

# DEB SOKOLOW

b. 1974, Davis, California

Lives and works in Chicago, Illinois

## EDUCATION

- 2004 MFA, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 1996 BFA, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *A Deb Sokolow Sampler: 20 Years of Speculative Drawing*, Northern Illinois University Art Museum, DeKalb, IL
- 2023 *Visualizing*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2020 *Loose History*, Fine Art Gallery, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Kenosha, WI
- 2019 *Profiles in Leadership // Drawings without words*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2017 *Deb Sokolow's archive of possibilities*, curated by Kristin Korolowicz, The Stolbun Collection, Chicago, IL  
*Conspiracies, Minimalism, and the Philly Cheesesteak Sandwich: An Artist Book Retrospective from Deb Sokolow*. The Reading Room, Dallas, TX  
*The Presidents (some of them)*. Reilly Gallery, Providence College Galleries, RI  
*Deb Sokolow: Schematics, Surveillance, Murder*, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2016 *Men*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL  
*Debate Stage Water Bottles*, G Fine Arts, Washington, DC  
*Deb Sokolow for Syntax Season*, PrintText, Indianapolis, IN
- 2015 *Mr. F*, Ski Club, Milwaukee, WI
- 2014 *All Your Vulnerabilities Will Be Assessed*, The University Galleries, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
- 2013 *Some concerns about the candidate / MATRIX 166*, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT  
Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2012 *All Your Vulnerabilities Will Be Assessed*, Moore College of Art, Philadelphia, PA
- 2011 *Notes on Denver International Airport and the New World Order*, Abrons Art Center, New York, NY  
The Green Gallery West, Milwaukee, WI  
*Drawings & Stories*, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI
- 2010 Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2009 *Ground Level Projects: Deb Sokolow*, Spertus Museum, Chicago, IL
- 2008 *You are one step closer to learning the truth*, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO

- The trouble with people you don't know*, Inova [Institute of Visual Arts], Milwaukee, WI
- 2006 *Secrets and Lies and More Lies*, 40000, Chicago, IL  
*Understanding Scarface*, Polvo, Chicago, IL
- 2005 *Someone tell Mayor Daley, the pirates are coming*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *When the Spirit Moves You*, curated by Elijah Wheat Showroom, Geary Contemporary, Millerton, NY  
*Filtered Matter*, SVA MA Curatorial Practice program, Brooklyn, NY  
*Cosmic Geometries II*, Carrie Secrist Gallery, curated by Hilma's Ghost, Chicago, IL  
*The Politicians (some of them)*, (northern) Western Exhibitions, Skokie, IL
- 2023 *CAB 5: This is a Rehearsal*, Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago, IL  
*Sightings*, Sun Valley Museum of Art, Ketchum, ID  
*The Western Exhibitions Drawing Biennial*, Chicago, IL  
*Dutes Miller and Deb Sokolow*, Drawing Room North Carolina at Lump Projects, Raleigh, NC  
*Not Just Another Pretty Face*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2022 *Visualizing Spaces*, New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, University of Southern Indiana, New Harmony, IN
- 2021 *Platform*, DavidZwiner.com (online, November 2021)  
*Chicago Comics: Future Forward*, Buddy, Chicago, IL  
*The Western Exhibitions Drawing Biennial*, Chicago, IL
- 2020 *Unapologetic: All Women, All Year*, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ  
*Black & White vs. Color*, Richard Heller Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 *Manifesto : Art x Agency*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC  
*Conspiratorial Aesthetics*, Cressman Center for Visual Arts, Louisville, KY
- 2018 *Vitrine*, University Gallery, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI  
*Sign Sign Everywhere a Sign*, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN  
*An Image for A Vessel*, curated by Sharmyn Cruz Rivera. Gaylord and Dorothy Foundation, Chicago IL  
*Declaration*, curated by Stephanie Smith and Lisa Freiman, with Amber Esseiva, Johanna Plummer, and Lauren Ross. Institute for Contemporary Art, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- 2017 *Unapologetic Drawing*, Ralph Arnold Gallery, Loyola University Chicago  
*Four Artists: Charlotte de Larminat, Josephine Messer, Cristina de Miguel and Deb Sokolow*. Fredericks & Freiser, New York, NY  
*Best American Comics 2017*, South Bend Museum of Art, South Bend, IN  
*The Unreliable Narrator*, Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Ketchum, ID  
*The Presidential Library Project: Black Presidential Imaginary*, curated by Ross Jordan, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL  
*The Nothing That Is: a drawing show in five parts*, curated by Matt Distel and Bill Thelen. The Carnegie, Covington, KY  
*History is boring*, curated by Peter Skvara, The Mission, Chicago, IL

