

ART NEW YORK



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ROSE WALSH

PROFILE

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ART NEW YORK - ROCKEFELLER
CENTER

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ROSE WALSH

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For Portland-based artist and educator Rose Walsh, art is both a personal meditation and a bridge between memory and community. Her Archway Series began with a startling realization that she could no longer recall her mother's face. That absence became the catalyst for a deeply layered exploration of memory, identity, and the subconscious.

● “The experience of not being able to recall my mother's face led me to create a body of work that encircles memory itself. Through the Archway paintings I layer images, symbols, and materials as a way to hold presence within absence, and to give form to the things memory cannot fully keep. Through this ongoing process, I experience remembering images and the connection I had with my mother.”

● The Archway Series and its continuation, Archway II, uses repeated motifs, archways, faces, and the Madonna and Child to suggest both thresholds and absence. Layers of paint obscure and reveal, symbolizing how memory reshapes what lies beneath.

Walsh draws on traditions of Abstract Expressionism and Symbolism, working with both painting and sculpture, and at times incorporating unconventional materials such as house paint and reflective mylar, as well as traditional art materials. Her influences include the meditative grids of Agnes Martin, the distilled essence sought by Constantine Brancusi, the layered abstractions of Ian McKeever, and the psychoanalytic insights of Jacques Lacan.

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Together, these references as well as many others like Frankenthaler ground her work in a lineage of artists who probe the subconscious and the ineffable.

If the Archway paintings probe the inward and the eternal, Walsh's Neighborhood Series turns outward toward the faces of the everyday. These portraits are of people she knows or has met throughout her travels, transforming often fleeting encounters into paintings that honor the individuality and quiet dignity of ordinary lives.

● Raised in Mississippi then moving to Colorado, Walsh spent most of her life in the American West before settling in Portland, Oregon, where she now lives with her husband. Each place, Mississippi's rooted traditions, Colorado's sweeping vistas and mountains, and Portland's natural beauty and cultural vibrancy shapes her palette, her imagery, and her sense of belonging. Walsh holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Colorado Mesa University and continues to balance her studio practice with her role as an educator, teaching art to K through 8th grade students while pursuing her professional career.

● Her career includes multiple solo and group shows and open studios. In Colorado, Walsh was a Galleriest and also co-owned a guitar shop specializing in handmade instruments as well as an art studio, deepening her creative practice within a vibrant community of makers. These experiences, both inside and outside the studio, continue to inform her work.

With the Archway II series and recent small works in the Neighborhood series, Walsh's evolving portfolio continues to grow. Ultimately, her work is a dialogue between the internal and the external, the symbolic and the observed, memory and community. By layering symbols, gestures, and human presence, Walsh creates art that speaks to the universal search for meaning within both absence and connection.

“The experience of not being able to recall my mother’s face led me to create a body of work that encircles memory itself. I am always coming close to and then stepping around something that I can never quite reach. As a result, I often create work in a series. Through the Archway paintings I layer images, symbols, and materials as a way to hold presence within absence, and to give form to the things memory cannot fully keep. Through this quiet, thoughtful process I ultimately recovered a glimmer of the distant experience of my mother’s face.”

Rose Walsh: Memory, Place, and the Language of Symbols



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UNTITLED, RISING ABOVE
MIXED MEDIA
22"X52"
2025

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ARCHWAY 001
ARCHWAY II SERIES, ACRYLIC
30"X40"
2025

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ARCHWAY 002
ARCHWAY II SERIES, ACRYLIC
30 X 40"
2025

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ARCHWAY 002
ARCHWAY SERIES
HOUSE PAINT, MYLAR, ACRYLIC
2020

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ARCHWAY 003
ARCHWAY II SERIES, ACRYLIC
30" X 40"
2025

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ARCHWAY 003
ARCHWAY SERIES, HOUSEPAINT, GOLD LEAF ACRYLIC
48"X60"
2020

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ARCHWAY 004
ARCHWAY II SERIES, ACRYLIC
30"X40"
2025

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ARCHWAY 005
ARCHWAY II SERIES, ACRYLIC
24"X30"
2025

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ARCHWAY 006
ARCHWAY II SERIES, ACRYLIC
12"X12"
2025

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ARCHWAY 007
ARCHWAY II SERIES, ACRYLIC
12"X12"
2025

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ARCHWAY
14"X11

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ARCHWAY001

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48"X60"

2020

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ARCHWAY005
ARCHWAY SERIES, ACRYLIC, GOLD LEAF
16"X20"
2020

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ARCHWAY008
ARCHWAY II SERIES ACRYLIC
2025

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ARCHWAY09
ARCHWAY II SERIES, ACRYLIC
12"X12"
2025

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ARCHWAY009
ARCHWAY SERIES, HOUSE PAINT, MYLAR, GOLD LEAF
2020

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FACES REMEMBERING
BRONZE, LIFE SIZE
2020

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JESSE
SMALL WORKS, NEIGHBORHOOD SERIES, ACRYLIC
10"X10"
2025

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ROME,
SMALL WORKS, NEIGHBORHOOD SERIES, ACRYLIC
10"X10"
2025

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SELF PORTRAIT IN YELLOW, NEIGHBORHOOD SERIES
OIL ON RAW CANVAS
24"X36"
2019

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TITLE FACES REMEMBERING
BRONZE, LIFE SIZE
2020

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