

Karlis Rekevics



Recommended by Karen Wilkin

Karlis Rekevics is a site-specific sculptor whose bold, assertive drawings are provoked by those parts of the urban environment that most of us ignore: expedient fencing, the supports of elevated highways and trains, undistinguished zones of pavement. He translates his perceptions of specific places into graphic structures of black and white planes and lines that at first seem straightforward, but soon declare themselves to be brilliant reinventions, with viewpoints dislocated and half-glimpsed patterns and rhythms revealed. Space expands and contracts as the implicit likeness and unlikeness of the elements of urban infrastructure are emphasized or suppressed. In his sculptures, Rekevics fragments, changes the scale, and recombines his chosen motifs. His drawings allow us a glimpse into his thinking by reminding us of places and constructions we half-recall seeing and, at the same time, compelling us to focus on the robust formal relationships with which he calls up those associations. Back in the city, we interrogate our surroundings with fresh eyes.

Karen Wilkin, Fall 2020

Bio

Karlis Rekevics was born in Harrogate, England, to Latvian parents, and grew up in Rome, Baghdad, and Seattle. After studies at Seattle University, he continued his art education at the New York Studio School and the Hochschule der Kunst, Berlin. The son and nephew of architects, he was raised with a special awareness of the technical aspects of building, which he applies to his artistic practice.

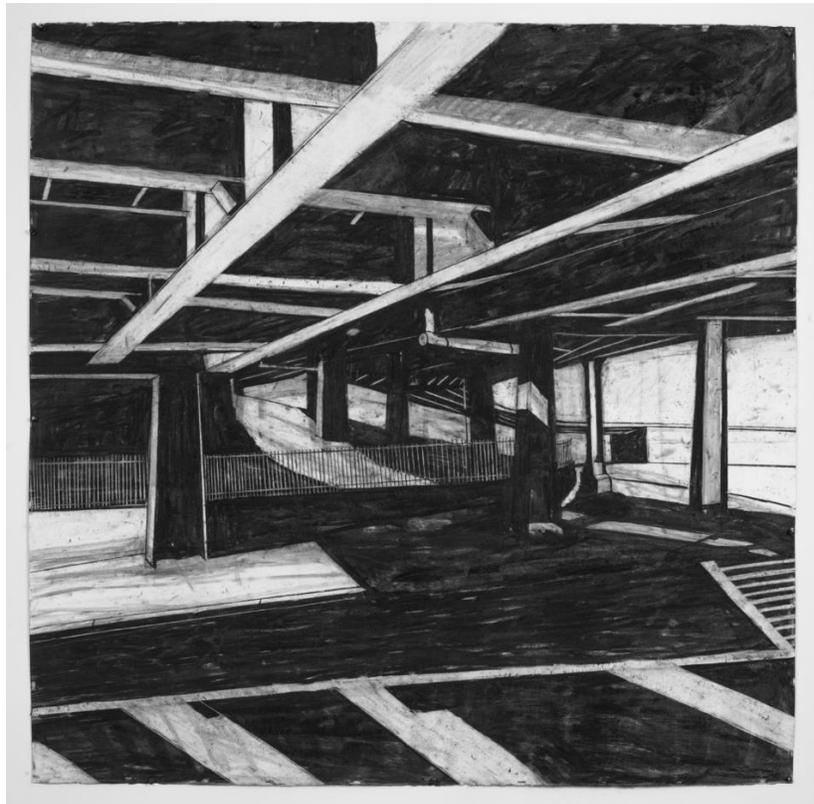
The recipient of numerous awards, Rekevics has been featured in such exhibitions as *Building Structures* at PS 1 Contemporary Art Center, NY; *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*, The Project, NY; *In Practice*, Sculpture Center, Long Island City, NY; *Four Sculptors*, New York Studio

School; and *Recent Modernist Sculpture: Joined, Modeled, Cast, Carved, Poured, Painted*, Locks Gallery, Philadelphia. He has made solo installations for Triangle Arts Association's Brooklyn Residency Space and the Wooster Arts Space, NY, as well as being featured in an installation at the Whitney Museum of American Art at ALTRIA, 42nd Street and Park Avenue, NY. Rekevics' work is in the collection of the Deutsche Bank, the Latvian National Museum of Art, and William Louis-Dreyfus, among others. He lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Artist Statement

The two drawings in this exhibition are from an ongoing series that was begun in March when the shutdown began during the ongoing Covid pandemic. My work has always been based on the urban manmade world. When the shutdown began, I would walk the 2.5 miles to and from my studio. The path took me through the industrial area of Brooklyn, under and around the 278-interstate highway aka the BQE (Brooklyn Queens Expressway) that cuts through my Sunset Park neighborhood. The walks were desolate, quiet, and I was very much alone. The urban landscape and manmade structures loomed large and appeared to grow in scale and size—no longer subservient to the inhabitants. What is the purpose of a highway if we are not driving? They began to represent my thoughts and reflections on the overall emotional state of the world. The truth that we are not in control.

Works in the Exhibition



Karlis Rekevics 2020. Broad Ordinary Occasions #9 Charcoal and Gesso on Paper 51.5" x 51.5"



Karlis Rekevics 2020. Broad Ordinary Occasions #12 Charcoal and Gesso on Paper 51.5" x 51.5"