



Rachel Ahava Rosenfeld  
[www.Rachelahavarosenfeld.com](http://www.Rachelahavarosenfeld.com)



In Lieu of Testimony, No. 1

Rachel Ahava Rosenfeld is a Kansas City native who holds a BA in Studio Art from Hollins University in Roanoke, and an MFA in Visual Arts from Washington University in St. Louis. Rachel credits a childhood spent exploring her mother's office at the African Art Department of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, for her "archeological" approach to art. We see this influence as she unearths facets of Americana through paintings inspired by found photographs. In this way, she launches a narrative with an "unknowable multitude frozen in time", to create a dialogue as quintessentially American as lawn chairs, formica and beehive hairdos.



In Lieu of Testimony, No. 4

*SERIES STATEMENT: This work represents the beginning of a new investigation where I treated the snapshots not only as a window into the past, but as artifacts left over by the unknowable multitude frozen there. I want to explore how they interacted with the world, and what emotions and curiosities they might inspire in their new viewers. Holding snapshots is an intimate*

*experience, normally reserved for a tight circle of familiars. By exploring their physical qualities, I want to delve into the ways that heirlooms are limited by the tangible realities of flatness and fragility. Like an archaeologist picking the desert sand off a disjointed skeleton, I hope that I can keep these lives from slipping below the metaphorical surfaces of the avalanches that characterize the 21st century. What can we glean from the fragments that remain from complete strangers? How can wisps of truth rise from the piles of discarded slivers, and how do we bridge the gaps left by all that is missing?*



In Lieu of Testimony, No. 2

ARTIST STATEMENT: *A lifelong, impulsive desire to gather abandoned things is at the heart of my artistic practice. As a child, I habitually plucked dirt-caked “curiosities” out of the gutters, convinced that I could coax them into divulging the secrets of past lives, thus restoring some mythical status or magical power to them.*



In Fact



*The original trophies gleaned from my suburban archaeological efforts are long gone. But that same urge still entices me to hunt through the mundane, material residue of modern lives. I am most fascinated by the yellowing family photographs that I harvest haphazardly from rural antique malls, and online estate sales, adding them to the treasure-trove of abandoned snapshots archived in my Chicago studio. There is a gem-like quality to these scraps, each one paradoxically characterized by a captivating familiarity and persistent, eerie silence. I use paint as a vehicle to revive them. The painting process requires intimate scrutiny in search of the fragmentary histories that survive within minute hints. Each canvas is infused with absent memories, and all of the embedded potential that persists between the lines of half-told stories. The photographed scenes are re-invented by the perceptual and tactile interactions that unfold with each painted layer. One by one, they give movement and form to scenes otherwise fossilized on paper. Unlike the documents to which they refer, the paintings derive their power not from authenticity, but from possibility.*



In Lieu of Testimony, No.3

*The vignettes that intertwine and eclipse one another across the picture plane personify the frustrating impenetrability of the past. Freed from the burdens of authenticity, the ordinary past is transformed into a vernacular mythology. Every piece represents the intersections and*



Dwell on It

*contradictions between historic documentation, memory, and nostalgia. As a body of work, these paintings refer to both the tantalizing promise that emanates from lost treasures, and the maddening reality that no matter what details survive from the past, they can only show us the ghosts of the glories and tragedies, which preceded our own.*



Pioneers

# RACHEL AHAVA ROSENFELD

www.rachelahavarosenfeld.com    <https://www.thirdshifterschi.com>  
546 N. Wells Street, Apt. 3, Chicago, IL, 60654    (913)526-7855    rachelahava01@gmail.com

## Education

- 2018      Visual Arts Certificate Program (Candidate), University of Chicago and The Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago, IL
- 2016      MFA Studio Art , Washington University in Saint Louis, Saint Louis, MO
- 2014      BA, Studio Art, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2013      Master Class, Jerusalem Studio School, Civita Castellana, Italy

## Professional Experience

- 2018      Curator, *Third-Shifters: Art that Comes Alive at Night* at The Martin Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2018      Art /Religious School Faculty, Joseph and Belle Braun Anshe Emet Religious School, Chicago, IL
- 2017      Gallery Educator (*Then They Came for Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans and the Demise of Civil Liberties*), Alphawood Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2016      Teaching Assistant, Washington University in Saint Louis, Saint Louis, MO (Painting Elective, Spring 2016)
- 2015      Teaching Assistant, Washington University in Saint Louis, Saint Louis, MO (Drawing 1, Fall 2015)
- 2010      Hollins Scholar Award, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA

## Press

- 2018      *Third-Shifters: Art that Comes Alive at Night* profile published in The Visualist (September, 2018)  
Link: <http://www.thevisualist.org/2018/09/third-shifters-art-that-comes-alive-at-night/>
- 2018      *Third-Shifters: Art that Comes Alive at Night* profile included in Do312 (September, 2018)  
Link: <https://do312.com/events/2018/9/21/third-shifters-art-that-comes-alive-at-night>
- 2018      *Pioneers* published in The Esthetic Apostle (July, 2018)  
Link: <http://www.estheticapostle.com/opacity>
- 2017      *Artist Interview: Rachel Rosenfeld* published in Command Zine (June, 2017)  
Link: <https://commandzine.com/2017/06/12/artist-interview-rachel-rosenfeld/>



