

# RACHEL NIFFENEGGER

b. 1985, Evanston, IL

Lives and works in Chicago, IL

## EDUCATION

- 2012 MFA, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2008 BFA, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Ox-Bow School of Art and Artist's Residency, Saugatuck, MI  
The Academy of Fine Arts Prague, Prague, CZ

## SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Opia*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2021 *Sempiterinty*, Bubbles Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2018 *Soul Bone*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2013 *Flesh Club*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL  
*Veiled Epigrams*, Club Midnight, Berlin, DE
- 2011 *Rachel Niffenegger and Paul Nudd*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2010 *As you pass by and cast an I as you are now so once was I*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2009 *Trichotillomania*, The Post Family, Chicago, IL

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Into the World There Came a Soul Called Ida*, Adds Donna, Chicago, IL  
*The Western Exhibitions Drawing Biennial*, Chicago, IL
- 2022 *Salamander*, Elder Gallery, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE  
*The Hidden Sublime*, Selenas Mountain, Ridgewood, NY
- 2021 *NICE WORK*, curated by Jake Fagundo, Sulk, Chicago, IL
- 2019 *FAN MAIL*, organized by Hyperlink Artists, RedLine Contemporary Art Center, Denver, CO  
*My Informal Printmaking Residency with Stan Shellabarger*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2018 *Local Comfort*, LVL3, Chicago, IL
- 2017 *A Sag Harbored*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2016 *The Suburban*, Walker's Point, Milwaukee, WI
- 2015 *Power Objects: The Future Has a Primitive Heart*, UICA, Grand Rapids, MI  
*The world is mystical, dangerous and delicious*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL

- 2014 *We do what we like and like what we do*, Chicago, IL  
*The New [New] Corpse*, Sector 2337. Chicago, IL  
*About a Mountain*, Curated by Holly Jarrett. Asya Geisberg Gallery, New York, NY  
*On the Blue Shore of Silence*, Tracy Williams, Ltd., New York, NY  
*Roving Room*, curated by Kelly Kaczynski and Cori Williams, Habersham Mills, Demorest, Georgia
- 2013 *Physical and Virtual Bodies - ...in the name of any signification of whatever*, Museum for Modern Art in Arnhem, The Netherlands  
*(I'm Your) Hoochie Coochie Man*, Tracy Williams, LTD, New York, NY  
*Psychosexual: An exploration of the abstracted gesture*, Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Mutant Porcelain*, So What Space, Brooklyn, NY  
*2 of a Kind*. LVL3. Chicago.
- 2012 *Limbodrome*, de ateliers, Amsterdam, NL  
*Power of Consumption*, Club Midnight, Berlin, DE  
*Ground Floor*, The Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL  
MFA Thesis Exhibition, Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL  
*Big Youth II*, curated by John Corbett and Jim Dempsey, Bourouina Gallery, Berlin, DE  
*Facial Expressionism: Immanence Envisaged*, Cerritos College Gallery, Norwalk, CA
- 2011 *Painted*, curated by Tyson Reeder, Green Gallery East, Milwaukee, WI  
*Ryan Travis Christian Collaborates*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL  
*Seeing is a Kind of Thinking*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
*The New New Chicagoans*, Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL  
*West, Wester, Westest Part 2* (curated by Ryan Travis Christian), FFDG, San Francisco, CA  
*Heads On Poles*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2010 *Exhibition 7.06052010*, Mvseum, Chicago, IL  
*Breakout Artists*, Art Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*If You Can Hold Your Breath*, Ceri Hand Gallery, Liverpool, UK  
*Ox-Bow Centennial Exhibition*, Grand Rapids Museum of Art, Grand Rapids, MI  
*Pink Paint*, Riverside Arts Center, Riverside, IL
- 2009 *Big Youth*, Corbett vs. Dempsey, Chicago, IL  
*Artists Run Chicago*, Hyde Park Art Center, Hyde Park, IL  
*Now That's What I Call Painting*, Scott Projects, Chicago, IL  
*Luther Tiny Toother*, Roots and Culture, Project Window, Chicago, IL
- 2008 *Portrait*, Hallway Projects, San Francisco, CA  
*Ah, Decadence!*, Sullivan Galleries, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*Staff Infection*, OxBow School of Art Gallery, Saugatuck, MI  
*Covert Prestige*, Deckerleu and Bensley, Chicago, IL
- 2006 *Collateral*, AVU Gallery, Academy of Fine Arts, Prague, CZ

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2023 [Hyperallergic](#). Lori Waxman, "Chicago's Drawing Biennial Has Something for Everyone." January 23, 2023.
- 2017 [New City](#). Chris Miller, "A Pleasant Summer Dip: A Review of 'A Sag, Harbored' at Western Exhibitions." August 9, 2017.  
[fNews](#). Alex Fiorentino, "The Fabric of an Artwork: 'A Sag, Harbored' at Western Exhibitions." August 16,

