

## ROXA SMITH, BIO

Roxa Smith is a Brooklyn-based artist working primarily in figurative painting and collage. Born and raised in Venezuela, she studied Western Art History and German at Bowdoin College, Maine and received a Postgraduate degree in Fine Art at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She moved to New York City in the early 1990s where she began to explore and eventually anchor her work in themes of quotidian domestic settings. Various international genres influence Roxa's work including Latin American art, Indian miniature painting, Post Impressionism and naïve art.

Throughout the years, Roxa has exhibited in multiple solo exhibitions and two-person shows. In 2013, she had a midcareer show in which she exhibited over 25 pieces in the atrium of the Conde Nast building in Times Square, New York City. Roxa has also exhibited her work at many other venues such as: The Focus Gallery at the Sheldon Museum (NE), Kenise Barnes Fine Arts (NY), Lyly's Gallery at the Roger Smith Hotel (NYC) and George Billis Gallery (NYC and LA). Roxa's work has additionally appeared in numerous group exhibitions nationally and internationally.

Roxa has received a range of awards, residencies and fellowships. Most recently in 2021, she participated in "Creative Imperative," a program sponsored by the Vermont Studio Center, Vermont and was awarded an Artist Grant by the same program. In 2017, Roxa was a finalist for a Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Arts and Design commission (Brooklyn, New York.) In 2013, she was awarded the prestigious New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA)-Basil Alkazi Fellowship at the Sheldon Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 2012, Roxa received a Fellowship in Painting from NYFA a year after receiving a grant to attend NYFA's Boot camp: Artist as an Entrepreneur program in 2011. She has been featured in *New American Paintings*, *Studio Visit Magazine*, *Artspace Magazine*, the NYFA Newsletter *Artspire*, and *HuffPost*.

## ROXA SMITH, ARTIST STATEMENT

I have a long history of painting familiar domestic environments, landscapes, and everyday objects. Influenced by my Venezuelan upbringing, a passion for lush color, intricate patterns, and naïve and outsider art dominate my work. My oil, acrylic, and gouache paintings emerge from slow observation as I metaphorically collage different elements into the work to create tableaux steeped with personal symbolism. Imagery is idealized and dramatized to form and reform a visual narrative that fluctuates between observation, description, interpretation, and invention.

The pandemic and its restrictions reshaped my perceptions of personal space. Familiar objects acquired new significance, particularly chairs and houseplants. Chairs became metaphors for our collective isolation, while houseplants assumed nurturing and cohabiting roles. Working in a small confined indoor space, *The Covid Chair Series*, a series of nine 8" x10" gouache paintings, chronicled my quarantine experiences of 2020 through early 2021. As a symbolic plea for inner grounding or a reflection of loneliness, a single chair anchored the center of each painting. Fern-like plants, seasonal flowers, or imagery referencing the social and political upheaval of this period framed each chair, a reflection of this dense and complicated time.

As lockdowns eased, the diaristic *Covid Chair Series* painted during isolation evolved into larger oil and acrylic paintings of interior settings resplendent with plants, exploding with lush, vibrant color, and intricate, contrasting patterns. These effervescent compositions, with their shifting, oscillating planes present familiar, yet idiosyncratic off-kilter worlds. Infused with a unique, magical vibrancy, their vivacity act as a foil to the darkness and grief often present in our reality.

## ROXA SMITH

b. Caracas, Venezuela

Lives and works in Brooklyn, New York

### EDUCATION

1987 Graduate Certificate in the Fine Arts, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA

1984 BA, Art History and German with a minor in Visual Arts, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

### SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2022 *In Her Space: Cal Lane and Roxa Smith*, C24 Gallery, New York, NY

2015 *Selections*, Lyly's Gallery, Roger Smith Hotel, New York, NY

2014 *My Voyage with Interiors*, Focus Gallery, Sheldon Museum, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

*Selected interiors*, Rodale Publishing Co, sponsored by Chashama Organization, New York, NY

2013 *Interiors*, Conde Nast Lobby, New York, NY, sponsored by The Durst Organization, Chashama & the New York Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY

2012 *New Paintings by Roxa Smith and Lucy Fradkin*, Kenise Barnes Fine Arts, Larchmont, NY

2008 *Toys and Robots*, Mini Jake, Williamsburg, NY

2005 *New Interiors*, George Billis Gallery-LA, Los Angeles, CA

2004 *Mindscapes*, George Billis Gallery, New York, NY

2002 *Interiors*, George Billis Gallery, New York, NY

2002 *Inner Thoughts*, Rosehulman Institute of Technology, Terre Haute, IN

2001 *Recent Works*, Azarian-McCollough Gallery, St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, NY

1994 *Personal Perspectives*, Visage Gallery of Contemporary Art, Panama City, Panama

