

FANTASTIC SPRAWL

October 8–31, 2026

Box Spring Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

FANTASTIC SPRAWL

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 8, 6–9PM

*Box Spring Gallery at Crane Arts, Suite 100C,
1400 N. American St., Philadelphia, PA 19122*

*Open Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 1–6pm, or by
appointment: contact@boxspringgallery.com.*

Fantastic Sprawl presents a collection of imaginary built environments, landscapes, and design developments that grow, expand, and evolve into captivating contemporary compositions.

Artists **Andrew Chalfen**, **Rebecca Jacoby** and **Colleen Keefe** create abstract works that

reference architecture, mapping, and topography. Sprawl is defined as uncontrolled expansion, which describes both the artists developmental process and execution.

Colleen Keefe's meticulous architectural drawings, emerge as fantasy metropolises and spread out organically into a suburban sprawl-like surface expansion. Central parts look like renderings of real city planning, but the shapes become animated and move out from the nucleus, finding their own paths. Keefe describes her work as "methods for breeding urban environments using organic models" and references "urban planning, microbiology and astronomy... to be related phenomena unfolding at different scales."

Similarly, Andrew Chalfen's building-block style, starts from a core structure and expands out, and in many cases up, with pieces of wood and hardware. Concerned with structure and building, Chalfen's shapes are rigid and spread out randomly in overlapping circles, squares and hexagons, branching out like structural formulas of chemical compounds. Chalfen describes his work as alluding to "aerial views, cartography, architectural renderings, musical notation, urban densities... while not literally being any of those things" but also a "topography of thought and mood" evident in their creation.

Moving away from architecture and the built environment, Rebecca Jacoby provides drawings that suggest a sprawling natural landscape. Repeating organic shapes in mass appear to look like a wide topographical map, and her artwork *Festival* suggests an aerial view of a sprawling crowd of people. Jacoby describes her process as "the pebble or cell clusters... merge into and out of each other, overlapping with adjacent forms, morphing into and extending from each other." And her work is experimental, letting gravity control some directional spread of the painted lines.

This shared experience is perfectly described by Chalfen, "Every work is a process journey."



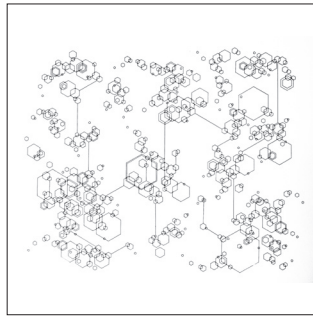
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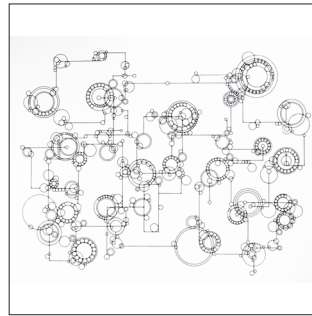
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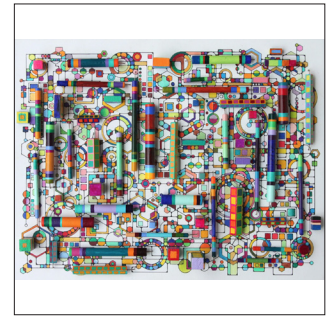
Andrew Chalfen
Time Machine
Mixed media on wood panel
36" x 36" x 5"
\$3,200



Andrew Chalfen
Cube Nursery
Ink on paper
19" x 25"
\$600



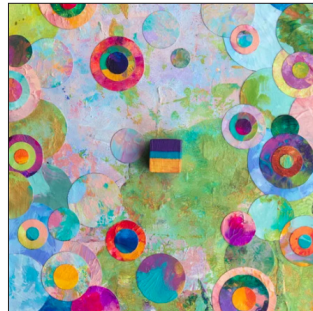
Andrew Chalfen
Rotary Formation
Ink on paper
19" x 25"
\$600



Andrew Chalfen
Looks Like It Sounds Good
Mixed media on wood panel
11" x 14"
\$1,400



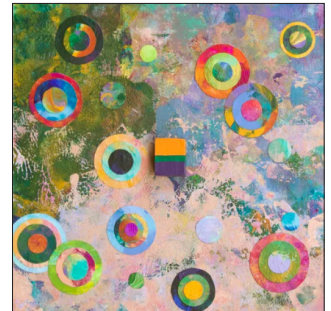
Andrew Chalfen
Current Brain State
Mixed media on canvas
8" x 16"
\$800