- 2016 *Sapphire*, Weinberg/Newton Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Century Safe*. Roman Susan. Chicago, IL  
*The End of Innocence*, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT  
*New American Paintings Midwest Edition*, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL
- 2015 *Under the Guillotine*, Center for Visual Art, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Colorado  
*The Nothing That Is: a drawing show in five parts*, curated by Bill Thelen. CAM Raleigh, Raleigh, NC  
*Occupational Therapy*, curated by Kelly Shindler. Contemporary Art Museum. St. Louis, MO  
*HA! HA! BUSINESS*. Luis de Jesus, Los Angeles, CA.  
*Drawing: Rachel Farbriaz, Lavar Munroe, and Deb Sokolow*. G Fine Art, Washington DC.  
*Ryan Travis Christian Presents 21<sup>st</sup> Century LOL's*, Left Field, San Luis Obispo, CA.  
*The world is mystical, dangerous, and delicious*. Western Exhibitions, Chicago IL.
- 2014 *Artadia 15th Anniversary Exhibition*, Longhouse Projects, New York, NY  
*ICA@50: Pleasing Artists and Publics Since 1963*, Institute of Contemporary Art. Philadelphia, PA  
*Linear Thinking: Selections from the Permanent Collection*, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, AZ  
*On Big Drawings*, Curated by Friedhard Kiekeben, A+D Gallery, Columbia College Chicago, IL
- 2013 *Agora, The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Athens Biennale*, Athens, Greece  
*Drawing Time, Reading Time*, curated by Claire Gilman. The Drawing Center. New York  
*At Work: Studio and Production as a Subject of Today's Art*. Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Germany  
*How I Wrote 'Elastic Man'*, Invisible-Exports, New York, NY
- 2012 Künstlerhaus Speckstrasse, Hamburg, Germany  
*Twelve Galleries Project presents Quarterly Site #12: EPIC SOMETHING*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL  
*Big Reality*, 319 Scholes, Brooklyn, NY, curated by Brian Droitcour  
*And She's Like, And He Goes*. A+D Gallery, Columbia College Chicago
- 2011 *Artists tell stories (mostly about themselves)*, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ  
*Doomsday Film Festival Art Show*, 92Y Tribeca, NY, New York  
*CartoonInk!*, Betty Rymer Gallery, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*People Don't Like to Read Art*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago  
*What Lies Beneath*, Good Children Gallery, New Orleans, LA  
*Drawn to Disaster*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Maine College of Art, Portland, ME  
*in- and outside - writing*, Voorkamer, Lier, Belgium  
*Terminal Jest*, co-curated by Stamatina Gregory and Michael Hall, Delaware County College, Media, PA  
*West, Wester, Westest, Part 2*, curated by Ryan Travis Christian, FFDG, San Francisco, CA  
The Times Club, Iowa City, IA
- 2010 *Production Site: The Artist's Studio Inside-Out*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
*Party Crashers: Comic Book Culture Invades the Art World* Arlington Arts Center, Arlington, Virginia  
*Not Just Another Pretty Face*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL  
*Well Put Together II*, Thomas McCormick Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Sonny Smith "100 Records"*, Gallery 16, San Francisco, CA  
*Paper! Awesome!*, Baer Ridgway Projects, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 *Heartland*, Smart Museum, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*Drawn/Draft/Depict*, Irvine Valley College, Irvine, CA  
*Sports!*, Synchronicity, Los Angeles, CA  
*they will not ruin us...*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2008 *Heartland*, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands

- Grandma*, Aftermodern, San Francisco, CA, traveled to Brooklyn Fire Proof, Brooklyn, NY
- 2007 *Mapping the Self*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
*The Uncertainty Principle*, Northern Illinois University Art Museum, DeKalb, IL  
*The Adventurous Type*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2006 *Drawn into the World*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
*Rudolph Projects*, Houston, TX
- 2005 *Drawn Out*, Gallery 400, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*Early Adopters*, 3Arts Club, Chicago, IL
- 2004 *Graduate Exhibition*, SAIC Gallery 2, Chicago, IL