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 *Paperworks 2021*, Juried by Sewon Kang, B.J. Spoke Gallery, Huntington, NY

*The Cooperstown Art Association's 86th Annual National Juried Art Exhibition*, Juried by Mary E. Murray, Cooperstown, NY

*International Art Show of Raleigh- Latin Traditions*, International Focus Inc., Raleigh, NC

2020 *Art Essex Gallery Invitational Painting Exhibition*, Curated by George Billis, Art Essex Gallery, CT

*Drawing and Sculpture to Benefit Feeding America*, Margaret Thatcher Projects, New York, NY

*2020 Portraits*, Las Lagunas Gallery, Las Lagunas, CA

*85th Annual National Juried Art Exhibition*, Curated by Emma Golden, Cooperstown Art Association, Cooperstown, NY

2019 *NYC Summer Invitational*, George Billis Gallery, New York, NY

*New York Foundation for the Arts Fundraiser*, Brooklyn, NY

2018 *Idols and Icons*, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA

2017 *Summer in the City: The Brooklyn Show*, Curated by Paula Estey and David Turchin, Paula Estey Gallery, Newburyport, MA

- 2016 *Home: Function, Dysfunction and Make Believe*, Curated by Judy Mannarino and Hallie Cohn, Hewitt Gallery, Mary Mount Manhattan College, NY  
*Summer Invitational*, George Billis Gallery, New York, NY  
*Borderless: In Residence*, Cured by David Terry, NYFA Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Black and Blue plus Orange*, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
- 2015 *House*, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA  
*NYFA Fellows Show*, McKinsey & Co., New York, NY  
*If Not for You*, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA  
*Interiors*, Curated by Tracy McKenna and Kristen Pitts, Flinn Gallery, Greenwich, CT
- 2014 *Carte Blanche Collage show*, Curated by Jonathan Walz, Central Features Gallery, Albuquerque, NM  
Auction to benefit Chashama and Paddle 8, New York, NY
- 2013 Online Exhibition in Curate NYC 2013, Curated by Paz Tanjuaquio, Co-Founding Director, Topaz Arts Inc.  
Selected NYFA Fellows in Exhibition, Artspace.com  
*Selected Works from New York Foundation of the Arts Fellows*, Fahrenheit 212, New York, NY
- 2012 *77th Annual National Exhibition*, Curated by Anthony Reineman, Cooperstown Art Association, Cooperstown, NY  
*Interior Spaces*, Pilar Shephard Art Gallery, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada  
*Bootstrap Art Festival*, New York Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY  
*Postcards from the Edge*, Rockland Center for the Arts, West Nyack, NY
- 2011 *4Heads*, Governor's Island Fair, Governor's Island, New York, NY  
*Toy Story*, Curated by Lynn Stein and Kenise Barnes, Rockland Center for the Arts, Nyack, NY  
*Season Opening Group Exhibition*, Pilar Shepard Art Gallery, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada
- 2010 *75th Annual National Exhibition*, Curated by Carrie Haddad and Melissa Stafford, Cooperstown Art Association, Cooperstown, NY  
*121st National Association for Women Artists Annual Exhibition*, National Arts Club, New York, NY  
*Images 2010*, Curated by Dan Mills, Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, Robeson Gallery, Pennsylvania State University, PA  
*Texas National 2010*, Curated by Judy Pfaff, The Cole Art Center, Steven F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX
- 2009 *20th National Drawing and Print Exhibition*, Gormley Gallery, College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Baltimore, MD  
*Art 5 Connections*, George Segal Gallery, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ
- 2008 *Gifts from the Studio*, Kenise Barnes Gallery, Larchmont, NY  
*31st Small Works Exhibition*, Curated by Richard Witter, OK. Harris, New York, NY
- 2007 *72nd Annual National Exhibition*, Curated by Felicia Blum and Walter Dusenbery, Cooperstown Art Association, Cooperstown, NY  
*The Black Madonna Exhibition*, National Museum of Catholic Art and History, New York, NY  
*30th Small Works Exhibition*, Curated by Jim Kempner 80 Washington Square East Galleries, New York University, New York, NY  
*18th National Drawing and Print Exhibition*, Gormley Gallery, College of Notre Dame, Baltimore, MD

