

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

- 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

WESTERN EXHIBITIONS 1709 W Chicago Ave., Chicago IL 60622 USA
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- 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 Droittcour
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
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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Abstract. Laura Holzman, "Contemporary Art, Out of Place." May 18, 2019.
Burnway. Staff, "Close Look: 'Conspiratorial Aesthetics' at the University of Louisville." March 17, 2019.
LEO Weekly. Kaylyn Taylor, "'Conspiratorial Aesthetics,' compelling." March 6, 2019.
- 2018 The News Gazette. University of Illinois, 150 years. May 22, 2018.
Hyperallergic. Amanda Dalla Vila, "A New Contemporary Art Museum in Virginia Leads with Politics." April 24, 2018.
- 2017 Vulture Magazine. Abraham Riesman, "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, 2017.
D Magazine. Darryl Ratcliff, "The Dallas Art Fair is This Week, But It's Hardly the Only Thing Happening." April 4, 2017.
Glasstire. Rainey Knudson and Christina Rees, "Top Five." March 9, 2017.
Chicago Reader. Reader Staff, "Chicago responds to President Trump." January 19, 2017.
art ltd. James Yood, "2016 Top Ten List." January 5, 2017.
Hyperallergic. John Yau, "A Few Thoughts About 2016." January 1, 2017.
- 2016 Northwestern Libraries Blog. Cara List, "Northwestern professor's 'artist's book' on display in Deering." November 22, 2016.
NewCity Art. Kerry Cardoza, "Fear and Loathing in U.S. Politics." November 16, 2016.
Hyperallergic. John Yau, "Vanity, Thy Name Is Man." October 2, 2016.
NewCity Art. Brit Barton, "Deb Sokolow." October 1, 2016.
NewCity Art. Elliot Reichert, "Art 50 2016, Chicago's Artists' Artists." September 15, 2016.
New American Paintings Blog. Brad Fiore, "Deb Sokolow's thoughts on Men." September 2016.
BmoreArt. Terence Hannum, "Politics, Smoke, and Mirrors—And Drawings." June 6, 2016.
Washington Post. Mark Jenkins, "In the Galleries: Rustic Landscapes With Just a Touch of Menace." May 6, 2016.
Denver Post. Ray Mark Rinaldi, "James Gillray: Shocking satire two centuries old." January 8, 2016.
Westword. Michael Paglia, "CVA Votes for Political Satire and Caricatures, Both Old and New." February 18, 2016.
- 2015 The Comp. Chester Alamo-Costello, "Deb Sokolow - Manipulative Individuals & Shadowy Histories." November 17, 2015.