## COMMISSIONS

- 2024 *Headmaster Magazine No. 10: The Sports Issue*, eight-page spread on Professional wrestler Pat Patterson
- 2023 *Environments for Controlling People* reproduced for *The Comics Journal*, Best of 2022, essay by Bahnu Pratap
- 2022 *Environments for Controlling People* artist book for Desert Island Comics Brooklyn  
 “Certain Types of Organizations” two-page spread for Lumpen Comics
- 2021 “Translate a Song into a Drawing” for *Artist in Residence*, a publication from Studio Hudson  
 Writing and images for *On Big Drawings*, an online database for contemporary drawing and issues
- 2020 “Museum Musings: Deb Sokolow” writing and images for Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art’s blog  
 “At the Justice Department” two-page spread for Maryland Institute College of Art’s journal, *Full Bleed*  
 “Stakeout!” an art assignment for *You Are an Artist*, Penguin Books, compiled by Sarah Urist Green  
 Writing for *Loose History* exhibition catalog for solo exhibition at University of Wisconsin-Parkside  
 “During a Hair-Gluing Session Inside the White House Cosmetology Room” drawing for Daily Trumpet
- 2019 Drawing for Indianapolis Contemporary’s online publication, *Abstract*, designed by PRINTtEXT
- 2018 *Mr. Vladimir Putin’s Photo With Women*, a four-page spread for BOMB Magazine ([link](#))
- 2017 Institute of Contemporary Art, Virginia Commonwealth, Richmond, VA
- 2016 A Working Diagram of the Visual Arts Organizing Field, illustration for [Art Journal](#)
- 2011 Cover, spread for [Paletten Art Magazine](#) (Sweden), guest-edited by Maria Lind
- 2010 Creative Time. Online comic strip. April 2010 <http://creativetime.org/comics/sokolow.html>  
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago. *Production Site: The Artist’s Studio Inside-Out*  
 (commission for lobby)
- 2009 Chicago Public Schools

## COLLECTIONS

Daniel Boone Fine and Performing Arts Magnet School, Chicago, IL  
DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana  
Georgetown University, Washington, DC  
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC  
The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Indiana University Special Collections, Bloomington, Indiana  
Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction, Bloomington, Indiana  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA  
Margaret R. and Robert M. Freeman Library, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA  
Morgan Stanley Art Collection, New York, NY  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
Newark Public Library, Newark, New Jersey  
Northern Illinois University Special Collections, DeKalb, IL  
Providence College Galleries, Providence, RI  
Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ  
Spertus Museum, Chicago, IL  
Thomas J. Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
University of Miami Special Collections, Coral Gables, FL  
University of Southern California Special Collections, Los Angeles, CA  
Stanford University Libraries, Palo Alto, CA  
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT

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- 2024 [Pin-Up Magazine](#). Suleman Anaya, "Monuments, Materials, and Vacant Lots of Promises." February 2024.
- 2023 [Hyperallergic](#). Lori Waxman, "Deb Sokolow's Wackadoodle World of Design." December 10, 2023.  
[Newcity Art](#). Charles Young, "Technology and Its (Dis)contents: A Review of Deb Sokolow at Western Exhibitions." November 30, 2023.  
[The Chicago Tribune](#). Lori Waxman, "Chicago Architectural Biennial returns with 'This is a Rehearsal' and the Cultural Center shines." November 28, 2023.  
[Forbes](#). Leslie Katz, "We're Obsessed With UFOs, But Why?" October 18, 2023.  
[Artnet](#). Richard Whiddington, "Is Anybody Out There? A New Show Interrogates Earthlings' Obsession With Extraterrestrials." October 8, 2023.  
[New York Times](#). The T List Newsletter: An Exhibition of U.F.O. Art Lands in Idaho: Gisela Williams, "Visit This: Aliens Come Into Focus at an Idaho Art Exhibition." September 14, 2023.  
[Eye on Sun Valley](#). Karen Bossick, "'Sightings' Looks to Stars for Signs of Life." September 14, 2023.  
[Idaho Mountain Express](#). Raza Giorgi, "At SVMoA, 'Sightings' highlights human fascination with the unknown." September 14, 2023.  
[Newcity](#). Susan Aurinko, "Art 50 2023: Chicago's Artists' Artists." September 5, 2023.  
[Hyperallergic](#). Lori Waxman, "Chicago's Drawing Biennial Has Something for Everyone." January 23, 2023.
- 2022 [North by Northwestern](#). Sela Breen, "Sitting down with Sokolow: A Northwestern art professor illustrates her path." 2022.
- 2021 [Artsy](#). Casey Lesser, "22 Artists to Discover at New York's September Fairs." September 8, 2021.  
[artnet news](#). Tim Schneider, "Want to Get a Jump on the Collecting Competition? Here are 6 Rising Stars to Seek Out at Armory Week 2021." September 10, 2021.

