

Rhea Myers

Artist Statement

SEPTEMBER 2026

STATEMENT (FIRST PERSON)

I make the art I have to in order to understand a world gripped by anxieties about technology and culture. Since 2014 my primary medium has been the blockchain, where art and technology can hold each other to account and expose the hidden rules of identity, authenticity, and value that govern both.

How society's rules are made and enforced is not an abstract question for me as a trans woman. Society keeps its rulebook hidden. Smart contracts publish theirs – who can own what, what counts as real, how worth is assigned – in code anyone can read, break, or play with. I don't break them. I follow their logic so faithfully that it turns inside out: disobedience in obedience, in the code and in the culture alike.

So a smart contract nominates itself as art, and anyone can overrule it (*Is Art*, 2014). A collector owns an artwork whose content they will never see (*Secret Artwork*, 2018). A certificate guarantees, with cryptographic certainty, that a work is inauthentic (*Certificate of Inauthenticity*, 2020). An NFT makes the Ethereum null address, which no one can own, ownable (*Titled (Information as Property as Art)*, 2022).

At first sight the work looks like modernist, conceptual, and postmodern art: coloured dots, stripes, grids, forms, and texts, on screens and on walls. These aesthetics are rule systems too, each with its own way of organising the world. Plumbed into the logic of smart contracts, each becomes an interface to the other. What looks like a colour field is a map of a hidden system; what reads as code is an aesthetic proposition.

The work does its thinking in public, in code anyone can inspect. You can follow that thinking as you experience it. If you want to make that leap.

STATEMENT (THIRD PERSON)

Rhea Myers makes the art she has to in order to understand a world gripped by anxieties about technology and culture. Since 2014 her primary medium has been the blockchain, where art and technology can hold each other to account and expose the hidden rules of identity, authenticity, and value that govern both.

How society's rules are made and enforced is not an abstract question for Myers as a trans woman. Society keeps its rulebook hidden. Smart contracts publish theirs – who can own what, what counts as real, how worth is assigned – in code anyone can read, break, or play with. Myers doesn't break them. She follows their logic so faithfully that it turns inside out: disobedience in obedience, in the code and in the culture alike.

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SHORT STATEMENT (100 WORDS)

First person

Since 2014 my primary medium has been the blockchain. Smart contracts make explicit the rules society keeps hidden: who owns what, what counts as authentic, how value is assigned. I follow those rules so faithfully that they turn inside out – a contract that nominates itself as art, an artwork its owner will never see, a certificate that guarantees inauthenticity. The work borrows the look of modernism, conceptual art, and net art because those aesthetics are rule systems too. As a trans woman, how rules are enforced has never been an abstract question for me.

Third person

Since 2014 Rhea Myers's primary medium has been the blockchain. Smart contracts make explicit the rules society keeps hidden: who owns what, what counts as authentic, how value is assigned. Myers follows those rules so faithfully that they turn inside out – a contract that nominates itself as art, an artwork its owner will never see, a certificate that guarantees inauthenticity. Her work borrows the look of modernism, conceptual art, and net art because those aesthetics are rule systems too. For Myers, as a trans woman, how rules are enforced has never been an abstract question.