

An abstract artwork featuring a dark, textured background with vibrant red and blue elements. The red areas appear to be thick, layered paint or torn paper, while the blue elements are more delicate, resembling thin lines or small pieces of paper. The overall composition is dynamic and layered, with various textures and colors creating a sense of depth and movement.

refrigerator poetry

visual art archive

JUNE
2022

cover art: Susi Raphael

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JUNE 2022 EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

Vian Borchert
Pawel Jezak
Perri Neri
Obilala Nwankwo
Gerri Rachins
Susi Raphael
Nichole Gronveld Roller
Rebecca Skelton
Regina Walker



About the Exhibition

Refrigerator Poetry is pleased to present the June 2022 Visual Art Archive Online Group Exhibition. Refrigerator Poetry brings together many different kinds of practices, styles, and voices as an extension of social and cultural communal action through visual art. The nine artists in the month's exhibition have navigated at least two ruptures – the pandemic and a chaotic and political landscape. Every mark, every color, every gesture, and every material is charged with meaning. Each artist has their own way of thinking about how the instantaneity of an art can smack you right in the face in a moment.

In the wake of mass shootings in the United States and debate over common sense gun laws, the boundaries of form and content dissipate as medium and message are rendered interchangeable in Susi Raphael's "Shall We Debate the Utmost Boundaries of Logic?"

Perri Neri's painting "Pique" attracts us to the idea of being vulnerable by revealing the struggle to resolve a painting during this menacing and irrational time. Neri explains, "I understand that even my most successful work will not have the power to right the wrongs of a dominating power system. It is about finding the moments that help me breathe just a little deeper."

Gerri Rachins uses her language of light through the masterful use of multiple tonal variations in her landscape titled, "A Sobering Revelation." Rachins explores the experience of sameness and difference, closure and openness, movement and stasis, and the function of the parts in relation to the whole.

As an artist, you are aware of the world around you. Pawel Jezak uses the literal awareness of a newspaper and then provokes us with an image in black and white, practically challenging us to write our own narrative.

Obilala Nwankwo's hybrid of history and storytelling gives us just enough information to make us curious about the character's significant narrative in "The General."

Imagination, connection, and environmental justice are at the core of Rebecca Skelton's painting, "Dziva, Goddess with the Skin the Color of Dirt," a powerful work that distills the importance of artmaking as a vehicle not just for its curative powers but for its ability to sustain and inform.

Regina Walker's photograph titled "Old Man," is of a painting in a storefront window on a NYC street corner. The juxtaposition of photography and painting is both provocatively psychological and brilliantly profound.

A dimension of structural elements recirculates object and image in Nichole Gronvold Roller's work titled "Traveled." Roller's materials of choice are "leftovers...scraps worth saving," that emerge as a catalyst for a kind of mental connection that needs to happen in terms of rebuilding momentum.

Vian Borchert's meditative watercolor has a sense of timelessness. We find ourselves in this ebb and flow where past, present, and future sort of blur.

Participating artists:

Vian Borchert - Washington, DC
Pawel Jezak - Ballivor, Meath
Perri Neri - Tampa, FL
Obilala Nwankwo - Lagos, Nigeria
Gerri Rachins - Boston, MA
Susi Raphael - New York, NY
Nichole Gronvold Roller - Tremont, IL
Rebecca Skelton - St. Petersburg, FL
Regina Walker - New York, NY



Vian Borchert

Washington, DC

"Sun Through the Woods" 2022

Watercolor on archival paper

12 x 9 inches

Vian Borchert is an award-winning artist who has exhibited in group and solo exhibitions within the US and internationally. Vian is a Notable Alumni from the Corcoran George Washington University, Washington, DC. Borchert exhibits in major world cities such as NYC, LA, DC, London and Berlin. Borchert's art has been featured in press such as The Washington Post, ARTPIL, Vie Magazine. Borchert is an educator teaching fine art classes in the DC area.