- Daily Serving. Calder Yates, "HA HA! BUSINESS! At Luis De Jesus." July 27, 2015.
Washington Post. Mark Jenkins, "In the galleries: Anything but simplicity in these drawings." July 2, 2015.
Midtown Magazine. David Fellerath, "Drawing the Line: Indie Art Make a Big Show at CAM Raleigh." July/August 2015.
New American Paintings No. 119. Midwest Issue 2015. Juried by Kelly Shindler.
Dallas Observer. Lauren Smart, "Take Lauren's Mini Virtual Tour of the Dallas Art Fair, 2015." April 15, 2015.
New City. 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.
Bad at Sports. Kevin B. Blake, "The Nostalgia for Paradise is The Paradigm of Time." January 7, 2015.
- 2014 Artnet. Ben Davis, "Hidden Gems of Miami's Satellite Art Fairs." December 5, 2014.
Bad at Sports. Kevin Blake, "Our Calamity is our Providence." September 3, 2104.
Two Coats of Paint. Heather Leigh McPherson, "Miami, Part III: Heather Leigh McPherson attends a Bomb discussion, Untitled." December 11, 2014.
Inside/Within. Kate Sierzputowski, "Deb Sokolow's Fictionalized Blueprints." July 2014.
The Seen. Joshua Michael Demaree, "PROFILE OF THE ARTIST PT I // DEB SOKOLOW." May 12, 2014.
The Art Assignment by PBS Digital Studios. Sarah Urist Green, "The Art Assignment - Stakeout! - Deb Sokolow." February 27, 2014.
- 2013 The New York Times. Ken Johnson, "When How It Looks Matters More Than What It Says." November 21, 2013.
Chicago Tribune. Claudine Ise, "Best art shows of 2013." December 13, 2013.
Art News. Lauren Weinberg, "Deb Sokolow." October 2013.
The Culture Trip. Jessica Ransom, "Fact, Fiction, Paranoia and Conspiracy Theories in the work of Deb Sokolow." May 1, 2013.
Art New England. Patricia Rossof, "Deb Sokolow: Some Concerns About the Candidate, Matrix 166." May/June, Volume 34, Issue 3, Page 58, 2013.
Modern Art Notes. Tyler Green, "Kaz Oshiro / Deb Sokolow." Podcast. April 11, 2013.
Visual Art Source. Robin Dluzen, "Deb Sokolow." April 9, 2013.
Chicago Art Review. Todd Reiner, "Deb Sokolow @ Western Exhibitions." April 4, 2013.
Hartford Advocate. Alan Bisbort, "Crazy and Gullible". (review: Deb Sokolow). March 7-13, 2013
Art in Print. Amy Peltz, "A Visual Turn: Comics and Art after the Graphic Novel." Volume 2, Number 3. 2013.
Chicago Tribune. Lori Waxman, "Art to laugh with (not at): Gallery shows where laughter is encouraged." April 2013.
Art Ltd. James Yood, "Critic's Picks: Chicago." March 2013.
Bad at Sports. Richard Holland, "Deb Sokolow Interview." March 15, 2013.
The New York Times. Martha Schwendener, "An Installation of Dirty Politics and Illusion." March 8, 2013.
artforum.com. Nathaniel Lee, "How I Wrote Elastic Man." March 7, 2013.
VITAMIN D2. Claire Gilman, "New Perspectives in Drawing." [Hardcover]. Published by Phaidon. 2013.
Hartford Courant. Susan Dunne, "Atheneum Showcases Art Of Political Paranoia: MATRIX Gallery Exhibits Deb Sokolow's Some Concerns About the Candidate." February 7, 2013.
- 2012 The Art Blog. Maegan Arthurs, "Hilarious paranoia in Deb Sokolow's All Your Vulnerabilities Will Be Assessed at Moore." November 15, 2012.
Art 21 Blog. Jamilee Polson, "Painting with Words, Writing with Pictures* (Take One)." April 9, 2012.
Gallerist NY. Andrew Russeth, "Artadia Presents \$45,000 in Grants to Seven Artists at Expo Chicago Fair." September 21, 2012.
- 2011 Phoenix New-Times. Sativa Peterson, "SMoCA's Latest Exhibit Gives Glimpse Into the Lives of Its Artists." December 15, 2011.
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Artforum.com. Brian Droittcour, "Deb Sokolow." August 8, 2011.
Chicago Tribune. Lori Waxman, "Alternative Summer Reading List." July 13, 2011.
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Time Out Chicago. Lauren Weinberg, "People Don't Like To Read Art." July 27, 2011.
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- 2010 Artforum.com. Claudine Ise, "Deb Sokolow." December 2010.
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Chicago Tribune. Lori Waxman, "Deb Sokolow." December 10, 2010.
Time Out Chicago. Lauren Weinberg, "Deb Sokolow." December 9, 2010.
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- 2009 New City. Jason Foumberg, "Top 5 Best Drawing Shows of 2009." December 28, 2009.
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Timeout Chicago. Lauren Weinberg, "Heartland." 2009.
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New City. Jaime Calder, "Review: Deb Sokolow/Spertus Museum." 2009.
Daily Serving. Staff, "Spertus Museum announces Ground Level Projects." January 2009.

