



MAKER SPOTLIGHT: RACHEL AHAVA ROSENFELD

RACHEL AHAVA ROSENFELD SHARES
HER PAINTING *ADO AMONG THE RUINS*
AND HOW THE OBSERVATION AND
HISTORY BEHIND THIS WORK SPARKED
A DEEPER CONNECTION FOR HER TO
THE CITY AS A NEW RESIDENT OF
CHICAGO.





Ado Among the Ruins

2019

Oil and marble dust on Belgian linen

24 in. X 30 in.

Collection of the artist

AT NIGHT, THE ALLEY SEEMED TO MELT AWAY UNDER THE BIZARRE ORANGE-CREAM GLOW OF THE STREETLIGHT UNDERNEATH MY WINDOW. INTERESTINGLY, THESE INTENSELY ORANGE LAMPS ARE A RELIC OF A 1970'S EFFORT MADE BY CITY GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THE CITY LOOK "LESS EERIE".

This painting was a real aha moment for me as a painter. It is fundamentally a landscape painting of the panoramic view of the alleyway, crowded with brick walls. At night, the alley seemed to melt away under the bizarre Orange-Cream glow of the streetlight underneath my window. Interestingly, these intensely orange lamps are a relic of a 1970's effort made by city government to make the city look "less eerie". One night, I began taping "found" vintage snapshots and bright scraps of wrapping paper onto the windowpanes. The backlighting appeared to envelop the tiny portrait, seeping around her edges like an overbearing halo. I spent countless hours carefully recording the

visual phenomena between the glass pane and the inky-amber void that stretched out behind it. From a painterly perspective, the color of the high pressure sodium bulbs was mesmerizing. Unsurprisingly, the rest of the city is significantly less enthusiastic about our fluorescent bulbs. The final product, *Ado Among the Ruins*, is a testament to Chicago's ever changing character. It is a picture of impending nostalgia, seen through fresh eyes. That swath of pavement was the first part of Chicago that I learned by heart, and I will (quite literally) never see it in the same light again.



BIO

My name is Rachel Ahava Rosenfeld and I am a painter and teacher working in River North. After leaving my hometown outside of Kansas City, I earned BA in studio art from Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia and an MFA in art practice from Washington University in St. Louis. I have also studied with the Jerusalem Studio School, and have shown work all over the United States.

www.rachelahavarosenfeld.com

INTERESTED IN SHARING YOUR ART OR WRITING?

Great, we want to publish your work!

BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR



COMMENTS (0)

Newest First [Subscribe via e-mail](#)

Preview

POST COMMENT ...

PREVIOUS

EXHIBITION REVIEW:

NEXT

GIVING BACK

SUBSCRIBE

Sign up with
your email
address to
receive news
and updates.

SIGN UP

We respect your
privacy.

SUBSCRIBE

