

RACHEL REFAEL

Curriculum vitae

Studio

Het Wijkpaleis
Claes de Vrieselaan 72
3021 JS Rotterdam

Website

166brut.com

Email

Hello@166Brut.com

Tel

+31 6 13869167

Instagram

@166.brut



About

Rachel Refael is a Rotterdam-based designer whose interdisciplinary practice blends fine art and design. Working collaboratively, she develops socially engaged projects grounded in archival and cultural research, spanning object design and spatial installations.

Education

Master of Arts in Interior Architecture
Piet Zwart Institute
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Graduated 2021.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Studies
University of Calgary
Calgary, Canada
Graduated 2018.

Designing Lighting Plans
Lighting Design Academy
Amersfoort, The Netherlands
Certified 2022.

Languages

English
Native/Academic level

Dutch
A2-B1 level
(Finished a *Blik op Werk* certified course at *Lest Best*)

Software

Rhino3D ██████████

Grasshopper ██████

Blender 3D ██████████

AutoCAD ██████

Unity ██████

Twinmotion ██████████
(unreal engine)

QGIS ██████████

Adobe Suite ██████████

Arduino ██████

Teaching and Pedagogical Experience

Teaching and Syllabus Development of Summer Edition Blender 3D Course.

Guiding participants in learning 3D modeling fundamentals by designing interiors based on their personal aesthetics - a two day crash course.
Het Wijkpaleis
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
July, 2025

Visiting Lecturer: History of Interiors in De Wallen and Space-Making as Resistance to Policy-Making
Course: 'Netherlands: Human Trafficking, Sex Trade, and Modern Slavery in Europe'
School for International Training Study Abroad
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
June, 2025

Visiting Lecturer: Peeping Spaces – Transdisciplinary Research Methodologies and Queer Informal Histories in Architecture and Urban Planning.
Course: 'Studio Care' - Bachelors of Architecture
ETH Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland
April, 2025

Public Workshop: GummiBAR.

Creative latex workshop focused on teaching participants the fundamentals of working with latex sheets and designing their own objects using custom patterns.
Porn Film Festival
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
February, 2025

Teaching and Syllabus Development

Winter Edition: Blender 3D Course.

Taught in collaboration with Wecollab, guiding participants in learning 3D modeling fundamentals by designing interiors based on their personal aesthetics.
Het Wijkpaleis
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
January-February, 2025

Visiting Lecturer: Changing typologies - methodologies of documenting the city.
Course: 'Studio Care' - Bachelor of Graphic Design
The Gerrit Rietveld Academy
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
November, 2024

Grants + Awards

FlevoLAB: Spin-off Traject
Almere NL
2024

S+T+ARTS: Pre-selected for Hungry
Ecocities
2023

Stimulerings Fonds: Architecture
Starting Grant
2022

Piet Zwart Institute: MIARD Alumni
Research Award
2021

Van Beek-Donner Women's Fund
Award
2021

Talks

Open Monumentendag
Lecture at Arcam
Amsterdam NL
2024

Arcam
Panel Moderator at Barcam
Amsterdam NL
2024

BioArt Gallery
Panel Moderator
Eindhoven NL
2022

Residencies

FlevoLAB Residency
Artistic Research: Phase 2
Almere NL
2024

FlevoLAB Residency
Artistic Research: Phase 1
Almere NL
2023

References

*References are available upon
request

Teacher Assistant for Bachelor Spatial Design
Willem De Kooning Academie
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Feb-April, 2021

Professional Experience

166 Brut Studio: Designer and Researcher. 2020 - Present
Rotterdam, NL.

Northern Light: Spatial Designer. 2023 - 2024
Amsterdam, NL.

Studio Berkveldt: Spatial and communication Design. 2022 - 2024
Rotterdam, NL.

Jasmin Djerzic: Ceramics Design and production. 2022
Breda, NL

Alex Augusto Suarez: 3D modelling Design. 2021
Amsterdam, NL

Selected Exhibitions

WormNEST with Rebecca Schedler. Worm Expo. Rotterdam NL. 2025

Queer History Month: IHLIA in OBA Group Exhibition. Amsterdam NL. 2025

Peeping Spaces: A Queer Historical Perspective of 'De Wallen'. Arcam. Amsterdam NL. 2024-2025

FlevoLAB Group Exhibiton (Land Art Weekend) StrandLAB. Almere NL. 2023

FlevoLAB Group Exhibiton (Land Art Weekend) StrandLAB. Almere NL. 2022

Manifestations Group Exhibition Dutch Design week. Eindhoven NL. 2021

The In-Between: Graduation Exhibition. The Hofbogen. Rotterdam NL. 2021

Social Bodies: group exhibition. The Hofbogen. Rotterdam NL. 2020

Domestic Territories: online exhibition. 2020

Selected Publications + Press

The Molyhouse. by Rachel Refael and Gavin O. O'Leary.
Amsterdamx750 Verhalen, Amsterdam, NL. 2025

Expositie: historie van sekswerk en queer plekken in Amsterdam: issued by Maarten Mol.
Het Parool. Amsterdam, NL. 2024

Queer histories of De Wallen. by Rachel Refael and Gavin O. O'Leary.
Ons Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL. 2024

What is an Institute for Night Culture (book) contribution by Rachel Refael.
Edited David Mulder van der Vegt & Stephan Petermann
Published by ARCHIS. Amsterdam, NL. 2024

HistoricALL! A collective rewriting of design history (publication) contribution by Rachel Refael.
Edited Cecilia Casabona & Maxime Benvenuto
Published by ONOMATOPEE. Eindhoven, NL. 2023

Heterotopias of Modern Prostitution, The Piet, no. 2. by Rachel Refael
Published by Piet Zwart Intitute. Rotterdam, NL. 2022