- 2016 Publicity materials for 5X5 Artist Residency released by Fulton Market Kitchen (January, 2017)  
Link: <https://www.fultonmarketkitchen.com/single-post/2017/01/18/Rachel-Ahava-Rosenfeld>
- 2015 “My Grandfather Built St. Louis” (poem) included in *Golden in Silver* (September, 2015)  
Link: <https://goldeninsilver.wordpress.com/9-rachelahavarosenfeld/>
- 2012 *Rachel Rosenfeld '14* Interview published by Her Campus Hollins (May 2012)  
Link: <https://www.hercampus.com/school/hollins/rachel-rosenfeld-14>

## Exhibition Record

- 2018 *Rachel Ahava Rosenfeld* (solo), Andersonville Art Walk (hosted by Chicago Mindful Psychotherapy), Chicago, IL
- 2017 *Mess Hall: Installment Four* (curated by The Coincidentals), Archer Beach Haus, Chicago, IL
- 2017 *Art for Life Chicago*, Venue One, Chicago, IL
- 2017 *Summer of Love: Reflections on Pulse* (curated by Rachel Frisby), The Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens, Winter Park, FL
- 2017 Art After Hours (EXPO Chicago Satellite Show), Fulton Market Kitchen, Chicago, IL
- 2017 *5 X 5 Artist Residency*, Fulton Market Kitchen, Chicago, IL (upcoming)
- 2016 *Wirehouse Co. Series No. 5: Party!*, Wirehouse Co., Chicago, IL
- 2016 *2016 MFA Thesis Exhibition*, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Saint Louis, MO
- 2016 *Constella Festival*, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH
- 2015 *Parabola 2015: Fractured/Self*, Des Lee Gallery, Saint Louis, MO
- 2015 *First Year MFA Exhibition*, Des Lee Gallery, Saint Louis, MO
- 2014 *Urban Suburban X*, Epsten Gallery, Overland Park, KS
- 2014 *Senior Majors Exhibition*, Eleanor D. Wilson Museum, Roanoke, VA
- 2014 *Gallery on East*, Near East Fine Arts House, Roanoke, VA
- 2014 *Midnight Showings*, Hollins University Arts Association, Roanoke, VA
- 2013 *The Runaways: The Ineluctable Effervescence of Post-Adolescence* Pop-up show, Roanoke, VA (curated by Alison Hall and Dan Estabrook)
- 2013 *Gallery on East*, Near East Fine Arts House, Roanoke, VA
- 2013 *Urban Suburban: Sustenance and Abundance*, Epsten Gallery, Overland Park, KS
- 2013 *Midnight Showings*, Hollins University Arts Association, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2013 Exhibited paintings at Black Dog Salvage, Roanoke, VA
- 2013 *In the Footsteps of Cézanne: An Exhibition of Paintings Made in Aix-En-Provence*, Wyndham Robertson Library, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA (curated by Alison Hall)
- 2013 *Marginal Arts Festival*, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2012 *Midnight Showings*, Near East Fine Arts House, Roanoke, VA
- 2012 Exhibited paintings at Bitterman’s Eye Candy, Kansas City, MO
- 2012 Exhibited paintings at VALA Gallery, Kansas City, KS

## Related Academic Experience

- 2015 Berlin Sommerakademie, Washington University in Saint Louis, Berlin, Germany
- 2015 Secretary of the Graduate Art Organization, Washington University in Saint Louis, MO
- 2014 *Failure and the Artist* Graduate Symposium (Attendee), Washington University in Saint Louis, Saint Louis, MO
- 2014 MFA Open Studios (Participant), Washington University in Saint Louis,
- 2014 Landscape Painting Workshop with Ken Kewley and Stuart Shils, Three Pines Studio, Cross Village, MI
- 2014 *Hollins Portraits* Documentary Film (Researcher/speaker), Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2014 Arts Association Member, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2014 Near East Fine Arts House Member, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2014 C3 Career Conference (Attendee), Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2013 Jerusalem Studio School Master Class (Participant), Jerusalem Studio School, Civita Castellana, Italy
- 2013 Hollins Study Abroad in Aix-en-Provence and Paris (Participant), Hollins University, Aix-en-Provence and Paris, France
- 2013 *Quaking Aspen Project: Volume 3* (Collaborator), Roanoke, VA\*
- 2013 Figure painting Workshop under Yael Scalia (Coordinator/Participant), Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2013 Arts Association Publicity Chair/Member, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2013 *Mocsa Young at Art* (Participant), Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault, Kansas City, MO
- 2013 Near East Fine Arts House Member, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2012 Junior Class Vice President/Hollins Activity Board Member, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2012 Workshop under E.M. Saniga (Participant), Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2012 Display and Merchandizing Intern, Anthropologie, Kansas City, MO
- 2012 Hollins Activity Board General Member, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2012 Arts Association Member, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2012 Near East Fine Arts House Member, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2012 C3 Career Conference (Attendee), Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2011 Hollins Study Abroad in Todi (Participant-focus on landscape painting Italian language and culture), Hollins University, Todi, Italy
- 2011 Workshop under Ken Kewley, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2011 Hollins Study Abroad in Ireland (Participant-focus on Irish literature and culture), Hollins University, Southern Ireland

## Awards, Honors, and Scholarships

- 2016 Finalist, Constella Festival Music Video and Fine Art Contest, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH
- 2015 Mildred Sulliburk Dennis Memorial Scholarship, Washington University, Saint Louis, MO
- 2014 Washington University Academic Scholarship, Washington University, Saint Louis, MO
- 2013-2014 Frances Niederer Scholarship, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2013 Hollins Scholar Award, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2012 Hollins Scholar Award, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2011 Hollins Scholar Award, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA



They're Still Here

For a printed version of this feature, please [click here](#).