

Chanika Svetvilas

BIO

Chanika Svetvilas is an interdisciplinary artist and cultural worker based in Princeton Junction, New Jersey. Her practice is conceptually driven, spanning drawing, sculpture, video, installation, performative actions, and mixed media. She centers mental health and disability justice, creating work that challenges stigma, amplifies lived experience, and reimagines care and access.

She was the Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab Artist-in-Residence at Princeton University (2022-23) and the inaugural Artist-in-Residence at Mercer County Community College (2025). She was a Visiting Scholar at Asian/Pacific/American Institute at New

York University, (2024-2025). She had her first museum solo show, “Resounding Remnants,” at the Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton, NJ (2025). She has exhibited nationally and presented her experimental films internationally. “Silent Screaming Siren” received the Golden Elephant Award at the Bangkok Film Festival. She is currently a 2026 Resident Artist for the Art City New Brunswick initiative presented by coLAB Arts.

She has received support from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Princeton University, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, C.V. Starr, and Masterwork Arts Fund.

Her writing has been published in Disability Studies Quarterly, Wordgathering, and The AMP. She has presented her research at

the College Art Association Conference, the Society for Disability Studies Annual Conference, and the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Conference.

Svetvilas was born in Buffalo, NY to Thai immigrant parents. She earned her BS from Skidmore College and an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College.