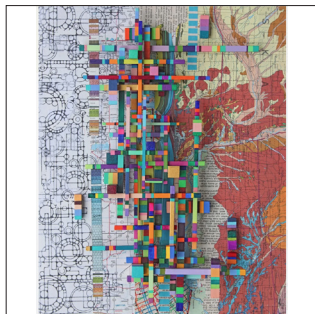
Andrew Chalfen
Free Radical II
Mixed media on wood panel
8" x 8"
\$400



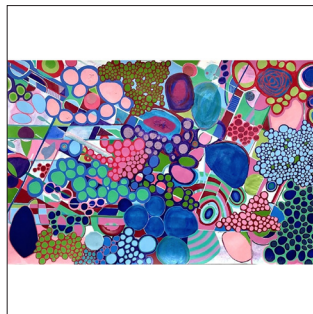
Andrew Chalfen
Free Radical V
Mixed media on wood panel
8" x 8"
\$400



Andrew Chalfen
Free Radical VII
Mixed media on wood panel
8" x 8"
\$400



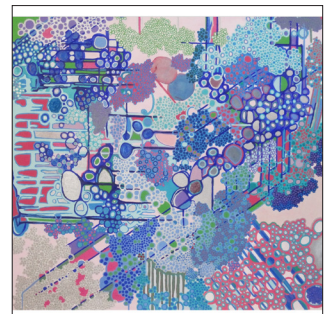
Andrew Chalfen
I Had That Dream Again
Mixed media on wood panel
14" x 11"
\$1,200



Rebecca Jacoby
Hanging Fruit
Mixed media on Arches
22½" x 38" (27½" x 40½")
\$2,200



Rebecca Jacoby
Straight Shot
Oil, acrylic, collage on canvas
28½" x 31½"
\$1,900

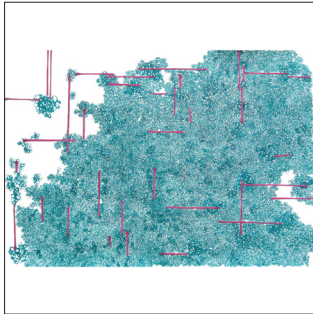


Rebecca Jacoby
Oblique
Oil, acrylic, collage on canvas
31½" x 33½"
\$1,900

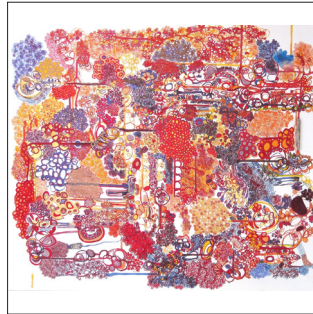
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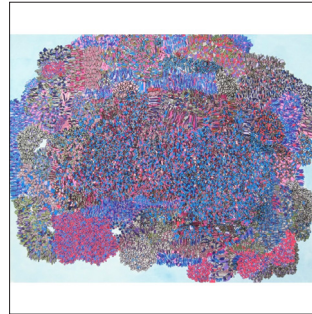
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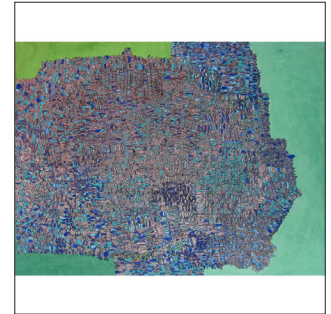
Rebecca Jacoby
Passage
Ink and collage on Arches
20 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (23 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ ")
\$1,600



Rebecca Jacoby
Body Electric
Ink, acrylic, collage on Arches
22" x 26" (24 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ ")
\$1,800



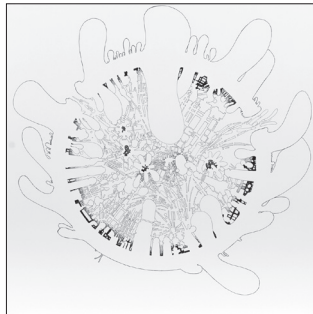
Rebecca Jacoby
Festival
Pen and marker on Bristol
11" x 14" (12" x 15")
\$300



