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Artist Brings the Unexpected to YoHo



YoHo artist Rachel Jonas at work.

Rachel Jonas is the sort of artist that makes you see everyday, mundane materials in a new way. Aluminum foil, cellophane, spray paint and tape are all manipulated by Jonas to create intriguing two- and three-dimensional sculptures that burst with color, energy, shine and a touch of mystery.

Jonas has had her Westchester artist studio, #413, at YOHO since 2014, when she was referred by an acquaintance after finishing up an art residency with the Arts Students League. She said she loves the fantastic views and incredible light her studio offers, not to mention the excellent space it

provides. This is especially beneficial because her artwork demands a good amount of collecting of various materials, and everything can be filed away – but are always within reach.

Jonas tends to arrive at her studio in the late morning and will work until late evening. She describes her creative process as therapeutic, yet also at times torturous – since a lot of her pieces are created through repetitive movements that are both time-consuming and tiresome. The end result is a cathartic one, however – a sudden release of all the tension built up during the creative process.

She is especially interested in transforming common materials that are heavily used every day into a piece of art that is no longer familiar, and surprising the viewer by becoming something more valuable, finely created and precious. Her mixed-media pieces titled “Add” and “Subtract” serve as good examples of this style of artwork, as do her “Zip Series” and “Plaid Series” pieces. This trend toward symbolism came from Jonas’ time in Berlin, where she learned to enjoy creating works like “Add” and “Subtract,” which from a distance might resemble contemporary paintings, however up close are discovered to be created from materials that are much different.

Jonas’s artwork has been exhibited by Bushwick’s gallery, The Parenthesis Art Space, and at the YOHO’s Open Studios event held during Yonkers Arts Weekend in May 2015. For more information and samples of artwork, visit www.rmjonas.com. For more about YOHO Artist Studios, visit www.yohoartists.com.