"The painting captures a moment in time where the sun shines through the woods creating a halo of glow through the scene and bringing in warmth on a crisp day. The painting also stresses on the importance of the sun and its light in our lives. The work plays on the idea of warm and cold both visually and atmospherically. The cold blue linear trees embrace the warm round orange sun creating movement and dynamics." —Vian Borchert



Pawel Jezak
Ballivor, Meath

"Summer IV," 2020, ink on newspaper, 74 x 58 x 2 cm

Polish-native artist living and working from my home studio in Co. Meath, Ireland. Throughout my life I have always been fascinated by images and how the world is seen through the eyes of others. As a result, in my teenage years I started drawing my own interpretation of the world surrounding me.

Although the nature of my work varies from time to time, it almost always involves paper as a canvas. These canvases are made from a collage of newspaper articles placed together to create a truly unique background on which I can draw or paint in ink or acrylics. Part of the artistic process involves browsing through newspapers in order to find articles that would suit the finished piece.

I draw inspiration from many sources; however, the most powerful images that trigger my imagination are black and white photographs. I believe that each piece of art should tell a story or be part of one.

"Some people are reading words to imagine the world, my imagination is painting words to show them the world." –Pawel Jezak



Perri Neri

Tampa, FL

"Pique," 2020

Oil on canvas

72 x 60 inches

Perri Neri holds an MFA in Painting from Pratt Institute and has exhibited in several solo and group shows in New York, Brooklyn, and the Tampa Bay Area. She is currently represented by The Painting Center in New York City. Neri's work has been featured in two volumes of Studio Visit Magazine and was featured in Honeysuckle Magazine (2015), Women in Contemporary Art, Where are They Now? Perri's work is in collections throughout the United States and Europe. Neri lives and works in Tampa, Florida and is the founder and director of Refrigerator Poetry Visual Art Archive (www.refrigeratorpoetry.com).



