Fiber Art',
Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut, US
- 2003 'Generations/Transformations: American Fiber Art', American Textile
History Museum, Lowell, Massachusetts, US
- 'Abstraction: The Amerindian Paradigm', IVAM, Valencia, Spain
- 'Abstraction: The Amerindian Paradigm', Palais des Beaux-Arts,
Brussels, Belgium
- 1999 'Material Perception: Celebrating Art and Architecture: Creating a Place
for People', Bank of America Plaza, Charlotte, North Carolina, US
- 1998 'North and South Connected: An Abstraction of the Americas', Cecilia
de Torres Gallery, New York, US
- 1997 'Hanging by a Thread', Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York, US
- 1996 'Fiber and Form: The Woman's Legacy', Michael Rosenfeld Gallery,
New York, US
- 1994 'Inspired by Nature', Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, New York, US
- 1993 'Craft Today USA', organised by American Craft Museum, Museu Calouste
Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal
- 'Small Works in Fiber: The Collection of Mildred Constantine', Cleveland
Museum of Art, Ohio, US
- 1992 'Craft Today USA', organised by American Craft Museum, The Zappeion,
Athens, Greece; SNG, Bratislava, Slovakia; Grassi Museum of Applied Arts,
Leipzig, Germany; Fundación la Caixa, Barcelona, Spain
- 1991 'Craft Today USA', organised by American Craft Museum, AKM, Ankara,
Turkey; The Oslo Museum of Applied Art, Norway; Sint-Pietersabdij, Gent,

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Belgium; Amerika Haus Berlin, Germany

'Intimate and Intense: Small Fiber Structures', Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minnesota, US

1990 'Revered Earth', Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis, Missouri, US

'Craft Today USA', organised by American Craft Museum, Museum für Kunsthandwerk, Frankfurt, Germany; Zachęta Narodowa Galeria Sztuki, Warsaw, Poland; Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Lausanne, Switzerland; Museum of Decorative Applied and Folk Art, Moscow, Russia

'Revered Earth', Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Texas, US

'Revered Earth', The Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico, US

'Frontiers in Fiber: The Americans', organised by the North Dakota Museum of Art, National Museum of Singapore, Singapore

1989 'Craft Today USA', organised by American Craft Museum, Taidetollisuusmuseoi, Helsinki, Finland

'Craft Today USA', organised by American Craft Museum, MAD, Paris, France

'Fiber Concepts', ASU Art Museum, Tempe, Arizona, US

'Frontiers in Fiber: The Americans', organised by the North Dakota Museum of Art, Ishikawa Design Center, Kanazawa, Japan

1988 'Frontiers in Fiber: The Americans', North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, North Dakota; MoMAK, Kyoto, Japan; Taipei Fine Arts Center, Taiwan; Walker Hill Art Center, Seoul, Korea; Thailand Cultural Centre, Bangkok, Thailand; National Art Galleries, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, China; Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Philippines; Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong; National Museum, Jakarta, Indonesia

1987 'Fiber R/Evolution', Wichita Art Museum, Kansas, US

'Fiber R/Evolution', deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, Massachusetts, US

'Fiber R/Evolution', Brockton Art Museum, Massachusetts, US

'The Eloquent Object', Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma, US

1986 'Craft Today: Poetry of the Physical', American Craft Museum, New York, US; Denver Art Museum, Colorado, US; Laguna Art Museum, California, US; Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona, US; Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin, US; Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, US; VMFA, Richmond, Virginia, US

'Fiber R/Evolution', Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indiana; University Art Museum, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Galleries of Claremont