2017.  
[Chicago Magazine](#). Staff, "63 Things to Do in Chicago in August." August 2017.
- 2015 [The Rapidian](#), Rick Beehost, "UCA shows us how to take art collecting to a new level."  
[Newcity](#). B. David Zarley, "The world is mystical, dangerous and delicious/Western Exhibitions." February 16, 2015.  
[Louise & Maurice](#). Erin Cox, "REVIEW | The World is Mystical, Dangerous and Delicious." March 1, 2015.
- 2014 [New City](#). Erin Toale, "Review: *We do what we like and like what we do.*" July 3, 2014.
- 2013 [Chicago Tribune](#). Claudine Ise, "Rachel Niffenegger's drab, brilliant 'Flesh Club.'" September 26, 2013.  
[ArtSlant](#). Stephanie Cristello, "Making an Impression." July 13, 2013.  
[Art 21 Blog](#). Caroline Picard, "Pledging Artist Friendship: '2 of a Kind' at LVL3." July 16, 2013.  
[Vogue Italia](#). Francesca Bertolotti, "The Berlin Art Weekend." April 2013.  
[Chicago Magazine](#). Jason Foumberg, "New York and Chicago: It's Not Us vs. Them." February 18, 2013.
- 2012 [Chicago Tribune](#). Claudine Ise, "Hyde Park Art Center's 'Ground Floor' graduates." September 19, 2012.  
[Art 21 Blog](#). Ali Fitzgerald, "Lives and Works in Berlin | Chicago's Big Youth in Berlin." May 11, 2012.  
[ARCADEMI Blog](#). Rachel de Joode, "Rachel Niffenegger." February 15th, 2012.
- 2011 [LVL3](#). Staff, "Artist of the week: Rachel Niffenegger." September 14, 2011.  
[Jettison Quarterly](#). Whitney Stoepel, "Bad Movies & Good Art." Fall 2011.  
[Chicago Tribune](#). Lauren Viera, "Rachel Niffenegger & Paul Nudd." June 10, 2011.  
[New American Paintings](#). Evan Garva, "Bodily/Fluid: Rachel Niffenegger & Paul Nudd at Western Exhibitions." June 1, 2011.  
[Flavorpill](#). Monica Westin, "Editor's Pick: : Rachel Niffenegger & Paul Nudd at Western Exhibitions." May 20, 2011.  
[Art Letter](#). Paul Klein, "Rachel Niffenegger & Paul Nudd." May 19, 2011.  
[New American Paintings Blog](#). Evan Garza, "Must-See Paintings Shows: May." May 6, 2011.  
[Modern Painters](#). Jason Foumberg, "Review: Jim Nutt." March 11, 2011.  
[Chicago Tribune](#). Lauren Viera, "Best of Galleries 2010." December 17, 2011.
- 2010 [Beautiful/Decay](#). Sasha Lee, "Interview: Rachel Niffenegger." Book 4, Exquisite Corpse, August 2010.  
[Chicago Magazine](#). Staff, "Best of Chicago: Best Emerging Artist." August 2010.  
[Interface](#). Craig Atkinson, "If You Can Hold Your Breath." July 5, 2010.  
[Artslant](#). Joel Kuennen, "A Vital Apartment Gallery." June 14, 2010.  
[Chicago Tribune](#). Viera, Lauren. "John Parot and Rachel Niffenegger" June 4, 2010  
[Chicago Magazine](#). Ann Wiens, "Rachel Niffenegger." May 2010.  
[Flavorpill](#). Monica Westin, "Editor's Pick: Rachel Niffenegger." May 8, 2010.  
[Fecal Face](#). Ryan Travis Christian, "Interview: Rachel Niffenegger." May 2010.  
[New City](#). Jason Foumberg, "Breakout Artists: Chicago's Next Generation of Image Makers." April 29, 2010.
- 2009 [New City](#). Staff, "Best Painter Under 25." November 12, 2009.  
[Proximity Magazine](#). Staff, "Studios." Issue #5, Fall 2009.  
[Artslant](#). Robyn Farrell Roulo, "New Kids on the Block." August 2009.  
[Time Out Chicago](#). Laura Pearson, "Big Youth." Issue 231, July 2009.
- 2008 [KQED Arts](#). Victoria Gannon, "Hallway Bathroom Gallery." November 23, 2008.  
[Whitehot Magazine](#). Jessica Silverman, "Studio visit with Brian Nuda Roche." November 2008.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2012-13 Residency: DE ATELIERS, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

- 2011 Art Theory and Practice Graduate Fellowship, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL  
Dedalus Foundation MFA Fellowship Nominee
- 2008 Graduating Fellowship, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Ox-Bow School of Art and Artist's Residency Fellowship  
Excellence in Leadership Award, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

# RACHEL NIFFENEGGER

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Rachel Niffenegger's work focuses on the ephemeral state of the feminine figure in contemporary society, addressing notions of the body, sculpture, clothing and painting; alluding to both physical and psychological violence. Her three-dimensional works are bone-like and curvaceous with an almost weightless quality. Warped steel rods are covered in epoxy clay, each one an exotic skeleton, striking a pose. Her collages and stained fabrics (or shrouds) are preoccupied with fecundity and the macabre, at once psychedelic and mysterious. The shrouds also function as clothing, skins and spirits—a vestige of the body. In the *Chicago Tribune*, Claudine Ise wrote of Niffenegger, “[she was] making art world waves with horror-themed watercolor paintings of disembodied heads and mixed-media sculptures that looked like mummified body parts. By all rights, such grotesqueries should have been revolting, but in Niffenegger's hands they were, and are, strangely alluring.

Rachel Niffenegger's work has been included in museum shows at the Museum for Modern Art in Arnhem, the Netherlands; the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art in Grand Rapids, MI; and the Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago and in gallery show in New York, Berlin, Chicago, Liverpool, Denver, and Milwaukee, among others. In 2012 she completed a 9-month residency at DE ATELIERS in Amsterdam. *Chicago Magazine* named her “Chicago's best emerging artist” in 2010 and *New City* named her one of “Chicago's Next Generation of Image Makers” in 2010, this after naming her the “Best Painter Under 25” in 2009. Niffenegger, born in Evanston in 1985, received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and her MFA from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She is represented by Western Exhibitions in Chicago and lives and works in Chicago.