

LIZ MELCHOR

Born in 1982 in Palo Alto, California, USA.

Lives and works in Lisbon, Portugal and Vienna, Austria.

Studio in Creative Cluster, Viktor Christ Gasse 10, 1050, Vienna, Austria

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ARTIST STATEMENT

My work injects humanness into technologically-driven processes, exploring human-machine interaction where the planned meets the unexpected.

I've always drawn with my hands—gestural, messy work where each mark reacts to what came before. I enjoy watching something emerge that I couldn't foresee, the final product always unexpected. Then I found drawing robots: pen plotters with millimeter-accurate precision. The contrast intrigued me. How can I create the unpredictable with a predictable machine? Or, to put the question otherwise: how can I find surprise?

This question drives my practice.

In pen plotted drawings, I experiment with materials that resist the machine's precision. Through code, I introduce randomness to generate the unexpected. By chasing and creating conditions for error, I explore the tension between the chaotic and ordered, the mechanical and organic.

Increasingly, I'm moving towards interactive installations that invite the most unpredictable agents of all: other humans. My works invite people to play with drawing robots—not to experience technology in a new way, but to experience themselves differently.

As technology becomes more central to human life, the question remains: how do we stay human when working with machines?



ARTIST BIO

Liz Melchor (b. 1982, Palo Alto, California) is an artist based in Vienna, Austria and Lisbon, Portugal. Her practice explores human-machine interaction through pen plotters, generative algorithms, and interactive installations.

She was a guest artist at the TedAI Conference in Vienna and is featured in the book *Tracing the Line: The Art of Drawing Machines and Pen Plotters*, a comprehensive survey of contemporary artists working with drawing machines. Her process videos on Instagram (@i.draw.monkeys) have collectively reached over 50 million views.

She has lectured at art universities in Portugal and Austria and enjoys presenting to large audiences, most recently giving a Creative Mornings talk in Lisbon.

Before focusing on visual art, she worked as a writer and journalist, publishing in *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Marie Claire*, and *New York Magazine's The Cut*.

She holds an M.F.A. from Bennington College, an M.S. in Psychology from Palo Alto University, and a B.A. in English Literature from Columbia University. Additionally, she founded the now-closed cultural association *Curious Monkey* and continues to run *Storytelling Lisboa*, a very successful monthly storytelling event.