- The American Scholar. Noelani Kirschner, "Portrait of the Artist: Deb Sokolow: Usurping Utopia." December 6, 2021.
- 2020 SMoCA. Lauren O'Connell, "Slow Art Sunday: Deb Sokolow." May 17, 2020. ([link](#))  
Full Bleed, A Journal of Art & Design. Maryland Institute College of Art: Maryland, 2020. ([link](#))  
SMoCA. Deb Sokolow, "Museum Musings: Deb Sokolow." May 27, 2020. ([link](#))  
Daily Trumpet. "During a Hair-Gluing Session Inside the White House Cosmetology Room." June 16, 2020.  
Artnet News. Staff, "The Art World at Home: Jacqueline Terrassa Is Preparing for Her New Museum Director Job in Maine and Cooking Mushroom Paella." August 19, 2020. ([link](#))
- 2019 The Brooklyn Rail. Elizabeth Buhe, "Deb Sokolow: Profiles in Leadership // Drawings without words." December 17, 2019.  
Newcity. Alan Pocar, "Deflating Powerful Men: A Review of Deb Sokolow at Western Exhibitions." December 9, 2019.  
The Appreciator. Tim Ortiz, "Profiles in Leadership // Drawings without words." November 7, 2019.  
Abstract. Holzman, Laura. "Contemporary Art, Out of Place." May 18, 2019.  
Burnway. Staff. "Close Look: 'Conspiratorial Aesthetics' at the University of Louisville." March 17, 2019.  
LEO Weekly. Taylor, Kaylyn. "'Conspiratorial Aesthetics,' compelling." March 6, 2019.
- 2018 The News Gazette. University of Illinois, 150 years. May 22, 2018.  
Hyperallergic. Dalla Vila, Amanda. "A New Contemporary Art Museum in Virginia Leads with Politics." April 24, 2018
- 2017 Vulture Magazine. Riesman, Abraham. "8 Comics to read in October". October 2, 2017.  
The Best American Comics 2017. Hardcover. Ben Katchor, editor. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, publisher  
ICA at VCU Blog. "Guest Blogger Deb Sokolow: Research for an Idiosyncratic Visitor's Guide". March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017.  
D Magazine. Ratcliff, Darryl. "The Dallas Art Fair is This Week, But It's Hardly the Only Thing Happening". April 4, 2017.  
Glasstire. Knudson, Rainey and Rees, Christina. "Top Five: March 9, 2017"  
Chicago Reader. Reader Staff. "Chicago responds to President Trump". January 19, 2017.  
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Hyperallergic, Yau, John. "A Few Thoughts About 2016". January 1, 2017
- 2016 Northwestern Libraries Blog. List, Cara. "Northwestern professor's 'artist's book' on display in Deering.", November 22, 2016  
NewCity Art. Cardoza, Kerry. "Fear and Loathing in U.S. Politics". November 16, 2016  
Hyperallergic. Yau, John. "Vanity, Thy Name Is Man". October 2, 2016  
NewCity Art. Barton, Brit. "Deb Sokolow". October 1, 2016  
NewCity Art. Reichert, Elliot. "Art 50 2016, Chicago's Artists' Artists". September 15, 2016  
New American Paintings Blog. Fiore, Brad. "Deb Sokolow's thoughts on Men". September 2016  
BmoreArt. Hannum, Terence. "Politics, Smoke, and Mirrors—And Drawings". June 6, 2016  
Washington Post. Jenkins, Mark. "In the Galleries: Rustic Landscapes With Just a Touch of Menace." May 6, 2016  
Denver Post. Rinaldi, Ray Mark. "James Gillray: Shocking satire two centuries old." January 8, 2016  
Westword. Paglia, Michael. "CVA Votes for Political Satire and Caricatures, Both Old and New." February 18, 2016
- 2015 The Comp. Alamo-Costello, Chester. "Deb Sokolow - Manipulative Individuals & Shadowy Histories." November 17, 2015  
Daily Serving. Yates, Calder. "HA HA! BUSINESS! At Luis De Jesus." July 27, 2015.

