



Rebecca Shmulovitz

Rebecca Shmulovitz (b.1992) is a Brooklyn born multidisciplinary artist based in New York. Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art. Rebecca holds a Masters of Fine Arts degree from the SUNY Purchase College in New York and a Masters of Art History degree from the SUNY Purchase College in New York.

Rebecca's artistic practice is rooted in painting and includes both paper works and paintings. The images in her work represent a fusion of her fantasies with concrete elements from daily life and her surroundings. She tends to create in suites and series over several years, with themes and backgrounds evolving throughout. Each series serves as an exercise in world-building, weaving together anecdotal vignettes that often hint at the absurdity and isolation experienced while navigating opaque bureaucratic systems and social structures.

Characters and objects are fixed in a redundant, inefficient state, trapped within collapsing infrastructures, often positioned as a wrench or gear. They yearn for civil disobedience but never truly succeed. Landscape plays a major role in Rebecca's paintings, serving both as a backdrop and as a catalyst for isolated tragedies, dangerous situations, and moments of ineffectiveness and resistance. Although she doesn't create directly from life or adhere to realistic appearances, Rebecca is dedicated to crafting a coherent spatial illusion, grounding seemingly disconnected moments in the same world.

Most of her artworks are in grayscale, created using various graphite tools and erasers. She prefers to use minimal tools to produce engaging images, feeling comfortable with the simplicity of the materials and the challenges posed by the additive/subtractive process of painting. After the sketching phase, her approach becomes slow and analytical. Adjusting forms, compositions, and focal points—saturating the surface and then erasing—parallels the process of constructing a subjective narrative, involving revision, ordering, and disrupting events. The monochromatic nature creates tension with the carefully orchestrated chaos of the scenes, compelling a more methodical interpretation of the work.

Grayscale serves a unifying role in Rebecca's pieces, keeping the images distanced from reality while immersing the viewer in a monochromatic world that filters the differences in lines and tones. Importantly, her paintings evoke a psychological impact before the viewer can gather all visual cues to form a narrative

and extract meaning. Recently, Rebecca has begun working on multiple panels, allowing her to expand and deepen existing images. The combination of internal framing devices and extreme cropping further divides the flatness of the picture plane. Viewers are presented with alternating images and overlapping narratives, with events mediated and distorted through reflection and screens.

These paintings are meant to keep viewers anchored in a specific perspective, unable to reach resolution, as actions extend beyond the architectural boundaries or completely off the edges of the canvas. Rebecca aims to obscure key content—if there is a plot—rendering what is happening unclear, provoking a sense of dissatisfaction that reflects a world filled with tension and the unknowable.

Selected Exhibitions

- 2024 - To Light a Candle, Unveil Gallery, Irvine, CA.
- 2024 - INT/EXT : solo booth at Spring/Break Art Show LA.
- 2021 - Weight of the Air MFA Thesis Exhibition, PS 122 Gallery, NY.
- 2020 - Idle Tomb: Drawings by Becca Shmulovitz and Evan Mazellan, Diorama Gallery, NY.
- 2020 - Keep Me Company, Richard & Dolly Maass Gallery, NY.
- 2019 - Creatures Such as We, Richard & Dolly Maass Gallery, NY.
- 2019 - Flat File, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, NY.
- 2018 - Watch it Burn, Trestle Gallery, NY.
- 2017 - Great Lakes Drawing Biennial, Eastern Michigan University Gallery juried by Claire Gilman.
- 2017 - All About Her, Mark Morris Dance Center, Brooklyn, NY.
- 2015 - Great Dark exhibition, The Dress Shop Gallery, Brooklyn, NY.
- 2014 - MICA Commencement Exhibition, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD.
- 2013 - Visiting Artist Exhibition, Escola LLOTJA, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2012 - Alchemy, Area 405, Baltimore, MD.

Residencies

- 2019 - Trestle Art Space Residency
- 2018 - Trestle Art Space Residency
- 2016 - Ucross Foundation
- 2016 - Virginia Center for the Creative Arts

Awards & Honors

- 2022 - Lore Degenstein 13th Annual Figurative Exhibition award.
- 2022 - Strypemonde M.A. Prize in Art History, Theory, and Criticism for thesis project "Here, There, and Everywhere: Marisa Merz's Living Sculpture."

2022 - Spanier MFA Scholarship

2021 - Spanier MFA Scholarship

2021 - MFA & MA Art History Scholarship

2020 - P.D. Reed Arts Scholarship

2019 - Windgate MFA Scholarship

2013 - Morris Louis Scholarship