

## Bastienne Schmidt

[www.bastienneschmidt.com](http://www.bastienneschmidt.com)

[studio@bastienneschmidt.com](mailto:studio@bastienneschmidt.com)

### Colored Grids

Photography and art fall for Schmidt into the realm of archeology, exploring layers of history and meaning, and reassigning value to them.

Schmidt was born in Munich, Germany and moved at the age of 9 with her family to Greece. She spent her childhood surrounded by her father's archeological work, which instilled in her a desire to organize, map, and attempt to understand systems through her artwork.

She is interested in the documentation and creation of artifacts that carry the patina of memory, history, and time as organizing principles. Schmidt's process relates often to the use of humble materials, such as muslin fabric, strings and thin transparent paper, that is subsequently painted and drawn upon. Paper offers an intuitive process, which allows for overlapping and organic coming together of spaces. Geometric forms such as circles, triangles and square play a role in her work, such as the use of typologies as an artistic tool.

The series Colored Grids consists of a typology that is sewn and pleated and stretched over canvas. Malleable fabrics have been part of Schmidt's practice for a long time going back to her childhood in Greece, where fabrics were often recycled.

Schmidt sees painted fabrics functioning as a skin or a kind of garment. The pieces are prepared and painted in monochromatic shades of whites on raw cotton duck canvas, recalling the shades of whites of Agnes Martin. With the Colored Grids series, Schmidt maintains through sewing the configuration of a grid, but she lets slowly enter some colors onto the canvas. Instead of working with a deductive process, she is processing a primary color field that is in part painted with pigments and in part sewn with vintage fabrics.

A monograph entitled Grids and Threads was published by Jovis in 2018 with a text by Jacoba Urist and an interview with Parrish Art Museum director Terrie Sultan.

**Grids and Threads** was exhibited in 2018 at the Parrish Art Museum and the Watermill Center in Watermill, New York. **Colored Grids** was exhibited in 2019 at the Parrish Art Museum, part of the Artists Choose Artists series.