- Washington Post. Jenkins, Mark. "In the galleries: Anything but simplicity in these drawings". July 2, 2015.  
Midtown Magazine. Fellerath, David. "Drawing the Line: Indie Art Make a Big Show at CAM Raleigh" (Review), July/August 2015.  
New American Paintings No. 119, Midwest Issue 2015. Kelly Shindler, juror  
Dallas Observer. Smart, Lauren. "Take Lauren's Mini Virtual Tour of the Dallas Art Fair, 2015." April 15, 2015  
New City. Zarley, B. David. Review: "The world is mystical, dangerous and delicious/Western Exhibitions", Feb. 16, 2015  
Louise & Maurice. Cox, Erin. "REVIEW | The World is Mystical, Dangerous and Delicious." March 1, 2015  
Bad at Sports. Blake, Kevin B. "The Nostalgia for Paradise is The Paradigm of Time." January 7, 2015
- 2014 Artnet. Davis, Ben. "Hidden Gems of Miami's Satellite Art Fairs (Deb Sokolow)." December 5, 2014  
Bad at Sports. Blake, Kevin. "Our Calamity is our Providence". September 3, 2104  
Two Coats of Paint. McPherson, Heather Leigh. "Miami, Part III: Heather Leigh McPherson attends a Bomb discussion, Untitled." December 11, 2014  
Inside/Within. Sierzputowski, Kate. "Deb Sokolow's Fictionalized Blueprints". July 2014  
The Seen. Demaree, Joshua Michael. "PROFILE OF THE ARTIST PT I // DEB SOKOLOW". May 12, 2014  
The Art Assignment by PBS Digital Studios. Green, Sarah Urist (host). The Art Assignment - Stakeout! - Deb Sokolow - Ep. 2. February 27, 2014
- 2013 New York Times. Johnson, Ken. "When How It Looks Matters More Than What It Says". November 21, 2013.  
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The Culture Trip. Ransom, Jessica. "Fact, Fiction, Paranoia and Conspiracy Theories in the work of Deb Sokolow". May 1, 2013  
Art New England. Rossof, Patricia. "Deb Sokolow: Some Concerns About the Candidate, Matrix 166". May/June, Volume 34, Issue 3, Page 58, 2013  
Modern Art Notes. Green, Tyler. "Kaz Oshiro / Deb Sokolow" (podcast interview). April 11, 2013  
Visual Art Source. Dluzen, Robin. "Deb Sokolow" (review). April 9, 2013  
Chicago Art Review. Reiner, Todd. "Deb Sokolow @ Western Exhibitions". April 4, 2013  
Hartford Advocate. Bisbort, Alan. "Crazy and Gullible". (review: Deb Sokolow). March 7-13, 2013  
Art in Print. Peltz, Amy. "A Visual Turn: Comics and Art after the Graphic Novel". Volume 2, Number 3. 2013  
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Art Ltd. Yood, James. "Critic's Picks: Chicago". March 2013  
Bad at Sports. Holland, Richard. "Deb Sokolow Interview." March 15, 2013  
New York Times. Schwendener, Martha. "An Installation of Dirty Politics and Illusion" (review). March 8, 2013  
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- 2012 The Art Blog. Arthurs, Maegan. "Hilarious paranoia in Deb Sokolow's All Your Vulnerabilities Will Be Assessed at Moore". November 15, 2012  
Art 21 Blog. Polson, Jamilee. "Painting with Words, Writing with Pictures\* (Take One)". April 9th, 2012  
Gallerist NY. Russeth, Andrew. "Artadia Presents \$45,000 in Grants to Seven Artists at Expo Chicago Fair". September 21, 2012
- 2011 Phoenix New-Times. Peterson, Sativa. "SMoCA's Latest Exhibit Gives Glimpse Into the Lives of Its Artists"

