



R.Drada

# Statement

I use oil painting and drawings to re-animate marginalized perspectives, to process societal evils, as well as to present a critique of America.

The invisibility of asian people and women and their human perspectives is a recurring theme in my work. It had always disturbed me to see the lack of people who shared my perspective and/or heritage in Western media and art, as if we had been rendered too unimportant to be viewed. By incorporating elements of ghost-like elements, strongly vivid colors, and rough, impasto paint, I visually express their hidden and intense experiences that often accompany being part of a minority group or a woman. The purpose of recording this is existential— I believe that a person cannot firmly exist in this world if they cannot directly acknowledge their own experiences with solidity. In this way, I wish to add color, life and humanity back to people so often painted so simplistically, or at all.

I also use art to explore my birth country, centering on both its culture and themes of power, freedom and idealism. I focus on various themes connected to the USA: its aggressive marketing of America as the 'ideal', its grasping claim to be only the purveyor of 'freedom' while focusing on its disturbing relationship with guns, greed, positivity, and its alleged idealism. Through the evocative imagery in my oil paintings, I explore the contradictions and tensions that exist within America, inviting viewers to take in the turbulence of America, its promise of freedom and the beauty of its offered ideals and my own disillusionment with the same. I am particularly struck by the strange conflict of America being a superpower yet cannot ensure the safety of its own schoolchildren from its infinite shootings.

I also use my artistic practice to process my own idealistic thirst amidst the world's varieties of special anxieties, boring corruptions and global networks of human disappointment & evil. I employ abstract imagery as well as mundane objects to convert often image-less terrors into imagined physical structures of these elaborate and brutal forces. My aim is to create a visual vocabulary for these types of human-made evils, for I believe that the visual metaphorical value can be valuable for ease of reference. More than this the very processing of complex modern evils in a visual manner, is a measure of coping and perhaps stomaching everyday shocking evils.



Ghost  
Portrait

(2022) oil on  
canvas, 23 x 30  
cm



Woman Before a Mirror (2021)  
oil on canvas, 23 x 30 cm



Fire Portrait, (2023), 24x30cm, oil on canvas



American Shooting Abstract (2022) 40x40, oil on canvas



Blue Sky, Red Altar (2023) oil on canvas, 100x120cm



Red Portrait (2021)  
colored pencil on paper,  
15x20cm



Red Landscape (2020)  
oil on canvas, 40x40cm

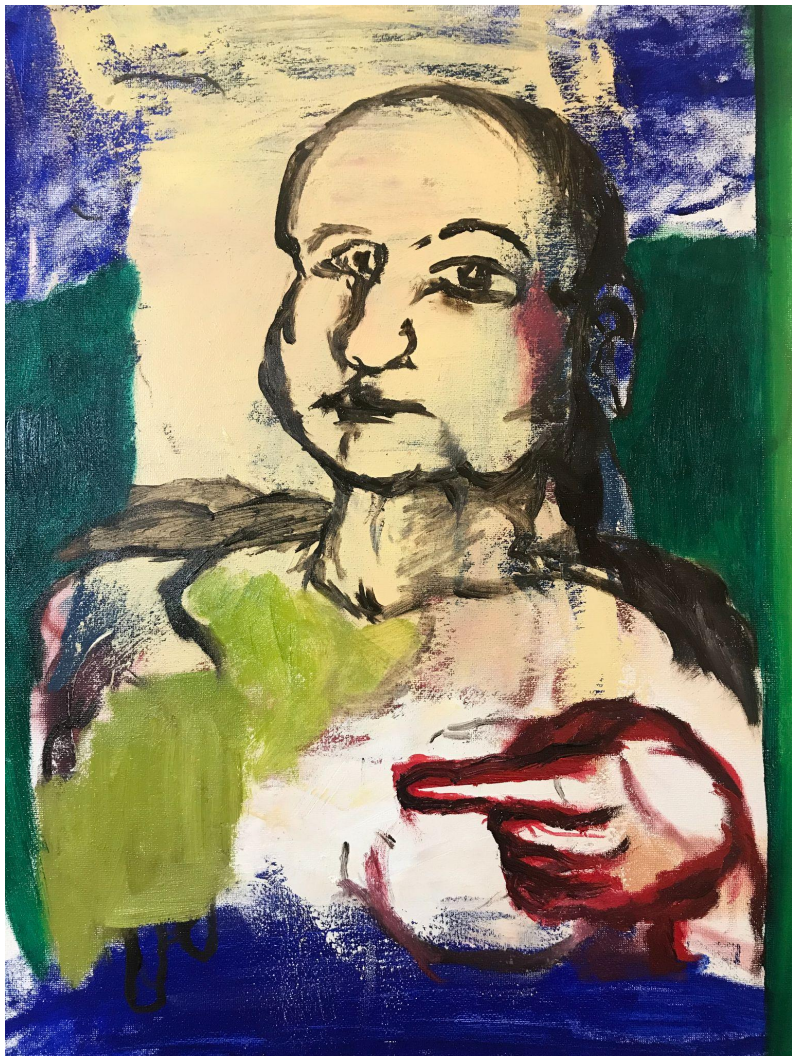
R. Drada's works subvert images of the American flag. It turns the American flag into a claustrophobic, nearly flesh-like room. Inside, a roughened but noble nude with a faintly George Washington head reclines, pointing to the bloodied stripes that form one part of the room. This American flag is battered-



