

Andrew Kreps  
Gallery

22 Cortlandt Alley,  
New York, NY 10013

Tue–Sat, 10 am–6 pm  
andrewkreps.com

Tel. (212)741-8849  
Fax. (212)741-8163

# Sonya Kelliher-Combs

## Ammivik, Home

55 Walker

February 27 - April 4, 2026

Andrew Kreps Gallery is pleased to announce *Ammivik, Home*, an exhibition of new works by Sonya Kelliher-Combs (Iñupiaq and Athabascan, b. 1969, Alaska).

Spanning painting, sculpture, and installation, Sonya Kelliher-Combs' works negotiate borders, those that divide geographical territories, delineate generations, and define the self. Informed by Alaskan Native culture and her surrounding landscape, Kelliher-Combs' practice is deeply rooted in craft, combining customary and synthetic materials that range from walrus gut, porcupine quill, and hides, to glass beads, acrylic gel polymer, and nylon threads. Organized in series, Kelliher-Combs' works share an immediacy and visceral quality that references skin, the highly mediated surface through which an individual begins to interact with others. A new work from her ongoing series *Idiot Strings*, first initiated as a way to honor relatives who had died by suicide, which affects Alaskan Natives at a staggeringly high rate, suggests new ways to create memorials to injustice and process collective grief. Topographies emerge in works consisting of hand-shaved animal hides, while a new sculpture references the physical barriers and architecture used to define territories. Seen together, her works not only chronicle the ongoing struggle for Indigenous self-determination, but more broadly, the ever-evolving relationships between humans and their lived environment.

Sonya Kelliher-Combs is an artist and curator who lives and works in Anchorage. Kelliher-Combs' work is currently on view in *An Indigenous Present*, co-organized by Jeffrey Gibson and Jenelle Porter at the ICA Boston through March 8. In 2025, her work was included in the exhibitions *ALOHA NŌ*, Hawai'i Triennial 2025, *Shifting Landscapes*, the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and *Smoke In Our Hair: Native Memory and Unsettled Time*, Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, NY. Additionally in 2025, Kelliher-Combs was the recipient of the Anonymous Was A Woman grant. Past awards and fellowships include the United States Artists Fellowship, Joan Mitchell Fellowship, Eiteljorg Fellowship for Native American Fine Art, Rasmuson Fellowship, Anchorage Mayor's Arts Award, and the Alaska

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State Museum, Juneau, Brooklyn Museum, Dallas Museum of Art, Denver Art Museum, Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis, Forge Project, Taghkanic, IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Art, Santa Fe, National Museum of the American Indian, New York, University of Alaska Museum of the North, Fairbanks, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among others.

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55 WALKER



SONYA KELLIHER-COMBS  
*Nanuq, Mark III, 2026*

Polar bear hide on wood panel  
38 x 34 x 2 ½ inches (96.5 x  
86.4 x 6.3 cm.)  
(SKC26-004)



SONYA KELLIHER-COMBS  
*Aktaq - Mark, 2026*

Brown bear hide on wood  
panel  
38 x 24 x 2 ½ inches (96.5 x 61  
x 6.3 cm.)  
(SKC26-005)



SONYA KELLIHER-COMBS  
*Idiot Strings, Fringe, 2026*

Wool, steel wire, tyvek, and  
beeswax  
Dimensions variable  
(SKC26-012)



SONYA KELLIHER-COMBS  
*Nuna, Ice and Snow, 2026*

Acrylic polymer, nylon thread,  
reindeer fur, porcupine quill,  
and paper  
41 x 40 x 2 ½ inches (104.1  
x 101.6 x 6.3 cm.); 41 x 84 x 2  
½ inches (104.1 x 213.4 x 6.3  
cm.) overall  
(SKC26-003)



SONYA KELLIHER-COMBS  
*Nuna, Tundra and Blue, 2026*

Acrylic polymer, nylon thread,  
reindeer fur, porcupine quill,  
and paper  
64 x 63 x 2 ½ inches (162.6 x  
160 x 6.3 cm.)  
(SKC26-002)



SONYA KELLIHER-COMBS  
*Ice Curl with Fringe, 2026*

Acid free mylar, acrylic  
polymer, synthetic yarn, nylon  
thread, reindeer fur, and steel  
pin  
21 x 136 x 4 inches (53.3 x  
345.4 x 10.2 cm.) overall.  
(SKC26-011)



SONYA KELLIHER-COMBS  
*Natchiq, Mark I, 2026*

Seal hide on wood panel  
33 x 19 x 2 ½ inches (83.8 x  
48.3 x 6.3 cm.)  
(SKC26-009)



SONYA KELLIHER-COMBS  
*Natural Small Secrets, 2026*

Fabric  
27 ½ x 47 ½ x 1 inches (69.8 x  
120.7 x 2.5 cm.)  
(SKC26-013)