Thursday, Dec 15 2011

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[Arizona Republic](#). Nilsen, Richard. "3 exhibits illustrate new vigor at SMOCA". November 26, 2011  
[ARTnews](#). Miranda, Carolina. "Comic Relief". October 11, 2011.  
[WBEZ](#). Amer, Robin. "Artist Deb Sokolow makes conspiracy theories come alive in graphic style". Oct 6  
[Artforum.com](#). Droittcour, Brian. "Deb Sokolow". August 8, 2011  
[Chicago Tribune](#). Waxman, Lori. "Alternative Summer Reading List". July 13, 2011  
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[ArtSlant](#). Ritchie, Abraham. "Read the Fine Print". July 11, 2011  
[Time Out Chicago](#). Weinberg, Lauren. "People Don't Like To Read Art", July 27, 2011  
[Daily Serving](#). Spurgeon, Marta. "Skip a trip to the library". July 26, 2011  
[Art 21](#). Picard, Caroline. "Caution, You Are Being Watched" (interview). January 13, 2011  
[Kingsstitt Tumblr](#). Bertran, Britton. "2010 Top 10", January 2011  
[A Pragmatic Liberal Yid](#). Hunter, Scott. "My "best of" list ... Chicago art 2010". January, 2, 2011  
[Chicago Art Review](#). Ruiz, Steve. "Deb Sokolow @ Western Exhibitions" (review). January 3, 2011
- 2010 [Artforum.com](#). Ise, Claudine. "Deb Sokolow" (review). December 2010  
[Chicago Tribune](#). Viera, Lauren. "Best art of 2010 found in unlikely places". December 17, 2011  
[ArtSlant](#). Ritchie, Abraham. "Chicago's Best of 2010". December 27, 2010  
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[Time Out Chicago](#). Weinberg, Lauren. "Deb Sokolow" (review). December 9, 2010  
[New City](#). Golden-McNerney, Regan. "Deb Sokolow" (review). December 6, 2010  
[ArtSlant](#). Ritchie, Abraham. "Do I want to Believe?" (review). November 22, 2010  
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[Flavorpill](#). Smigasiewicz, Beatrice. "Editor's Pick: Deb Sokolow", November 19, 2010  
[The Open Daybook](#). Earle, David. Mark Batty Publisher. November 2010  
[ArtSlant](#). Ritchie, Abraham. "The Slant on Deb Sokolow". (interview). September 2010  
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[Chicago Tribune](#). Waxman, Lori. "A look inside the artist's studio". (Review). May 7  
[Flavorwire](#). Lund, Karsten. "Daily Dose Pick: Deb Sokolow" (Profile)  
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[Gaper's Block](#). Lendman, John. "Inside the Artist's Studio at the MCA" (Review). Feb 05 2010  
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[Artnet](#). Velez, Pedro. "Chicago Build Up" (Review), January 29  
[Time Out Chicago](#). Weinberg, Lauren. "Production Site: The Artist's Studio Inside-Out" (Review)  
[New City](#). Foumberg, Jason. "Review: Production Site: The Artist's Studio Inside Out" (Review)  
[Location](#): Volume Three. Minneapolis, MN
- 2009 [New City](#). Foumberg, Jason. Top 5 Best Drawing Shows of 2009". December 28, 2009  
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[Chicago Tribune](#). Viera, Lauren. "Artist Deb Sokolow, revealed." (Profile)  
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[Chicago Art Review](#). Ruiz, Steve. "Heartland @ The Smart Museum of Art" (Review)  
[Chicago Tribune](#). Viera, Lauren. "More Brilliance from Deb Sokolow" (Review), May 29, 2009  
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[Artslant](#). Gunn, Dan. "Reassessing MiddleCoast Art" (Review)