Suggesting that it has been ravaged by angry, tumultuous and violent country. The inert female figure reclines while the colors are reflected onto her body--suggesting that cultural expectations about permissible revolt and revolution are colored by gender.

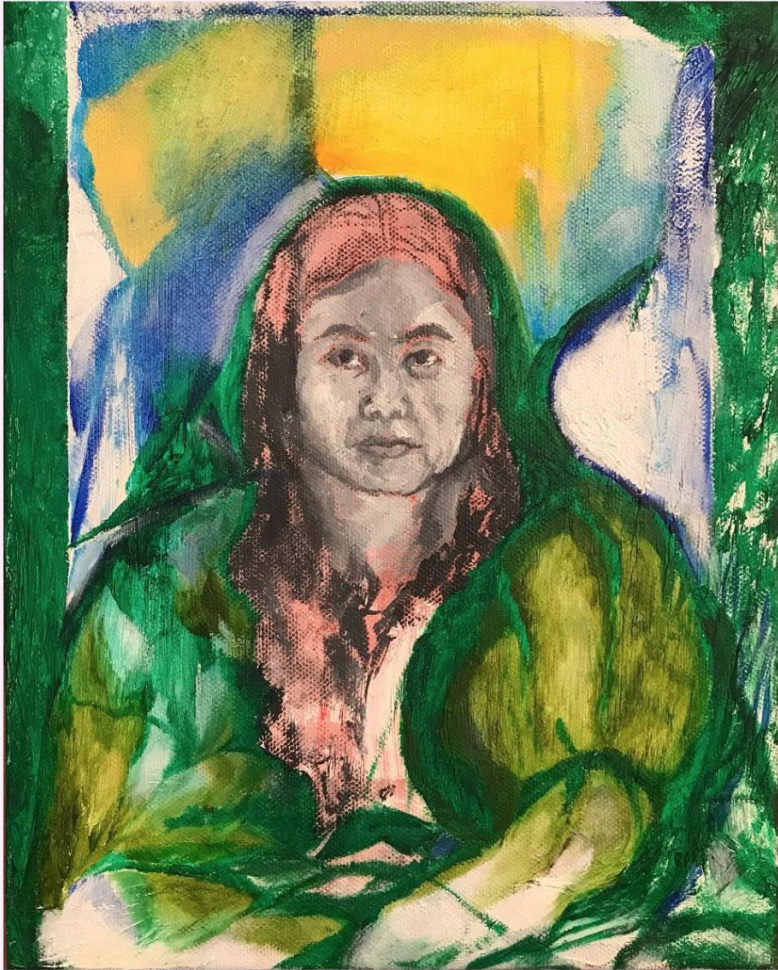
American Flag (2019) oil on canvas, 50 x 60 cm





In "Paranoid Woman", color is used to form a shifting and polluted background of green, blue and beige. Green and blue evoke the sickening paranoia and solitude of women experiencing fear for their physical safety. One eye maintains a calm composed connection with the viewer, while the other eye searches for danger nearby. The reddened hand poking at her own open wound is a sign to the viewer of her fear of violence. The dark mauve on her cheek suggests a mix of resentment and shame.