# Sonya Kelliher-Combs

## EDUCATION

- 1998 MFA, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ  
1992 BFA Cum Laude, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Ammivik, Home*, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York  
2025 *Sonya Kelliher-Combs*, Independent Art Fair, New York, NY  
2024 *Remnant*, Catriona Jeffries, Toronto, CA  
2023 *Secrets*, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY  
*Sonya Kelliher-Combs: Mark*, STARS, Los Angeles, CA  
*Sonya Kelliher-Combs: Mark*, TUREEN, Dalla, TX  
2019 *Goodbye: The Things We Carry*, Yukon Arts Center, Whitehorse, YT  
Canada  
*Mark*, Minus Space, Brooklyn, NY  
*Brand*, Bunnell Street Gallery, Homer, AK  
2018 *Recent Work*, Cyranos Gallery, Anchorage, AK  
2017 *New Work*, Kenai Arts Center, Kenai, AK  
*Remnant*, Peters Projects, Santa Fe, NM  
2016 *Sonya Kelliher-Combs*, Carrie McLain Museum, Nome, AK  
2015 *Stitch: Line*, International Gallery of Contemporary Art, Anchorage,  
AK  
2014 *Sonya Kelliher-Combs, Recent Work*, Jaffe Friede Gallery, Dartmouth  
College, Hanover, NH  
2012 *Qupak*, Pratt Museum, Homer, AK  
*Where they Overlap*, Gorman Gallery, UC Davis, Davis, CA  
2011 *Hide*, Museum of Contemporary Native Art, Santa Fe, NM  
2010 *Hide*, National Museum of Indian Art, New York, NY  
2008 *Walrus Family Portrait*, International Gallery of Contemporary Art,  
Anchorage, AK  
2007 *New Secrets*, Well Street Art Company, Fairbanks, AK  
*Unraveled Secret*, Bunnell Street Gallery, Homer, AK  
2006 *Unraveled Secret*, Institute of American Indian Art, Santa Fe, NM  
*Secret*, Modo Gallery, Hudson, NY  
2005 *Untitled Secrets*, Well Street Art Company, Fairbanks, AK  
*Untitled*, Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, AK

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- 2002 *1000 Secrets*, Decker/Morris Art Gallery, Anchorage, AK  
2001 *Idiot Strings, Catch and Release*, Alaska State Museum, Juneau, AK  
2000 *New Works*, Decker/Morris Gallery, Anchorage, AK  
1998 *Asianggataq*, Harry Wood Art Gallery, Arizona State University,  
Tempe, AZ  
1994 *Formline*, Carrie McLain Museum, Nome, AK  
*Transformation*, University of Alaska Fine Arts Gallery, Fairbanks,  
AK  
1990 *Sonya Kelliher-Combs*, Carrie McLain Museum, Nome, AK

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *QUILLANIQ*, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada  
(forthcoming)  
*Hold to this Earth: Works by Contemporary Indigenous North American  
Artists from Tia Collection*, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield, UK  
(forthcoming)
- 2025 *Hawaiian Triennial*, Capital Modern, Honolulu, HI  
*Points of Illumination*, Tara Downs Gallery, New York, NY  
*Indigenous Identities: Here, Now & Always*, Zimmerli Art Museum,  
New Brunswick, NJ  
*Collection Conversations*, Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, NY  
*Drive your cart and your plow over the bones of the dead*, Tureen  
Gallery, Dallas, TX  
*Smoke in Our Hair: Native Memory and Unsettled Time*, Hudson River  
Museum, Yonkers, NY  
*An Indigenous Present*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
- 2024 *Shifting Landscapes*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York,  
NY  
*All 4 U*, Tureen, Dallas, TX  
*Ilagiit/Relationships*, FOFA Gallery, Concordia University, Montreal,  
Canada  
*Common Thread*, Museum of Contemporary Native Art, Santa Fe,  
NM  
*Flags, A Group Show*, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, NY
- 2023 *Young Elder*, James Fuentes Gallery, New York, NY  
*The Inseparables*, Stars Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Salmon Culture*, Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, AK  
*Arctic/Amazon: Networks of Global Indigeneity*, Toronto, Canada  
*Arctic Highways. 12 Indigenous Artists of the Circumpolar North*,  
National Nordic Museum, Seattle, WA
- 2019 *Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists*, Minneapolis Institute of  
Art, Minneapolis, MN
- 2019 *Physical Narrative*, Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, Wayne State University,  
Detroit, MI
- 2018 *Aiviq & Nanuq: Sea Horse and Sea Bear of the Arctic*, Anchorage

