

“Alien” appeared in Megan Rye’s 2008 solo exhibition “Long Night’s Journey into Day” at the Chambers Hotel Burnet Gallery in Minneapolis. Many of the images in the show were based on photographs taken by her brother Ryan Nosek while stationed in Iraq as a U.S. Marine. (Submitted photo)



## Edina painter a Bush Artist Fellow

### Megan Rye receives \$50,000 award to prepare for N.Y. show

BY KATIE MINTZ • SUN NEWSPAPERS

An Edina resident is making her mark in the art world.

Megan Rye was recently one of 15 recipients to receive a \$50,000 Bush Artist Fellowship from the Bush Foundation.

For Rye, it comes at a critical time. The 34-year-old is preparing for her first solo exhibition at Forum Gallery in New York City.

“It buys me the time to really focus on my work over the next year without worrying about selling paintings,” she said.

“New York City is really the heart of the art world,” said Rye. “When you have a show in a smaller city it’s wonderful – the work can interact with the people in the community – but the

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rest of the people in the country or world might not learn about the work.”

Rye received a bachelor’s degree in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1998 and completed her master’s degree in painting at the University of Minnesota in 2003. Her art education started closer to home.

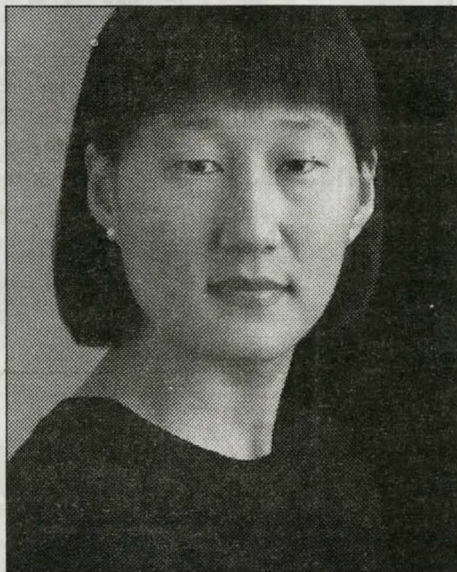
“I think my mother might have put a paintbrush in my hand when I was 1 or 2,” said Rye.

At age 5, she began classes at the Edina Art Center. In grade 11, she left Edina Public Schools to attend the Perpich Center for Arts Education.

“That’s always been who she is,” said Karen Rye, who adopted her daughter from Seoul, South Korea, as an infant. “She drew so much pleasure and peace from making art from such an early age on, I really know it’s who she is at the core.”

Rye, who still lives in Edina, said as a student she never expected others to want to look at or purchase her work.

Her paintings are now included in private collections across the country. She’s had solo exhibitions at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Chambers Hotel in Minneapolis, as well as been a part of group exhibitions from New York City to Mexico.



Megan Rye of Edina was recently named one of 15 Bush Artist Fellows for 2010 from a competitive field of more than 500 applicants. (Submitted photo)

Her solo Minneapolis exhibitions in 2007 and 2008 drew on photographs taken by her brother Ryan Nosek while stationed in Iraq in 2004 and 2005 with the U.S. Marine Reserves. Rye’s 2011 New York City Show is also inspired by the more than 2,000 images he took.

With a cross between abstraction and realism, her oil paintings give her perspective on war, while provoking questions of perception and reality by

others, she said. The subject affects both those with ties to soldiers and those without.

“When you enter space of contemplation and you have this current event topic on the wall, it really brings it to the forefront,” she said.

To be recognized for her work with an award the magnitude of a Bush Artist Fellowship has been an extraordinary honor, she said. She was selected in the competitive application process among 500 other visual, media and traditional artists.

The Bush Artist Program is one of the largest artist grants in the Upper Midwest. It has awarded grants to 453 different artists in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota since established in 1976 by the Bush Foundation. The program is meant to provide both financial and professional development support for artists to advance their work, stimulate dialogue and contribute to deeper community engagement.

The Bush Artist Fellowship is the capstone of local awards for Rye, who was also the recipient of a 2008 McKnight Foundation Fellowship, 2007 and 2004 Minnesota State Arts Board Grants and the 2005 Jerome Foundation Fellowship.