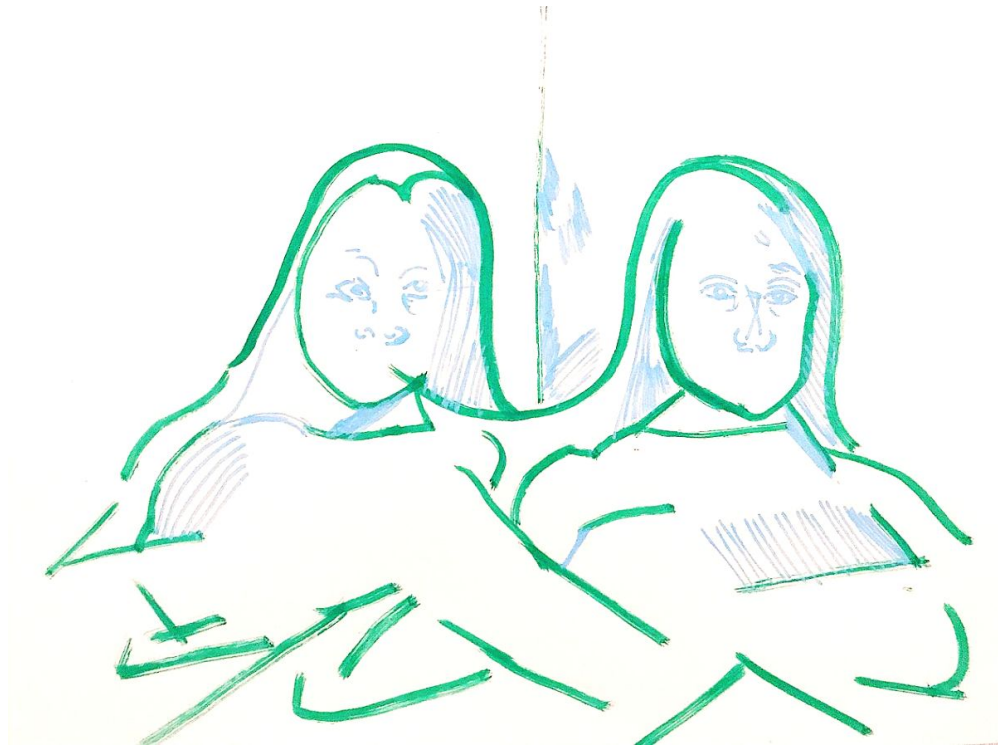
Woman with Paranoia (2018)  
oil on canvas, 40 x 50 cm



