

REBECCA RUTSTEIN

Topographies of Time

Artist Statement

It's been said that emotions distort perceptions of time. As the global pandemic surges on for a year now, it has upended our stability, structure, connections, routine and has stripped us of the markers that give us a sense of normalcy. I've experienced what many others probably have – a feeling of time distortion – a stretching, bending and slowing; this coupled with frenetic moments of fits and starts, as I fumble to carve out space for my work around the needs of my school aged children, who themselves have become dramatically displaced from anything resembling normal. The deep wounds of systemic racism, cries for social justice, tumultuous presidential election, siloed versions of truth and violent extremism have amplified these time distortions even further.

As a multidisciplinary artist who often collaborates with scientists, travels on expeditions at sea to create works that shed light on the natural world, works with data, and tries to connect the viewer with places and processes hidden from view, this body of work is an inward pivot – each painting, a personal meditation. I hope to capture these distortions of time, flurry of emotions, fluctuations as I drag the paintbrush to the beat of my own breath. Time is passing, a time less linear and more dimensional.

– Rebecca Rutstein, 2021