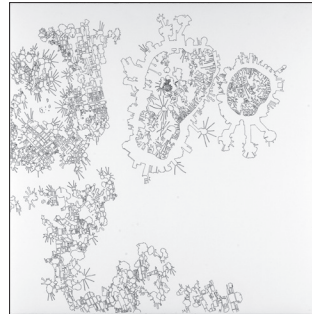
Rebecca Jacoby
Green State
Pen and marker on Bristol
9" x 12" (12" x 15")
\$250



Colleen Keefe
All this Happened, More or Less
Ink on paper
30" x 44" (32" x 46")
\$4,250



Colleen Keefe
Motile
Ink on clayboard
24" x 24"
\$3,000



Colleen Keefe
Architectural Pollination Study VII
Ink on paper
22" x 22" (24" x 24")
\$1,800



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ANDREW CHALFEN *andrewchalfen.com / @i.think.like.midnight*

Artist Statement

I'm fascinated by patterns: how they ripple, radiate, refract, bloom, interact, cluster, construct, and deconstruct. My works allude to aerial views, cartography, architectural renderings, musical notation, urban densities, and other natural and man-made patterns, while not literally being any of those things. Rather, my pieces reflect my psychological states during their creation, a kind of topography of thought and mood as I work through various aesthetic themes that have long held my attention. Shapes often spill out over edges, suggesting unseen continuations beyond, while others seek containment. My recent mixed media assemblages with painted dowels focuses on connections, intersections, and layers, a non-representational way of depicting how we relate to the world and to one another.

I am a maker of components; essentially I make the puzzle pieces and then attempt to solve the puzzle of the composition. My process mirrors that of my songwriting and music arranging. I utilize the repetition of a small selection of formal elements, subtle variation, the timbre of color palate, rhythm, and a combination of randomization strategies and intentionality. Every work is a process journey, in which I refine elements that grab me from previous pieces, and then push into unknown territory with experimentation and risk, always iterating. I follow my instincts, deviate from them when necessary, and trust the process to guide the work to a successful outcome and maybe even a breakthrough or two.

Biography

Andrew Chalfen is a visual artist and musician living and working in Philadelphia. His work has appeared at many shows nationally and in and around Pennsylvania, such as the Abington Art Center, The Hoyt Center, and the Delaware Contemporary. His work has appeared on book jackets and album covers. He is the recipient of several awards, including winner of the Bombay Sapphire Artisan Series Mid-Atlantic Regional for 2018 and his piece *Vibration Lands* was displayed at SCOPE Miami during the Art Basel/Art Miami fair. He has performed music live and on recordings for four decades as leader and songwriter of bands such as The Trolleyvox, The Wishniaks, and his current all-instrumental rock band, I Think Like Midnight.



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REBECCA JACOBY *rajacoby.com*

Artist Statement

My work, mixed media paintings on canvas and paper, consist of colorful, amorphous and geometric shapes, saturated colors, and textural accents. I've developed my practice through experimentation with different mediums including oil and acrylic paint, pastel, ink, and collage. My imagery is inspired by nature, especially the boulders, stones, and stone walls of New England that emerge out of the ground to wind through the woods, then retreat into the earth. Like them, the pebble and cell clusters I've been drawing since 2011 merge into and out of each other, overlapping with adjacent forms.

Over the years, I've explored multiple forms of mark-making. About ten years ago I began incorporating linear elements into what had been solely curvilinear work. I rotate the canvas as paint or ink is applied, allowing organic lines to emerge. These lines; my use of collaged "relics" from old or discarded work; and the use of non-traditional tools act as catalysts for more imagery. Turning the canvas creates balance and flow as I layer and build a rich, energetic composition.

Making art is a meditative, therapeutic practice. Experimentation, process, and the use of multiple mediums help me develop ideas while the circular pebble and cell shapes in my work illustrate the circularity of my process: moving from canvas to paper, large to small scale, seeking renewal and growth.

Biography

Rebecca Jacoby is a Philadelphia-based artist who creates abstract mixed-media work on canvas and paper. Her work is process driven, and she uses her love of color, shape, texture, collage, and the rocks, stones, and stone walls of New England as inspiration.

Jacoby received a Bachelor's degree in philosophy and politics from Mount Holyoke College and a Master of Fine Arts in printmaking from Pratt Institute. Her work has been shown at Gallery Siano and Stanek Gallery in Philadelphia, and Wheaton Arts in New Jersey. Jacoby was represented by LG Tripp Gallery in Philadelphia where she had two solo shows and was in several group shows.