Green Portrait (2023) 24x30 oil on canvas

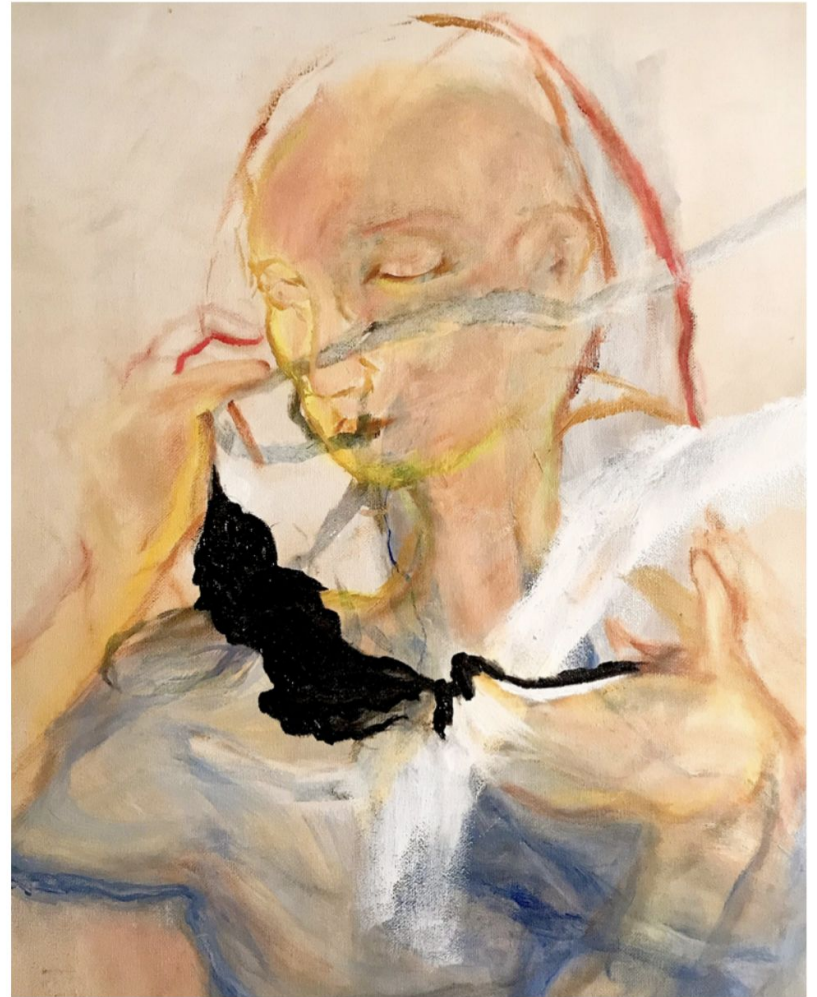
Self Portrait with  
Blue Triangles  
(2023) oil on  
canvas, 30x40cm





Double, (2021) acrylic marker on paper,15x21cm

Intervention (2018)  
oil on canvas, 40x50cm





Bad Air, (2021) oil pastel on paper 20 x 20 cm



Anxiety flag (2022), oil on canvas, 30x40cm



Broken Blue Sky, (2023) 60x80cm, oil on cut canvas



Laughter of the Gods, (2023), 90x120cm, oil on canvas





Preparatory Sketch for American Interior War Painting (2023), 20x24cm oil on board



Arbitrary Authority (2019) ink on  
paper, 30x30cm



Burning Money (2015) ink on paper, 21x30cm



Woman, (2019), ink on paper, 30x40cm



Wet Money (2018), oil on canvas, 40 x 50 cm



Creepy Dollar Goes for a Walk (2021)  
oil pastel, 27 x 35 cm



Ill Dollar (2021) oil pastel 27 x 35 cm



Strange Dollar Sign (2015) ink on paper, 21x30cm (left); Creepy Dollar Signs (2015) ink on paper 30x30cm (right)

# Exhibitions



“Asian Americana: Comfort”, Brick Aux  
Gallery, Williamsburg, Brooklyn NYC  
May 4-June 3, 2023



