

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

- 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

- 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 21st 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 4th 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

- 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
 Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC
 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
 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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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 Pocaro, "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 10th, 2017.
D Magazine. Ratcliff, Darryl. "The Dallas Art Fair is This Week, But It's Hardly the Only Thing Happening". April 4, 2017.
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Chicago Reader. Reader Staff. "Chicago responds to President Trump". January 19, 2017.
art ltd. Yood, James. "2016 Top Ten List". January 5, 2017.
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, 2014

- 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.
- Chicago Tribune. Ise, Claudine. "Best art shows of 2013". December 13, 2013
- Art News. Weinberg, Lauren. "Deb Sokolow" (review). October 2013
- 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
- Chicago Tribune. Waxman, Lori. "Art to laugh with (not at): Gallery shows where laughter is encouraged". April 2013
- Art Ltd. Yood, James. "Critic's Picks: Chicago". March 2013
- Bad at Sports. Holland, Richard. "Deb Sokolow Interview." March 15, 2013
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- VITAMIN D2. Gilman, Claire. "New Perspectives in Drawing." [Hardcover]. Published by Phaidon. 2013
- Hartford Courant. Dunne, Susan. "Atheneum Showcases Art Of Political Paranoia: MATRIX Gallery Exhibits Deb Sokolow's Some Concerns About the Candidate." February 7, 2013
- 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
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- Arizona Republic. Nilsen, Richard. "3 exhibits illustrate new vigor at SMoCA". November 26, 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
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- 2010 Artforum.com. Ise, Claudine. "Deb Sokolow" (review). December 2010
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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
Huffington Post. Klein, Paul. "Text Matters", November 19, 2010
Flavorpill. Smigasiwicz, Beatrice. "Editor's Pick: Deb Sokolow", November 19, 2010
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ArtSlant. Ritchie, Abraham. "The Slant on Deb Sokolow". (interview). September 2010
Jettison Quarterly. Carter, Kristen. "Making Sense of Our Paranoia with Deb Sokolow."
(Interview) Issue Number 6, Summer 2010
Art in America (online). Oh, Janet. "Production Site" (Review). May 25
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
Artforum.com. Ise, Claudine. "Production Site: The Artist's Studio ...". (Review). March 11
Art Pulse. Hildewine, Jeriah. Production Site: A Compound Eye on the Artist's Studio (Review). February 6-March 30
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
Artforum.com. Ise, Claudine. "Critics' Picks: Heartland" (Review)
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)
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Artslant. Gunn, Dan. "Reassessing MiddleCoast Art" (Review)
Timeout Chicago. Weinberg, Lauren. "Heartland" (Review)
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)
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- 2008 Chicago Tribune. Viera, Lauren. "Ones to watch" (Profile)
Modern Art Notes. Green, Tyler. "Weekend Roundup", March 19, 2008
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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

- 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



Deb Sokolow's partially fictional text-driven drawings and collages come from serious research and comical yet critical speculation into the details of shadowy histories, organizational brainwashing, the trope of the male genius, and the blemished tendencies of male heads of state. Her drawings incorporate the voice of an unnamed narrator of questionable authority who recounts seemingly humorous, harmless anecdotes on a number of famous men, while also suggesting that a more sinister mix of machismo, narcissism, and insecurity is at play. Lines between fact and fiction blur, and the tone shifts from objectivity to admiration and sarcasm. The viewer is left to decipher how much is true and to determine when, if ever, a narrator can be trusted. In a review for *Hyperallergic*, John Yau writes:

Sokolow's interest in the well-known illusionist David Copperfield, who once made the Statue of Liberty briefly disappear, an act which purportedly interested Putin, reminds us that everything we see, especially in politics, may in fact be an illusion, a form of deception, a cover-up—all of which appeals to anyone who has ever entertained a conspiracy theory. For all the deadpan humor running through Sokolow's work, along with a sharply attuned fascination with human foibles, one also senses her utter amazement: can people really be serious about these things? Are they really that important? If you find the answers disturbing, you are not alone.

Hand-drawn texts in graphite and erasure marks on the surface of each drawing function as a visual record of the narrator's indecisive thought process in working to present each anecdote. The texts are paired with abstract shapes and diagrammatic visuals which reference the historically male-dominated movements of modern architecture, color field painting, and minimalism. Many of these visuals appear to be reproduced with a printmaking process, but they are hand-rendered with colored pencils and crayons and function as a conceptual compliment to the texts in that they also contain uncertainties with regard to the fabrication of content. Sokolow's interests in storytelling and unreliable narration take inspiration from contemporary politics and its competing narratives on events and individuals as well as the playfulness with form and humour found in postmodern literature and authors such as Jorge Borges, Thomas Pynchon, Helen Oyeyemi, and Ali Smith.

Her current series of semi-abstract diagrammatic drawings reference aerial views and floor plans. Their titles propose humor and criticality with regard to the built environment, institutions and the foibles of world leaders.

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 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.