

Society &amp; Culture

## Spotlight



## TAKING FORM

At 7 years old, René Romero Schuler wrote a letter to her family vowing she would one day show her art in a gallery. Years later, her youthful declaration came true— her work is displayed in public and private collections around the world. Her latest exhibition, *In Search of Ground*, combines her primary medium, painting, with sculpture and India ink drawings. In her biggest show to date, the Chicago native collaborates with close friend and artist Ari Smejkal, transforming her textured, spectral figure paintings into three-dimensional works of art. “I needed to sculpt the figures with my hands,” she details. “And shape them into the strong yet flawed and delicate beings that we all are.”

The exhibition’s content is inspired by a recently uncovered family secret, one the artist says “truly pulled the rug out from under me and unraveled so much of my life.” But making the personal public is not rare for her. “My work gives me courage and strength and allows me to tell my stories,” she explains. “*In Search of Ground* is about the concept of trying to keep one’s feet planted when everything in the world feels topsy-turvy.” *Sept. 7-Oct. 20, Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, 325 W. Huron St., reneschuler.com; zollaliebermangallery.com* —Jenna Zizzo-Klemis

The ethereal style of René Romero Schuler is expressed in “Clau... »