# Exhibitions

Wie Schuppen  
von den Augen,  
April 23, 2023-  
May 29, 2023  
Berlin, Germany

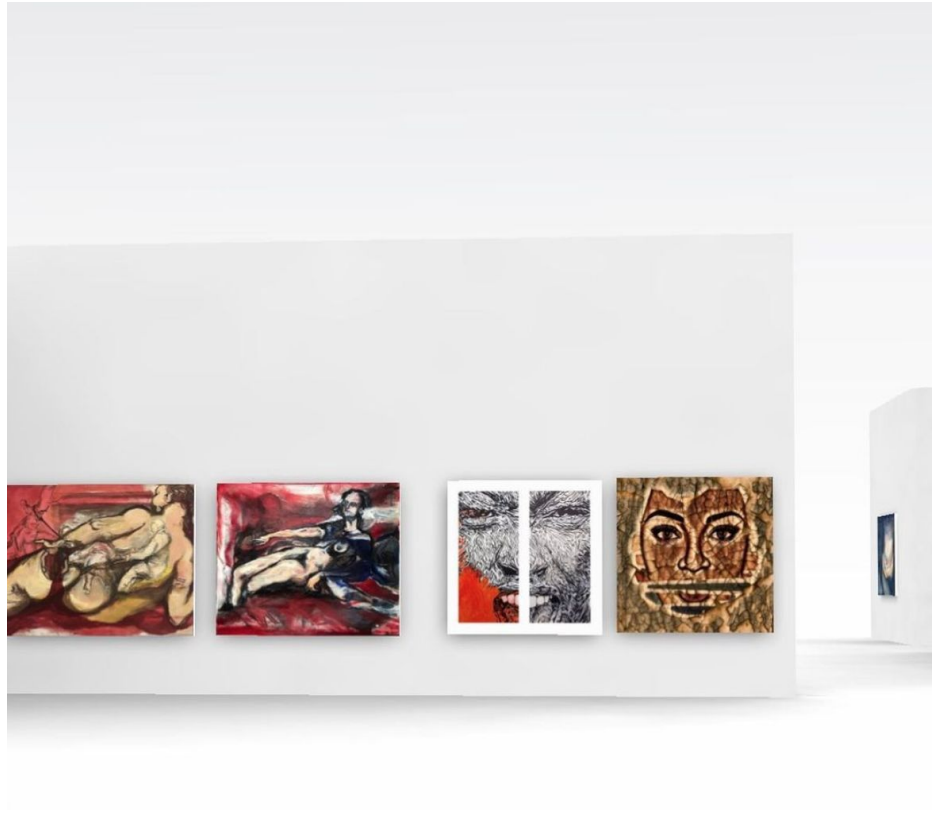


# Exhibitions



Fire Portrait, Procreate Project at Lewisham Shopping Center, London  
March 10, 2023-April 17, 2023  
(credit: Katie Edwards)

