

## **Rachel Nelson**

**Born 1981**

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**Rachel Nelson** is a self taught artist, curator and political economist who is based in Brooklyn, New York. She spent the last 20 or so years collaborating on immersive and experiential art installations for art happenings at both the space she runs, Secret Project Robot, and other underground art spaces and institutional events and venues across the world.

She has only recently started exhibiting her solo work, exuberant paintings of giant neon flowers on found cardboard that grow out from inane consumer products. She seeks to portray a world out of balance with nature and implies a cheeky cynicism for the status quo.

Her Paintings, while criticizing capitalism and its contribution to almost every social ill, display how she grapples with her own personal relationship with consumption. Finding herself drawn to packaging, and the overall idea of more, her art then, is a push and pull between desire and nature, and aims to show the complex relationship between comprehending a problem and also being complicit in perpetuating it.

The subject matter, usually homes, household products and a near obsession with products that simulate suburban normalcy, offers a humorous but cynical and dystopian outlook on the present and future state of human and political affairs. She uses neon colors, flowers, pop culture absurdism and advertisements to portray the human condition.

As far as process goes, Rachel was inspired by her first mimeograph “ditto” sheets from elementary school, her paintings begin with a purple marker used to draw out each piece on salvaged cardboard, and then she “colors in” with tempera and acrylic paint.

She is also the co-founder of Secret Project Robot, an artist run art space, that she co-curates with her long time partner and collaborator Erik Zajaceskowski.