

Bio

Marybeth Rothman is a contemporary American artist known for her reclaimed and reimagined visual biographies and abstract narratives. Her portraits were featured in "Modigliani and the Modern Portrait" at the Nassau County Museum of Art, alongside works by Picasso, Matisse, Warhol, Hockney, and others. Rothman was a 2022 Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery semifinalist, and has exhibited at major venues such as the Heckscher Museum of Art, Delaware Contemporary Museum, and the Edward Hopper House Museum. Rothman, born in Massachusetts and a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, currently lives and works in New Jersey.

Artist Statement

I create fictional visual biographies and abstract narratives that explore identity, time, and memory through a blend of abstraction and realism, metaphor and symbolism. My mixed media works combine layers of pigmented beeswax, photographs, and abstract drawings, merging reclaimed vintage images with my own digital photos to add narrative texture. I manipulate these images by exaggerating or altering physical attributes to create illusory detail. Each series is inspired by an imagined community, location, or cultural bond, deepening the narrative. My abstract work complements my portrait process, conveying ideas that my portraits alone cannot express, and both explore identity through layers of history, memory, and transformation.