- Museum, Anchorage, AK  
*Among All These Tundras*, Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery,  
Montreal, Canada  
*Place of Origin*, Korundi Museum, Rovaniemi, Finland  
*Art for a New Understanding, Native Voices 1950's to Now*, Crystal  
Bridges, Fayetteville, AR  
*Stitching Beads*, North Atlantic House, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*The Things We Carry*, Kunsthall Svalbard, Northern Norway Art  
Museum, Svalbard Norway  
*The Un-heroic Act: Representations of Rape in Contemporary Women's  
Art in the U.S.*, Anya and Andrew Shiva Gallery, John Jay College of  
Criminal Justice, New York, NY
- 2017 *Subsistence (NO/US)*, Gallery of Northern, Norway, Harstad, Norway  
*Native Art Now*, Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis, IN
- 2016-17 *Decolonizing Alaska*, Bunnell Street Gallery, Homer, AK, Alaska  
State Museum, Juneau AK, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington  
D.C.
- 2016 *SITELines: New Perspectives on Art of the Americas*, SITE Santa Fe  
Biennial, Santa Fe, NM
- 2015 *Fifth World*, Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, SK, Canada  
*Gyre: the Plastic Ocean*, David J. Spencer CDC Museum, Atlanta, GA
- 2014 *Annual Group Show*, Zane Bennett Gallery, Santa Fe, NM  
*Develop/Assemblage/Construct*, International Gallery of  
Contemporary Art, Anchorage, AK  
*Native Art Now - Contemporary Indigenous Art from North America*,  
Nordamerika Native Museum, Zurich, Switzerland  
*Gyre: The Plastic Ocean*, Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, AK
- 2013 *Masks and Transparencies: Contemporary Artists of Alaska*, Orenda  
Art International, Paris, France  
*Sakahana*, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON, Canada  
*This is not a Silent Movie*, Los Angeles Craft and Folk Art Museum,  
Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR;  
University of Montana, Missoula, MT
- 2012 *True North*, Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, AK
- 2010-11 *This is Displacement*, Center for the Arts, Big Fork, MN; Northrup  
Theatre, Minneapolis, MN; Diverse Works, Houston, TX; American  
Indian Community House, New York, NY
- 2010 *Contemporary Inuit Art*, Katuaq Cultural Center, Nuuk, Greenland
- 2009 *Dry Ice*, Robeson Arts Center, Princeton, NJ  
*50/50: Fifty Years of Alaska's History*, Statewide touring exhibit
- 2008 *Native Voices, Contemporary Indigenous Art*, Five Myles Gallery,  
Brooklyn, NY
- 2007 *Diversity and Dialogue: The Eiteljorg Fellowship*, Eiteljorg Museum of  
American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis, IN
- 2005 *Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation, Part 2*, American Museum  
of Art & Design, New York, NY  
*Cheongju International Craft Biennial*, Cheongju Arts Center,  
Cheongju, South Korea

- Alaska Native Art & Culture Festival*, Smithsonian Museum of  
Natural History, Washington, D.C.  
*Defiant Objects*, Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, AK  
2004 *Works from Spenard 4215*, International Gallery of Contemporary  
Art, Anchorage, AK  
*Alaska Native Art: People of a Place, Art of a People*, Sotheby's  
Institute of Art, New York, NY  
*Grand Opening*, The Center, Anchorage, AK  
2003 *Points of View*, Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, AK  
2002 *The 8th Native American Fine Art Invitational*, Heard Museum,  
Phoenix, AZ  
2001 *Ceremony of Healing*, Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, AK  
*State of the Art Biennial*, Parkland College, Champaign, IL  
2000 *INVITATIONAL 7*, Decker/Morris Gallery, Anchorage, AK  
1993 *Arts from the Arctic*, Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, AK

#### HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2018 United States Artist Fellow  
2017 Joan Mitchell Fellow  
2014 Dartmouth Artist in Residence, Hanover, NH  
2013 Alaska State Council on the Arts Travel Award, Anchorage, AK  
2012 Rasmuson Fellowship, Anchorage, AK  
2011 Native Arts and Cultures Foundation Fellowship  
Alaska Governors Individual Artist Award  
2008 Rasmuson Fellowship, Anchorage, AK  
2007 Eiteljorg Museum Fellowship, Indianapolis, IN  
2005 Anchorage Alaska Mayors Individual Arts Award

#### PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Museum of Contemporary Native Art, Santa Fe  
Alaska State Museum, Juneau, AK  
Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, AK  
British Royal Museum, London, England  
Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis, IN  
Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH  
National Museum of the American Indian, New York, NY  
Nordamerika Native Museum, Zurich, Switzerland  
University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks, AK  
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Anchorage, AK  
Anchorage School District, Chugiak High School, Chugiak, AK  
Anchorage School District, South Anchorage High School,  
Anchorage AK

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