ARTIST: Elyse Gambino  
(Lansing, MI)

Rabbit Terrarium  
(mixed-media)

December 4, 2018 – January 2, 2019

ARTIST STATEMENT:  
My recent work examines the human impact on the natural world and the destructive force of time on the built environment. Living in the Midwestern United States, I am surrounded by urban structures in contrasting conditions of existence: buildings slowly crumble in the shadow of shiny new construction; layers of paint peel away from walls and doors while the refuse from renovations sits in twisted piles on street corners.

Rabbit Terrarium is a three dimensional manifestation of my digital collage process. Like a computer monitor, The Aquarium Gallery can hold infinite yet progressively compressed layers presented within a glowing white square. Here the organic shapes of bones are interrupted by simple geometry, the skeleton of an animal contrasts with the structure of a building. Rabbits become a mediator between urban and rural spaces: although a city is not their natural habitat, it provides refuge from their predators. This installation is a new iteration of the ideas and images that populate my work.

BIO:  
Originally from Portland, OR, Elyse Gambino is an artist living in Lansing, MI and working throughout Mid-Michigan. With a background in craft and an MFA in painting, she primarily focuses on painting and digital collage.