Obilala Nwankwo

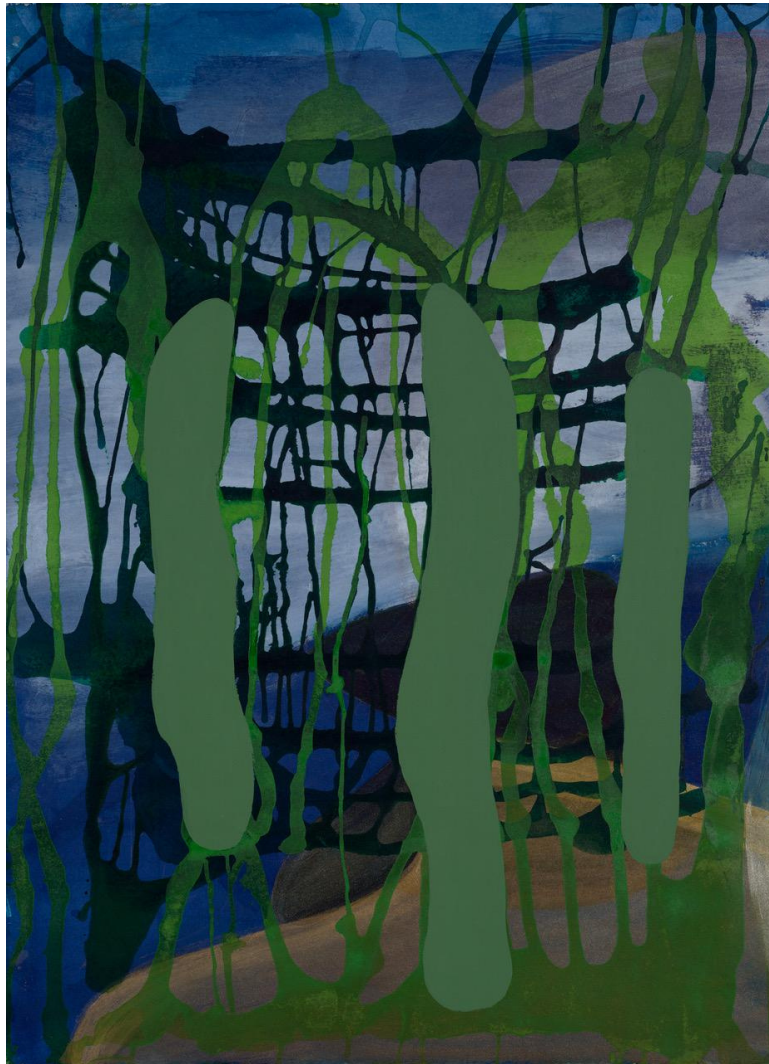
Lagos, Nigeria

"The General" 2022

acrylic on canvas, 60 x 60 inches

Obiora Vincent Nwankwo was born in Lagos State, Democratic Republic of the Congo in December 1992, and hails from Anambra State. Holding a higher National degree in fine art, Obilala Nwankwo's practice borders around solving the problems the world of today gives and also promoting the African culture with his stylized masking figurative work. Nwankwo has exhibited in spaces like Vivid Exclusive Art Gallery in Nigeria, Artdax Art Gallery in London, Art Number 23 Art Gallery in London, The Holly Art Gallery, and many more. Nwankwo was the Artdax Art Competition 2020 third runner up.

"In the world surrounded by beauty and chaos I dream to be part of the former, I create my world of beauty without boundary. And also give lives to a dead thought." –Obilala Nwankwo



Gerri Rachins
Boston, MA

"A Sobering Revelation," 2022
Flashe, acrylic ink on Arches Aquarelle paper
30 x 22 inches

Gerri Rachins is an artist and educator from Boston, Massachusetts. Her artworks are part of private and public collections, including Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Danforth Art Museum, Fidelity Investments, and others throughout the United States and Europe. She's been a faculty member for over twenty years at the School of The Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University. Rachins is represented by Mobilia Gallery in Cambridge and The Painting Center in New York.

"I began this painting late last summer while I was on Cape Cod, brought it back into my studio in Boston and completed it in late Fall. It is an unusual painting for me, considering the landscape-like references." —Gerri Rachins



Susi Raphael

New York, NY

"Shall we debate the utmost boundaries of logic?" 2022

Acrylic and paper on canvas, 20 x 30 inches

Susi Raphael lives a creative life. She worked at the Cancer Society in broadcasting and advertising and started a radio show for them. After retiring, she launched another radio show called "Let's Travel! Radio" on cultural tourism.

Raphael considers herself to be a self-taught artist and has kept a painting practice in her studio in the Lower East Side, NYC for over a decade. She began to exhibit her multi-layered photographs in the 90's in NYC in galleries and alternative spaces. She had a one woman show at the La Mama Galleria entitled Laissez "Les Bons Temps Roulez" in New Orleans which included typical cuisine and a fortune teller.

Susi Raphael has since had exhibitions of her paintings at Ceres Gallery, National Arts Club NYC, 131 Eldridge Street Gallery, 2 Rivington Street Gallery, The Art Students League and The Pen and Brush, an organization dedicated to women in the arts since 1894. Her work is in numerous private collections including the American Cancer Society and the Plow Share Group.