- Animals in Art*, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
- 2006 *Visions X*, Curated by Abby S. Schwartz, Scott Boberg and Ceil Dorger, The Cathedral Foundation, Covington, KY
- 71st Annual National Exhibition*, Curated by Elizabeth Barker and Sydney Waller Cooperstown Art Association, Cooperstown, NY
- 29th Small Works Exhibition*, Curated by Jack Shainman, 80 Washington Square East Galleries, New York University, New York, NY
- 2005 *Summer Salon*, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 *27th Small Works Exhibition*, Curated by Molly Barnes, Washington Square East Galleries, NYU Galleries, New York, NY
- Frames of Reverence -Catholic Folk Art in New York*, Interfaith Center of New York, New York, NY
- The Black Madonna*, Castle Gallery, The College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY
- 2003 *Interior Landscapes*, Amelie Wallace Gallery, SUNY College, Old Westbury, NY
- Images 2003*, Curated by Sondra Freckelton, Hub-Robeson Gallery, Pennsylvania State University, PA
- 2002 *Hispanic Expressions*, Amelie A. Wallace Gallery, SUNY College, Old Westbury, NY
- 25th Small Works Competition*, Curated by Barbara Millstein, 80 Washington Square East Galleries, New York University, New York, NY
- 21st National Small Works Exhibition*, Curated by Katherine Bowling, Schoharie County Arts, Cobleskill, NY
- 2001 *Intimate Spaces*, Rudolph Projects, Houston, TX
- Postcards from the Edge*, Sarah Meltzer Gallery, New York, NY
- 2000 *The Artist in the Mirror*, Paintingsdirect.com, Online Exhibition
- Noble Creatures*, Paintingsdirect.com, Online Exhibition
- 1999 *Fin de Siecle*, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY
- 23rd Annual Juried Fine Arts Competition*, Curated by Tracy Baskhoff, The Smithtown Township Council on the Arts, St James, NY
- 1998 *Venezuelan Talent in New York City*, Venezuelan Consulate, New York, NY
- Women in the Visual Arts*, Curated by Andrea Miller- Keller Erector Square, New Haven, CT
- Fantasies*, Frame Circus, Santa Cruz, CA
- 1997 *62nd Annual National Exhibition*, Cooperstown Artist Association, Cooperstown, NY
- Feathers and Fur*, Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton Law Firm, New York, NY
- 1996 *In Celebration of Venezuelan Independence*, Venezuelan Consulate, New York, NY
- 1995 *Codella Fourth Annual Columbia Art & Film Festival*, Anthology Film Archives, New York, NY
- Raices Hispanicas: Hispanic Roots*, Smithtown Arts Council, St James, NY
- Whose Body is it Anyway.?*, Smithtown Arts Council, St James, NY
- 1994 *Couples*, Elga Wimmer Gallery, New York, NY
- Codella Fourth Annual Columbia Art & Film Festival*, Anthology Film Archives, New York, NY
- Latin American Magic Realism*, Roger Smith Gallery, New York, NY
- Young Venezuelan Painters*, Venezuelan American Cultural Association, New York, NY
- 1993 *Six Latin American Artists*, Visual Age, New York, NY
- Venezuelan +1 Artstorming*, Venezuelan Center Gallery, New York, NY
- Award for Latin American Artists*, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, New York, NY

- Latin American Artists: Personal Perspectives*, Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY  
*The Figure in Contemporary Art*, Bard College Gallery, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY.  
*Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Women in the Arts*, Oakland Community College, Farmington MI.  
1992 *Mirror, Mirror on the Wall*, Curated by Teresa Bramlett, Richmond International Airport, Richmond, VA.

#### RESIDENCIES AND PROGRAMS

- 2021 Creative Imperative Program, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT  
2014 Artist in Residence at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, Sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Sheldon Museum and Basil Alkazzi  
2011 Vermont Studio Center, Residency, Johnson, VT  
1992 Adamant Art Center Residency, Adamant, VT

#### AWARDS

- 2021 The Walter J. and Anna H. Burchan Trust Memorial Prize, *The 86th Annual Juried Art Exhibition*, Cooperstown Arts Association, Cooperstown, NY  
2020 Vermont Studio Center Artist Grant, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT  
Juror Citation, 85th Annual National Juried Art Exhibition, Cooperstown Art Association, Cooperstown, NY  
2017 Finalist for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Arts and Design, Bay Ridge Subway stop, Brooklyn, NY  
2013 Fellowship at the Sheldon Museum sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), the Sheldon Museum and Basil Alkazzi, Lincoln, NE  
2012 Fellowship in Painting, New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), New York, NY  
2011 NYFA Scholarship Boot Camp: Artist as an Entrepreneur, New York, NY  
2007 Painting Finalist, Alexander Rutsch Award, Pelham Art Center, Pelham, NY  
Honorable Mention, International Exhibition on *Animals in Art*, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA  
2006 Prize Winner, *Visions X*, International Juried Exhibition, The Cathedral Foundation, Covington, KY  
ARTnews, 71st Annual National Exhibition, Cooperstown Arts Association, Cooperstown, NY  
Honorable Mention, *29th Small Works Exhibition*, New York University, NY  
1993 Latin American Artist Award, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, NY