- New City*. Jason Foumberg, "Eye Exam: Smartland." 2009.
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- 2008 *Chicago Tribune*. Lauren Viera, "Ones to watch." November 7, 2008.
Modern Art Notes. Tyler Green. "Weekend Roundup." March 19, 2008.
Kansas City Star. Alice Thorson, "Kemper mystery exhibit is a you-dunit." 2008.
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Express Milwaukee. Aisha Motlani, "Pictorial Paranoia." 2008.
Vital Source. Judith Ann Moriarty, "Drawing Conclusions." 2008.
 Elms, Anthony. Exhibition Essay for *The trouble with people you don't know*.
Timeout Chicago. Jason Mojica, "Mapping the Self." 2008.
The Lost Review. Pedro Velez, "Alive and Kicking in Chicago." 2008.
- 2007 *Artnet*. Abraham Orden, 2007.
Chicago Magazine. Joanna Topor, "After Paschke."
- 2006 *Art Papers*. Anthony Elms, "Deb Sokolow." 2006.
Chicago Sun-Times. Kevin Nance, "On paper, MCA show is a smash." 2006.
Chicago Tribune. Alan Artner, Review. 2006.
Centerstage Chicago. Joanne Hinkel, "Deb Sokolow draws Chicago in." 2006.
New City. Jason Foumberg, Profile. 2006.
- 2005 *Chicago Tribune*. Alan Artner, "Putting post-9/11 fear on the map: Sokolow's dark vision at the MCA." 2005.
Art on Paper. Kathryn Hixson, Review. 2005.
Chicago Tribune. Charles Storch, "Pirates invade Chicago." 2005.
Chicago Magazine. Deborah Wilk, "Studio City." 2005.
Chicago Tribune. Alan Artner, "...Early Adopters..." 2005.
Punk Planet. Reproduction. 2005.
- 2004 *NYFA Quarterly*. "Raves." Review, 2004.
- 2003 *Chicago Reader*. Bill Stamets, "Deb Sokolow puts herself in the picture." 2003.

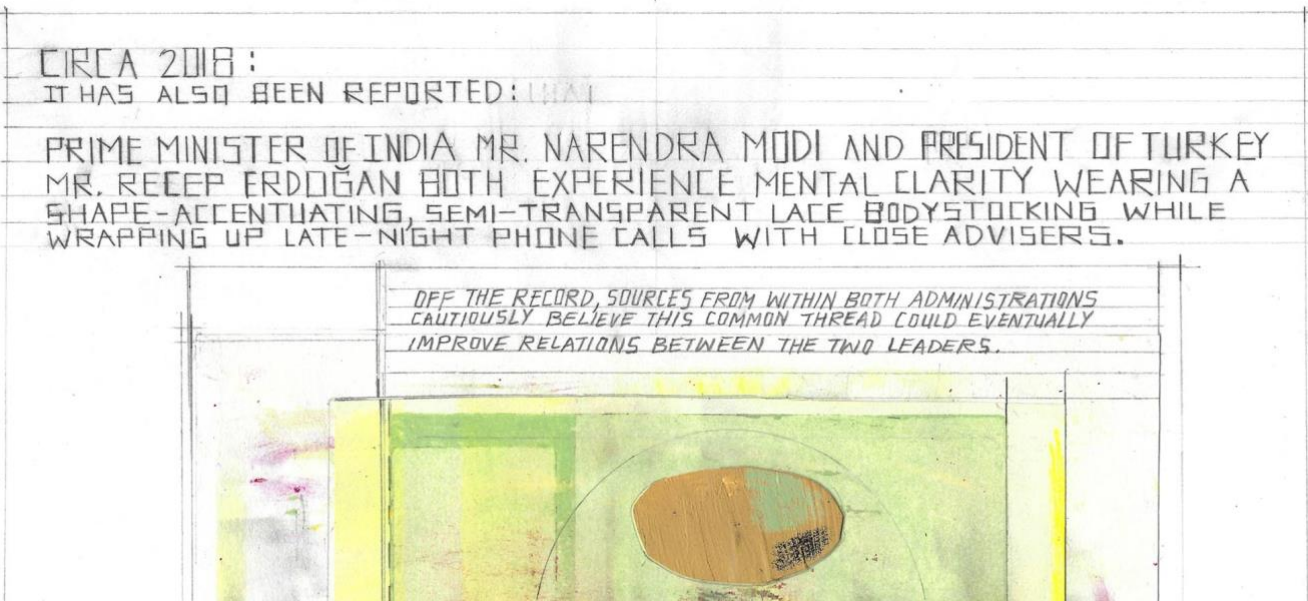
AWARDS, RESIDENCIES AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 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



Detail of *Male Leaders of the World and their Soft, Sensuous Post-Dinner Loungewear Fabrics*, 2018. Artist book, 9h x 6w x 1d in

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.

Deb Sokolow is an artist and writer. She currently has drawings on view in *Manifesto: Art X Agency* at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C. and has been included in the 4th Athens Biennale in Greece and in other group exhibitions at 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

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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; 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.