

Melissa Hawkins is a multi-disciplinary visualist. Her photography was featured in a solo photography exhibit at the San Francisco GLBTQ History Museum titled; [SoMa Nights: The Queer Club Photography of Melissa Hawkins 1986-1994. It ran from February 15 through May 20, 2019.](#)

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) purchased the catalog she produced for the show as an addition to the Queer California exhibition.

Creations like Ninja Coasters and Hairmail illustrate her sense of play and humor. An environmentalist at heart, Melissa is dedicated to diverting materials from the landfill to create beautiful and sophisticated products.

She made her first light fixture from a broken household iron in high school and reuse has since become her first choice for sourcing materials, providing her with an unlimited supply of inspiration.

Melissa has started several small businesses including owning and operating a black and white photo booth and creating a tactile faux fur postcard product line called Hairmail for which she developed the manufacturing process that included screen printing, adhesion, and die cutting. Most recently she launched Ninja Coasters where fun follows function. Coasters take flight when not in duty.

Her art work has been featured in group and solo exhibitions at the New Langton Arts, LincArt, Flash Art and Frisbee Street Galleries. Melissa was awarded a "best idea" cash prize from the San Francisco Renaissance Center and selected as a finalist in the SF Weekly Mastermind competition. She co-created the sustainability themed interior for the Sundance Channel and Lexus Hybrid Living event.

Melissa holds a degree in Industrial Design from San Francisco State University and studied product design at Brunel University in England.