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Badatsports. "Episode 201: Deb Sokolow" (Interview)  
Chicago Tribune. Viera, Lauren. "Gallery winners from Sokolow, Harrison", May 29, 2009  
New City. Calder, Jaime. "Review: Deb Sokolow/Spertus Museum" (Review)  
Daily Serving. "Spertus Museum announces Ground Level Projects", January 2009  
New City. Foumberg, Jason. "Eye Exam: Smartland" (Review)  
Proximity Magazine. "Deb Sokolow Studio View" Issue #2.
- 2008 Chicago Tribune. Viera, Lauren. "Ones to watch" (Profile)  
Modern Art Notes. Green, Tyler. "Weekend Roundup", March 19, 2008  
Kansas City Star. Thorson, Alice. "Kemper mystery exhibit is a you-dunit" (Review)  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Schumacher, Mary Louise. "Miranda July meets Mark Lombardi"  
Express Milwaukee. Motlani, Aisha. "Pictorial Paranoia" (Review)  
Vital Source. Moriarty, Judith Ann. "Drawing Conclusions" (Review)  
Elms, Anthony. Exhibition Essay for *The trouble with people you don't know*  
Timeout Chicago. Mojica, Jason. "Mapping the Self" (Review)  
The Lost Review. Velez, Pedro. "Alive and Kicking in Chicago" (Profile)
- 2007 Artnet. Orden, Abraham. (Review)  
Chicago Magazine. Topor, Joanna. "After Paschke" (Profile)
- 2006 Art Papers. Elms, Anthony. "Deb Sokolow" (Review)  
Chicago Sun-Times. Nance, Kevin. "On paper, MCA show is a smash" (Review)  
Chicago Tribune. Artner, Alan. (Review)  
Centerstage Chicago. Hinkel, Joanne. "Deb Sokolow draws Chicago in" (Profile)  
New City. Foumberg, Jason. (Profile)
- 2005 Chicago Tribune. Artner, Alan. "Putting post-9/11 fear on the map: Sokolow's dark vision at the MCA"  
Art on Paper. Hixson, Kathryn. (Review)  
Chicago Tribune. Storch, Charles. "Pirates invade Chicago" (Profile)  
Chicago Magazine. Wilk, Deborah. "Studio City" (Profile)  
Chicago Tribune. Artner, Alan. "...Early Adopters..." (Review)  
Punk Planet (Reproduction)
- 2004 NYFA Quarterly. "Raves" (Review)
- 2003 Chicago Reader. Stamets, Bill. "Deb Sokolow puts herself in the picture" (Profile)

#### AWARDS, RESIDENCIES AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 Fellowship Award, Illinois Arts Council
- 2012 ARTADIA: The Fund for Art and Dialogue, Chicago grant cycle  
*Residency*, Nordisk Kunstnarsenter Dalsåsen, Norwegian Ministry Of Culture, Norway
- 2010 *Residency*, Art Omi, Ghent, NY  
*Residency*, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2009 *Works-in-Progress Residency*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
*Smart Museum Artist-in-Residence*, Daniel Boone Fine and Performing Arts Magnet School, Chicago, IL

2007 *Frankel Anderson Fellowship*, Vermont Studio Center

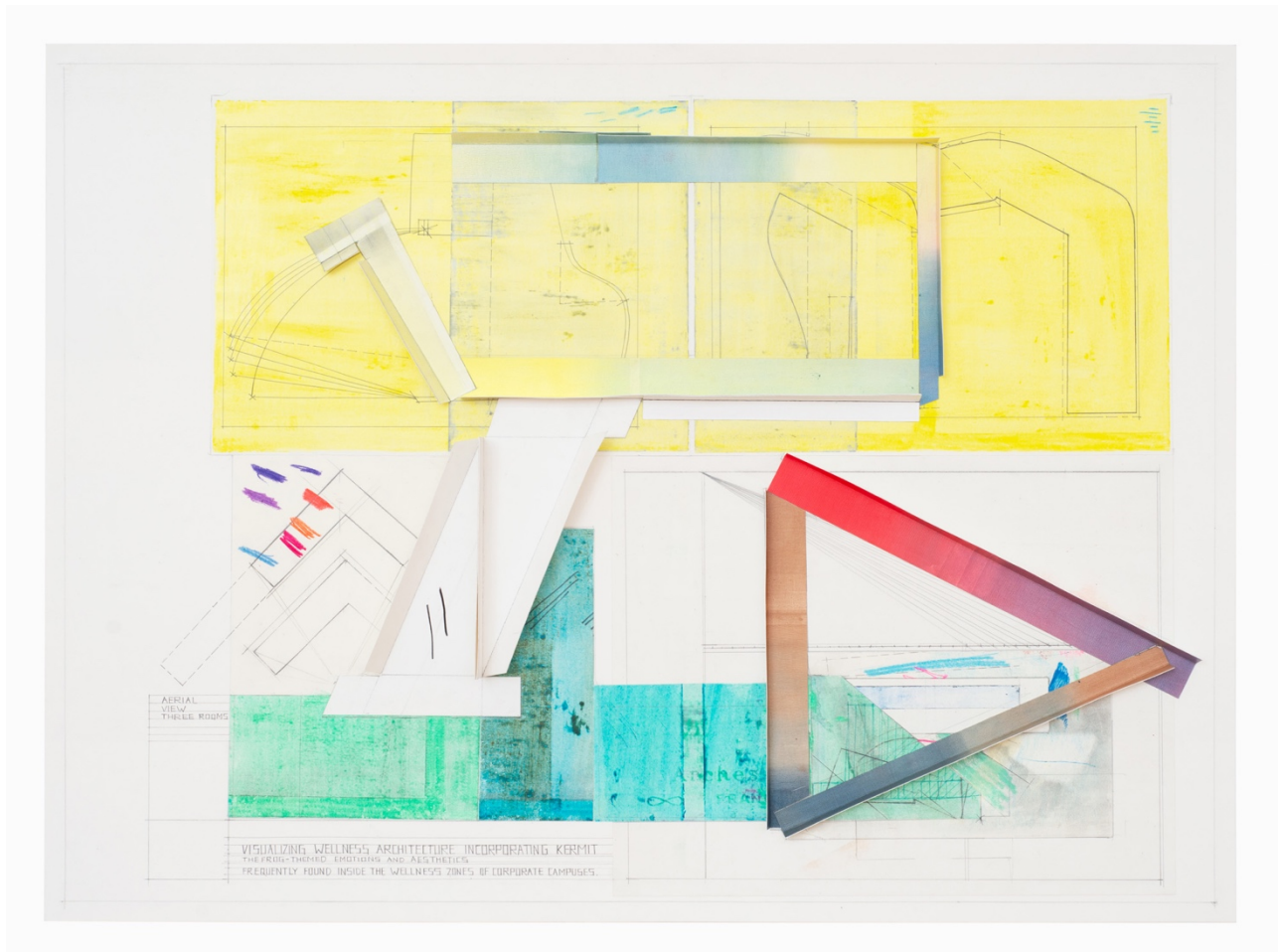
2005 *Visual Arts Fellowship*, Illinois Arts Council

