

For Immediate Release:

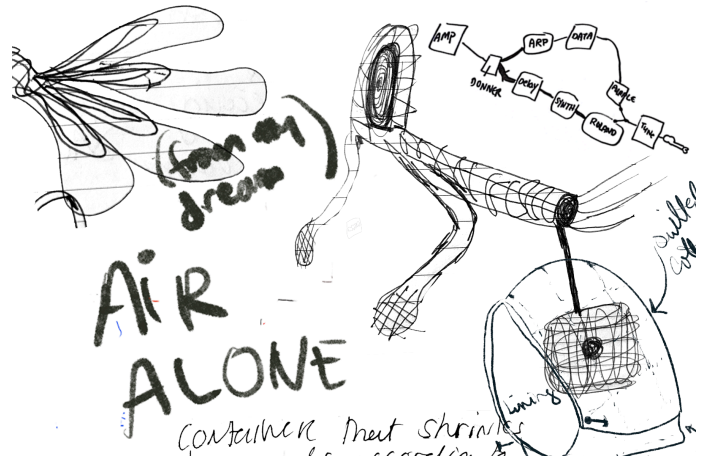
## *Air Alone (from my dream)*

Kim Altomare  
Melina Ausikaitis

**May 3 - May 31, 2025**

**Opening Reception, May 3rd 5-9pm**

with performances by [Aitis Band](#) and [Saggy](#), starting at 7pm



BIG RAMP is thrilled to announce *Air Alone (from my dream)*, a two-person show featuring the work of Kim Altomare and Melina Ausikaitis. Kim and Melina are two artists that make things.

Like a thought that snares in one's mind to come back again and again, when most emerge only to disappear forever, Kim and Melina's work intersects, snares, and drifts together in the same way the remnants of a shipwreck collect and settle at the bottom of the ocean.

My forelock drips, piles up. It's morning. Something's in shape, in the air. Thick, with crusted spots. The hoar frost is out. Suffused sap branches under pressure to begin. Inside, we unspool, mute and dumb with unceasing ornamentation. We are squeezed to the point of compaction. Spots, blotches and holes. A blemish really.

We collaborate, pinching sides into pleats, gathering for happenings, books into piles, stinking and sweating, clamping our sentiments down. Secrets must be sublimated after all. We hear the invocation. Scaffolding becomes erect, folding lucidity into line. We've built many things before. Debris piles up, the stuff of memory and old clothes press in.

Contaminated by both cloud and milk, the surface of color wavers. Air, alone.

The two artists wrangle with material possibilities, using dreams as instruction, engineering the unlikely and the unthought. Secrets are excavated and rehidden. Archetypal yet personal forms hum, thrum and reverberate with memory's glow. How messy, awkward, and wise is the natural flow of things.

Kim makes things from paper, pulp paintings and basket woven sculptures, that create a world where collective dreams can take shape. Reed, pulp, and rusted wire become embedded, encased with the detritus of studio and street. Melina, too, secrets things, sandwiching them in garment-shaped layers

of fabric, media and discarded paintings. Tapping into histories of teenage girlhood, collecting and compressing them, keeping safe where we first learn of feelings, Melina strums.

Air alone does not suffice. It envelops thickly, transmitting condensation. Whorls go. We connect body to feeling to sound.

This exhibition is curated by Michelle Anne Harris with assistance from William Schwaller.

There will also be a **closing reception** on **May 31st, 1-4pm** in conjunction with Harris and Altomare's *Penpals for Palestine!* project:

***Penpals for Palestine! Presents Pop-Up Postcards***

Kim Altomare + Cindy Stockton Moore + Sunny Hsu + Michelle Anne Harris

with directive prompts provided remotely by Yaqeen Yamani and Jericho Cinema Club

1-2 pm           **Postcards + Paper Making + Printmaking + Posters**

2-4 pm           **Eco Wheatpasting**

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**Kim Altomare** makes paper sculptures, paper collages & prints that reveal and conceal the shifting dimensions of the trans body through abstraction, sensation, and affect. Altomare received their MFA from Yale School of Art (2019) and their BFA from Tyler School of Art (2013). Their work has been included in group and solo exhibitions at Automat Collective, Fleisher Arts Memorial, and Vox Populi. Residencies include the Ora Lerman Trust, Lafayette College's Experimental Printmaking Residency, Atlantic Center for the Arts, and Yale Summer School of Art. They currently live and work in Philadelphia, PA with their partner and cat. [kimaltomare.com](http://kimaltomare.com)

**Melina Ausikaitis** Through her music (Aitis Band, Joan of Arc), performance, clothing (Aitis Something), and visual art, Melina Ausikaitis influences multiple layers of Chicago's cultural scene. Recent notable projects include Aitis Band IV (2025), The Witness Figure at Schoenherr Gallery (2024), Fall in the Leaves at Regards (2023), Singles at Regards (2020), Everyday Everyday at Devening Projects (2019), and How High the Sky at the Graham Foundation with Diane Simpson and every house has a door (2018). Melina currently instructs Sculpture courses at Dominican University and directs the art program at Lula Café in Chicago. [melinaausikaitis.com](http://melinaausikaitis.com) [aitissomething.com](http://aitissomething.com)