

The Corner of the Arts | July 2017 VIDEO: <https://vimeo.com/76972669>

Elisa Pritzker presents Raquel Rabinovich Translated to English by E.R.L.

Make visible the invisible

Raquel Rabinovich was born in Buenos Aires in 1929 and has lived in the United States since 1967. She received numerous honors, including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and a Lee Krasner Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. Interviews are included in the Oral History Program of the Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art and The Brooklyn Rail magazine. I represented the United States at the Cuenca Biennial in 2009. Articles on her work have been published in Art in America, Sculpture Magazine and The New York Times, among other publications. Her works are included in public and private collections in the United States and abroad. She has participated in many exhibitions in galleries, museums and alternative spaces. Lives and works in Rhinebeck. Website: www.raquelrabinovich.com

1 Raquel, how and when did you start your career in the plastic arts?

I knew from a very young age that I wanted to be an artist. I started my painting studies in Cordoba in 1948. Later I continued studying in Paris and Edinburgh, but I think the most significant learning came from seeing extraordinary works of art in European museums. Return to Buenos Aires in 1961, and there began a very important period of reflection and questioning that led me to create the series of paintings called "The Darkness Has Its Light". This series marks the beginning of my continued interest in exploring aspects of existence that we do not see: what lies behind appearance and appears to be invisible.

2 Do your Argentine roots influence your art?

As for Argentina, where I left when I was very young, I believe that the important influence in my art had to do with the ability to be open to cosmopolitan experiences. I also found other sources in poetry, and in my spiritual meditation practice that is of Buddhist origin.

3 Your works are in two and three dimensions. Tell me about your work and the means you use to achieve it?

I work with oil in my paintings. The means used in the drawings are varied, from graphite to charcoal, from pastel to mud of rivers of the world. Sculpture materials include tempered glass in the 1970s and 1980s and stone since the 1990s. Some stone sculptures are installed on the banks of the Hudson River and appear and disappear as the tides rise and fall in the river. I think my art is a metaphor that transcends the physicality of the materials I use. It is an indirect language in which I try to make visible the invisible. This paradox has been and continues to be the essence of my work in the last 55 years.

4 Your career is documented in a file on the Smithsonian. How was that experience of documenting your career in oral form?

It was a very interesting experience, since it gave me the opportunity to discover the thread that connects all my work through time in the different stages of my artistic evolution.

5. What project (s) do you have in the near future?

I am going to exhibit at the Y Gallery in New York City a new series of paintings and drawings, "Threshold". I will also be exhibiting works on paper in the Vassar College library.

Name of the uploaded image photographer: Douglas Baz

Elisa Pritzker, is an artist and independent curator. His column "The Corner of the Arts" is currently published in La Voz and ABClatino Magazine / www.elisapritzker.com