

ZOLLA/LIEBERMAN GALLERY INC.

RENÉ ROMERO SCHULER

Statement

I've spent most of my life in Chicago. The early years were treacherous, difficult, and painful; with sprinklings of good things, however human nature dictates that we tend to dwell in the things that have hurt us most.

Thus, at the root of so much of my work, is that vulnerability; that scarred, imperfect, flawed, shy, awkward, girl, who tried desperately to survive against great odds, to not feel so lonely, to trust, to try and rise – beyond all these things – and be someone great... to make a difference.

Chicago has been here through it all. And though my circumstances tended to beat me down repeatedly, it was always Chicago that lifted me up. I have come to know the most wonderful people here, who are now my truest family; people I love, and who love me back; people who know me better than I know myself; people who hold me accountable. I not only survived here, but I have LIVED. I have grown. I have succeeded.

My work has come to mean so much more to me than you might realize...more than I can adequately convey in these words. The figures of these works embody my past experiences, along with the energies of the many things that have held me up when I've felt like quitting; the energies of my own resilience, strength, hope and faith. Each piece is a meditation and a bit of self-therapy, and no piece is finished until I reach a sense of contentment. I must finish in a positive state, and I will just say again that it's been Chicago that has given me that space to heal and thrive... to breathe.

Reflection is a collection of works that are very much tied to specific Chicago experiences. These are deeply personal and thoughtful pieces; each with a story. Each is filled with love and gratitude for this great city that has shaped me, the great friends and loves who have cared for me, and the memories that I will hold in my heart for the rest of my days.

- René Romero Schuler on *Reflections*