

Tamara Rafkin

°1970 USA

American, Belgian resident.

Artist Bio

Tamara Rafkin was born in Gastonia, North Carolina and spent her childhood in Charleston South Carolina where her art studies began at age 10 with classical drawing and painting. At the age of 16 she was awarded a place in the prestigious SC Governor's School for the Arts at Furman University after which her family relocated to New York City where she participated in graphic studies at the New York Fashion Institute of Technology.

In 1987 she returned to the Southeastern U.S. to attend the Atlanta College of Art in Atlanta Georgia, where she studied photography and mixed media; completing her BFA in 1991. From 1991 until 1999 she exhibited her photographic artworks extensively in the Southeastern US and worked commercially photographing the thriving music scene of the Nineties in Atlanta Georgia.

Upon her return to New York City, in 1999, she focused exclusively on her fine art photography delving into the urban architectural landscape. After 2001, her work took a turn towards the psychological narrative; exploring the urban landscapes and it's emotional context in her "No Adults Allowed" series.

Life brought her to Flanders Belgium in late 2005, where her work has continued to explore the idea of the psychological narrative of the urban landscape through various series such as "Sleeping Houses", "Explorations" and "Organic Abstracts".

While exhibiting since 1986 Rafkin's work is recently gaining in international recognition; images from "Sleeping Houses" were included in the Wooloo "Urban Space" traveling exhibition shown in Berlin Germany, Rio de Janeiro Brazil, Novo Mesto Slovenia and New York City in 2007/08. Plus, images from that same series received an honorable mention in the 2008 PX3 Prix de Fotografie Paris.

Rafkin's "Saucijzen" was nominated in the 5th Annual International Color Photography Masters Cup 2011 (London, UK) in the Still Life category and during 2010 Rafkin's "Sleeping Houses 6" was included in the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey 24th International Juried Exhibition curated by Susan Kismaric, photo curator at MOMA NY.

Currently, Rafkin is actively working on not only her photographic series but is also expanding her artistic skills by adding ceramics to her visual vocabulary. Work in process includes her first foray into a large-scale mixed media project entitled "Worries" an installation piece combining ceramics, photography and subject participation.