

AQUARIUM GALLERY

**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.

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