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- College and University of California, Riverside; Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin, US
- 1983 11th Biennale Internationale de la Tapisserie, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts Lausanne, Switzerland
- 1982 'Fiber 82', Hunterdon Art Center, Clinton, New Jersey, US
- 1981 'The Art Fabric Mainstream', American Federation of Arts touring exhibition, SFMOMA, California, US; Landmark Center, St. Paul, Minnesota, US; Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, Tennessee, US; Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon, US; Philbrook Art Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma, US; Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, Massachusetts, US; Akron Art Museum, Ohio, US; Colorado Springs Fine Art Center at Colorado College, Colorado, US; Memorial Art Gallery, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, US
- 'Tracking the Marvellous', Grey Art Gallery and Study Center, New York University, US
- 1979 '100 Artists, 100 Years: Alumni of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago Centennial Exhibition', Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, US
- 'Weich und Plastisch: Soft-Art', Kunsthaus Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1978 'Tawney/Higa/Sawada', Hunterdon Art Center, Clinton, New Jersey, US
- 1977 'Fiberworks', Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, US
- 'Lenore Tawney and a Fiber Tradition', Kansas City Art Institute, Missouri, US
- 1975 7th Biennale Internationale de la Tapisserie, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts Lausanne, Switzerland
- 1974 'Nine Artists/Coenties Slip', Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, US
- 'In Praise of Hands', Ontario Science Center, Toronto, Canada
- 'Fiber Forms: Past and Present', Brookfield Craft Center, Connecticut, US
- 1973 'Fibre Art', Halls Exhibition Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri, US
- 1970 'Neuerwerbungen aus den letzten Jahren', Museum Bellerive, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1969 'Objects: US, The Johnson Collection of Contemporary Crafts', organised by Johnson Wax Company, National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington DC, US; Boston University Museum, Massachusetts, US; Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, New York, US; Cranbrook Academy, Detroit, Missouri, US; Herron School of Art and Design, Indianapolis, Idaho, US; Cincinnati Art Museum, Ohio, US; Saint Paul Art Center, Minneapolis, US; School of Fine Arts Gallery, University of Iowa, US; Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, Arkansas, US; Seattle Art Museum, Washington, US; Portland Art Museum, Oregon, US; Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, California,

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US; Oakland Art Museum, California, US; Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona, US; Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, US; Milwaukee Art Center, Wisconsin, US; George Hunter Gallery, Chattanooga, Tennessee, US; Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, US; Columbia Museum, Columbia, South Carolina; Civic Center Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US

'Wall Hangings', MoMA, New York, US

- 1964 'Gewebe Formen', Kunstgewerbemuseum, Zurich, Switzerland
Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy
- 1963 'Formas Tejidas', Museo de Bellas Artes de Caracas, Venezuela
'Woven Forms', Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York, US
- 1962 'Adventures in Art', Fine Arts Pavilion, Seattle World's Fair, Washington, US
- 1958 'American Artists and Craftsmen', American Pavilion, Brussels World's Fair, Belgium
- 1956 'Craftsmanship in a Changing World', Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York, US

AWARDS

- 2000 Visionaries Award, American Craft Museum, New York, US
- 1999 Master of the Medium Award, Renwick Alliance, Washington, DC, US
- 1992 Honorary Doctorate Degree, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland, US
- 1987 American Craft Council's Gold Medal Award
- 1983 Honor Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Visual Arts, Women's Caucus for Art, Port of History Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US
- 1975 Fellow of American Craftsmen's Council

COMMISSIONS

- 1983 Cloud Series VII, Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, Connecticut, US
- 1981 Cloud Series VI, Frank J. Lausche State Office Building, Cleveland, Ohio, US
- 1978 Cloud Series IV, Santa Rosa Federal Building, California, US
- 1963 Ark veil, Congregation Solel, Highland Park, Illinois, US
- 1960 Nativity in Nature, Interchurch Center, New York, US

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COLLECTIONS

Allentown Art Museum, Pennsylvania, US
Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, US
Brooklyn Museum, New York, US
Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, US
Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, Maine, US
Cooper Hewitt, National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution, New York, US
Fondation Toms Pauli, Lausanne, Switzerland
Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, US
Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu, Hawaii, US
Menil Collection, Houston, Texas, US
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US
Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota, US
MoMA, New York, US
Museum für Gestaltung Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
Museum of Arts and Design, New York, US
Musée des arts décoratifs de Montréal, Montreal, Canada
Newark Museum, New Jersey, US
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US
Renwick Gallery, National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, US
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
The Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, US
Tate, London, UK
University Museum, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Illinois, US
Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut, US
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, US