# Exhibitions

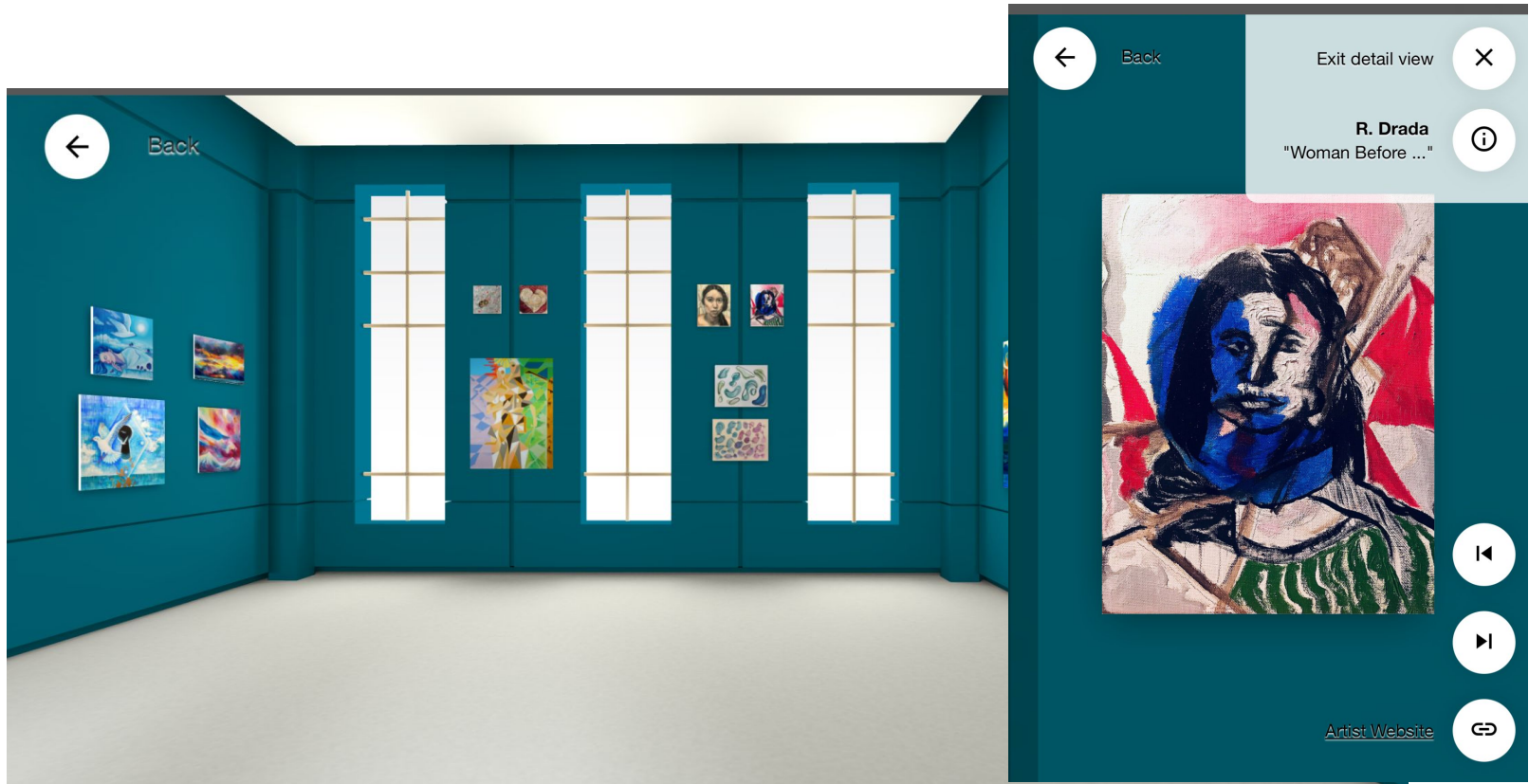


Kato Wong Gallery, "Women Talk, We Listen". Online, London-based Exhibition  
December 10th 2022 to 27th January 2023

# Exhibitions



Digital Chroma, Virtual Exhibit Vol 1. July 30, 2021



I HeART Connection Community Arts Show, virtual exhibition  
(with detail of Woman Before a Mirror), February 2022

# CV

## R. DRADA

b. 1986

Based in Berlin, Germany and New York, NY

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### Exhibitions

2023 *Asian Americana: Comfort*, Brick Aux Gallery, Brooklyn, New York

*Wie Schuppen von den Augen*, Volkssolidarität Berlin Mitte, Berlin, Germany

*Procreate Project Archive*, Procreate Project, London, United Kingdom

*Women Talk, We Listen*, Kato Wong Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2022 *Who You Are*, Chromart Space, Berlin, Germany

*Kulturshow*, Altspace, Berlin Germany

*I HeART Connections Art Show*, Art Therapy Institute, North Carolina USA

2021 *Virtual Art Gallery Vol. 1*, Digital Chroma Agency, Berlin, Germany

*Bulle Rock Art Show*, Havre de Grace, Maryland, USA

*Kultursalon*, Forum Factory, Berlin, Germany

2018 *Student Concours*, The Art Students League of New York, New York NY

*She/Her/Them*, Con Artist Gallery, New York, NY

2016 *Grand Salon Show*, Greenpoint Gallery

*99 Show*, Con Artist Gallery

## Publications

2023 *Decapitate*, Chicago, IL USA (upcoming 2023)

*Heartland Society of Women Writers*, cover, "I Dissent"

2022 *Horizon Magazine*, London, United Kingdom

*The Gallery by MUI*, Georgia, USA

*The Purposeful Mayonnaise*, Canada

*Third Estate Art Magazine*, Chicago, IL

*Let's Stab Caesar Magazine*, Brooklyn, NY

## Education

Art Students League of New York (2018-2019)