From October to November 2025, Jacoby was the Resident Artist at the 560 Railroad Residency in St. Johnsbury, VT, where she taught an Abstract Processes class to adults and with the community to create a large-scale mural. She was a resident artist at the Montgomery School in Chester Springs in 2015 and has previously attended artist residencies at Jentel in Wyoming and the Vermont Studio Center. Jacoby's installation *Flow* was on view at the Philadelphia International Airport from winter 2018 to spring 2019 and she had a solo show at Delaplaine Arts in Maryland in 2018.

Jacoby's work is the collections of Delta Dental Insurance, the University City Science Center, Ogletree Deakins, Coventry Group, and private collections in Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore and Palm Beach. Jacoby's work has been reviewed in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Philadelphia City Paper*, and on the *Artblog*.



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COLLEEN KEEFE *colleenkeefe.com / @colleen_keefe_art*

Artist Statement

My drawings explore methods for breeding urban environments using organic models — multicellular organisms’ reproductive and propulsion strategies, pollination methods employed by plants, or stellar birth. My source materials include urban planning, microbiology and astronomy, and I consider all three to be related phenomena unfolding at different scales. The resulting images depict cities grown organically, without an “urban planner” as protagonist, based on environmental conditions and observing “natural” rules that are internally consistent — a closed set describing the universe they inhabit.

Biography

Colleen Keefe (she/they) received an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art and a BFA from Washington University.

Recent solo exhibitions include Speer Gallery, Bryn Mawr PA, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson / Design Center, Philadelphia PA, Robert Henry Contemporary, New York, NY, Abington Arts Center, Jenkintown, PA, and RHV Fine Art, Brooklyn, NY. Her work has been reviewed in the *New York Times*, *Village Voice*, *Bushwick Daily*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Philadelphia City Paper*, *Toronto Globe and News*, *LA Times*, *Sculpture Magazine*, *theartblog.org* and *Title Magazine*.

In addition to her studio practice, Keefe has been curating since 1995 — first, as co-director of 57 Hope in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, NY (1995–2001), and currently as co-director of Mount Airy Contemporary (2009–present).



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BOX SPRING GALLERY is the collaborative effort of Gaby Heit and Robert A. Stewart, Esq.

GABY HEIT *gabyheit.com / [@gabyheit](https://www.instagram.com/gabyheit) / gaby@gabyheit.com*

Gaby Heit is an art/photo director, graphic designer and creative consultant with a master's degree from Pratt Institute. A four-time gallery director and independent curator, Gaby has represented artists from Philadelphia and New York, and has produced numerous exhibitions that celebrate connections between fine art, science, and design. Some include shows for Le Méridien Hotel, Main Line Health, AIGA, DesignPhiladelphia, Philly Tech Week, the University City Science Center, and more.

With many years of experience in print publishing, she has led the creative direction, rebranding and design for national magazines covering fashion, travel, women's services, business, and fine art. Gaby regularly consults with all kinds of creatives on presentation, organization and self-promotion, and her latest project was to open Box Spring Gallery in Philadelphia in June 2024.

ROBERT A. STEWART, Esq.

Robert is a long-time resident of Philadelphia and the husband of artist, Michele M. Tremblay, who passed away in 2022. As a college student he had the good fortune to attend art education classes at the Barnes Foundation in Merion taught by Violette De Mazia and Barton Church. Robert's first art purchase, made in 1973, was an oil painting by Edwin Brent and later he and his wife Michele acquired works by Roger Anliker, Charles Schmidt, Marie Bender, George Sorrels, Carol Oldenburg, Dan Wittels and Roberta Daar. His late wife's work can be viewed online at artofmichele.com, as well as a large mural opposite the entrance to Jefferson Hospital on 9th Street in Philadelphia, which Michele created with New York artist Polly Apfelbaum.

BOX SPRING GALLERY *boxspringgallery.com / [@boxspringgallery](https://www.instagram.com/boxspringgallery) / contact@boxspringgallery.com.*

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Celebrating where art and design meet, Box Spring Gallery provides carefully curated exhibitions with opportunities to purchase contemporary art and design by a variety of creatives. Our main goals are to give creatives visibility, sales, and guidance, and to educate the consumer public about a wide range of creative discipline, innovation and purpose.