*Someone tell Mayor Daley, the pirates are coming*, Performance, Marshall Field's store window, Chicago, IL

# DEB SOKOLOW

b. 1974, Davis, California

Lives and works in Chicago, Illinois



*Visualizing Wellness Architecture Incorporating Kermit the Frog-Themed Emotions and Aesthetics, 2023*  
Graphite, crayon, colored pencil, ink, and collage on Arches paper, 22h x 30w x 1d in

Deb Sokolow's semi-abstract schematic drawings focus on the idiosyncratic aspects of (mostly) fictitious built environments while hinting at the concealed agendas and social engineering involved in the design and use of corporate, institutional and domestic architecture.

Sokolow's two-and-a-half-dimensional, maquette-like pieces include geometric shapes and saturated fields of color representing landscape architecture, floor plans and shifting walls. Some of these forms appear to be reproduced with a blueprint or printmaking process. Instead, they are hand-rendered with colored pencils and crayons and function as a conceptual compliment to their titles in that they also contain uncertainties with regard to the fabrication of content.

Titles such as "Visualizing the Right Angle Attempting to Dominate the Future of Architecture" and "Advanced Techniques for Scent Use in Office Complexes" take inspiration from the power dynamics of various office environments Sokolow has worked in, the layout of museum spaces, the god-complex of architects, authors of postmodern literature such as Jorge Luis Borges and Helen Oyeyemi and a 2005 encounter with a ghost in the

Winchester Mystery House in San Jose, California (and lingering doubts as to whether it was an actual ghost or a bit of staged theatre).

Deb Sokolow is an artist and writer. Her drawings and artists' books have been included in the 4th Athens Biennale in Greece and in other group exhibitions at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C., The Drawing Center in New York; Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen in Germany; Van Abbemuseum in the Netherlands; and the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia. Solo exhibitions include the Abrons Art Center in New York; Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City; Institute of Visual Arts in Milwaukee; and the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, in which Sokolow's 2013 MATRIX exhibition, [Some Concerns About the Candidate](#), was reviewed in the [New York Times](#). Her work has been reproduced for [Creative Time's Comics](#) project; the 2017 [Best American Comics](#); for Swedish art magazine, *Paletten*; in Vitamin D2, a survey on contemporary drawing; and in a several-page spread in the fall 2018 issue of [BOMB Magazine](#). Her [2019 solo show](#) at Western Exhibitions was reviewed in the [Brooklyn Rail](#) by Elizabeth Buhe and John Yau reviewed her 2016 solo show in [Hyperallergic](#).

Her work is in the permanent collections of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago; Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, CT; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art; Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction in Indiana; and the Thomas J Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY. Sokolow is a recipient of an Artadia award and residencies at Art Omi and Nordic Artists' Centre in Norway. She received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2004. She is represented by Western Exhibitions and lives and works in Chicago.