Nichole Gronvold Roller

Tremont, IL

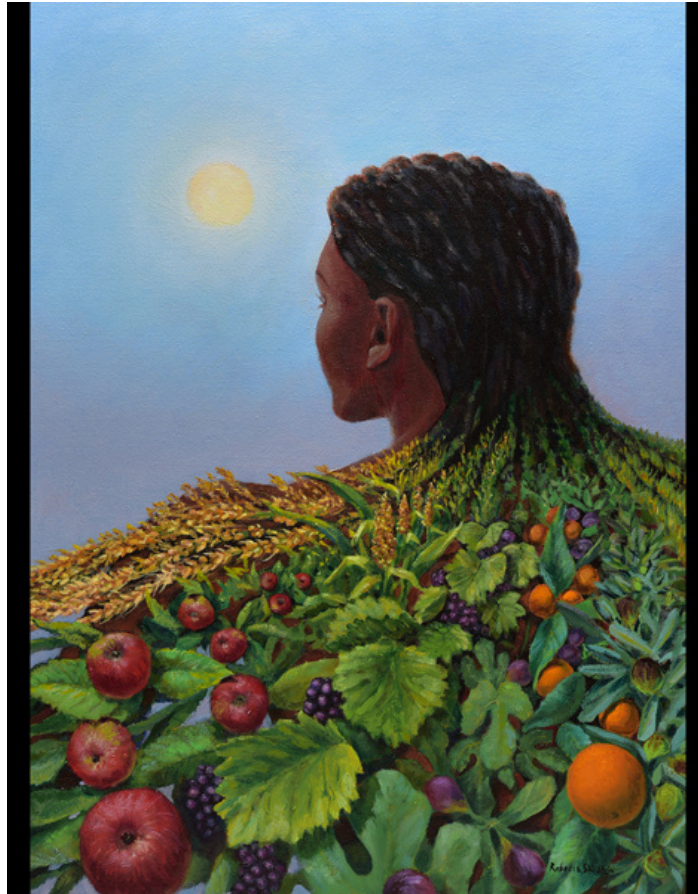
"Traveled," 2021

Ink, acrylic, transfer, underglaze, earthenware, and wood panel, 10 x 9 x 3 inches

Nichole Gronvold Roller is a painter who received a BFA in Art Education from Minnesota State University of Moorhead, an MA in Art Education from Boston University, and an MA in Painting from Bradley University. In addition to being an artist, Nichole is a full-time high school art teacher in Tremont, IL, where she has been teaching for the past twenty-three years.

"Food often tastes better the next day. I have never been sold on the idea of leftovers until recently. Over the past few years, I have collected a group of "leftovers" or cut-off sections from an artwork series of geometric abstractions on shaped panels. Seeing the scraps worth saving - I kept them, accumulating a pile of painted wood debris on my garage floor. After cutting new shapes, I started to stack, arrange, and rearrange the parts, finding an exciting contrast between the various application of colors and patterning."

"Eventually, I started to run out of the scraps from my shaped panel series, requiring me to create new parts with the remaining few leftovers. I began working with clay because the medium allows for flexibility in creating organic, irregular shapes. Influenced by domestic spaces, I refer to architecture and interior design, selecting fabrics and wallpaper designs from my recollection of the 1970s, merging with my current happenings and living space. Extending to the outdoors, I include atmospheric washes creating a collage of mementos, journaling visual thoughts stacked upon each other, both past and present. —Nichole Gronvold Roller



Rebecca Skelton
St. Petersburg, FL

"Dziva, Goddess With Skin the Color of Dirt," 2022
Oil on canvas, 24 x 18 inches

Rebecca Skelton earned her B.F.A. and M.F.A. from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. Ms. Skelton has taught art classes as an adjunct professor for University of Tampa, St. Petersburg College, USF St. Petersburg, HCC Ybor, and Eckerd College as well as for the Morean Arts Center, Creative Clay, Youth Arts Corps, and the Dali Museum. Her work is in the Morean Arts Center, Florida CraftArt Gallery, Davidson's Fine Art, and Articles.

"When I first heard someone say they had been told their skin was the color of dirt, I was appalled. Later, reflecting on that idea, I remembered the rich black dirt in my grandfather's garden and recognized that dirt is amazing, generally, the darker, the better. The insult can be turned if one thinks about the importance of dirt. (I am aware that it is my white privilege to refuse to accept that particular insult as an insult. My skin is the color of sand. How is that better?)" -Rebecca Skelton



Regina Walker
New York, NY

"Old Man," 2022
Photography

Regina Walker is a Psychotherapist in New York City. She is also a writer and photographer. Her favorite subject is the city where she lives - Manhattan.

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Refrigerator Poetry exists to give ALL visual artists exposure and preserve their legacy in art history. We believe passionately that every visual artist should have the opportunity to show their work regardless of history, popularity, prejudice, jury requirements, or economic status. And we also believe that artist's work should be documented and archived as a legacy of diversity and as a reflection of our cultural and society's collective memory.

Monthly 'no jury - no prize' online exhibitions showcase the work of visual artists at all stages of their careers. We welcome anyone who identifies as a visual artist who is over the age of 18 to submit one image every month to be included in monthly online exhibitions archived in perpetuity.

What did you make today? Show us. We will show the world!

For more information about all Refrigerator Poetry artists
and to learn how our visual art archive works:

<https://refrigeratorpoetry.com/>

Or contact the Archive Director, Perri Neri:
director@refrigeratorpoetry.com

