

Deborah Scott
Structural Omission – Artist Packet

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ARTIST STATEMENT

I am a contemporary realist painter and the originator of Structural Omission, a framework that makes the limits of observation and representation visible within the construction of the image. Each painting begins with a representational scene and is built through the simultaneous development of rendered form and deliberate incompleteness. The omissions are structural conditions established in the underpainting, not stylistic effects. They define how the image holds together.

Structural Omission operates through three principles. Seeing is partial, so the painting reveals the limits of perception. Incompleteness is architectural, so omission becomes part of the system that supports the image. Narrative remains open, so the work acknowledges that no single account of a scene can be completed.

My paintings function within post certainty conditions. Realism can orient the viewer but cannot secure coherence or resolution. The work makes this instability visible and positions structural incompleteness as the most accurate way to depict how images operate today.

BIO

Deborah Scott is a contemporary realist painter and the originator of Structural Omission, a framework that defines how representation operates within post certainty conditions. Her paintings unite rendered form with deliberate incompleteness to make visible the limits of observation and depiction.

Scott's work has been exhibited in museums including the Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art and the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, as well as in galleries in New York, San Francisco, and Miami. She has completed residencies at the Museum of Loss and Renewal, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Byrdcliffe Arts Colony.

Her critical writing is archived on PhilPapers and further developed through the public essay series The Full Story Does Not Exist. Through both painting and writing, Scott advances Structural Omission as a conceptual and perceptual framework for contemporary realist practice.

ARTWORK PAGES

Structural Omission / Selected Works 2023–2025



It Seemed Lighter in the Beginning, 2025

Oil on canvas, 152 x 183 cm (60 x 72 in).

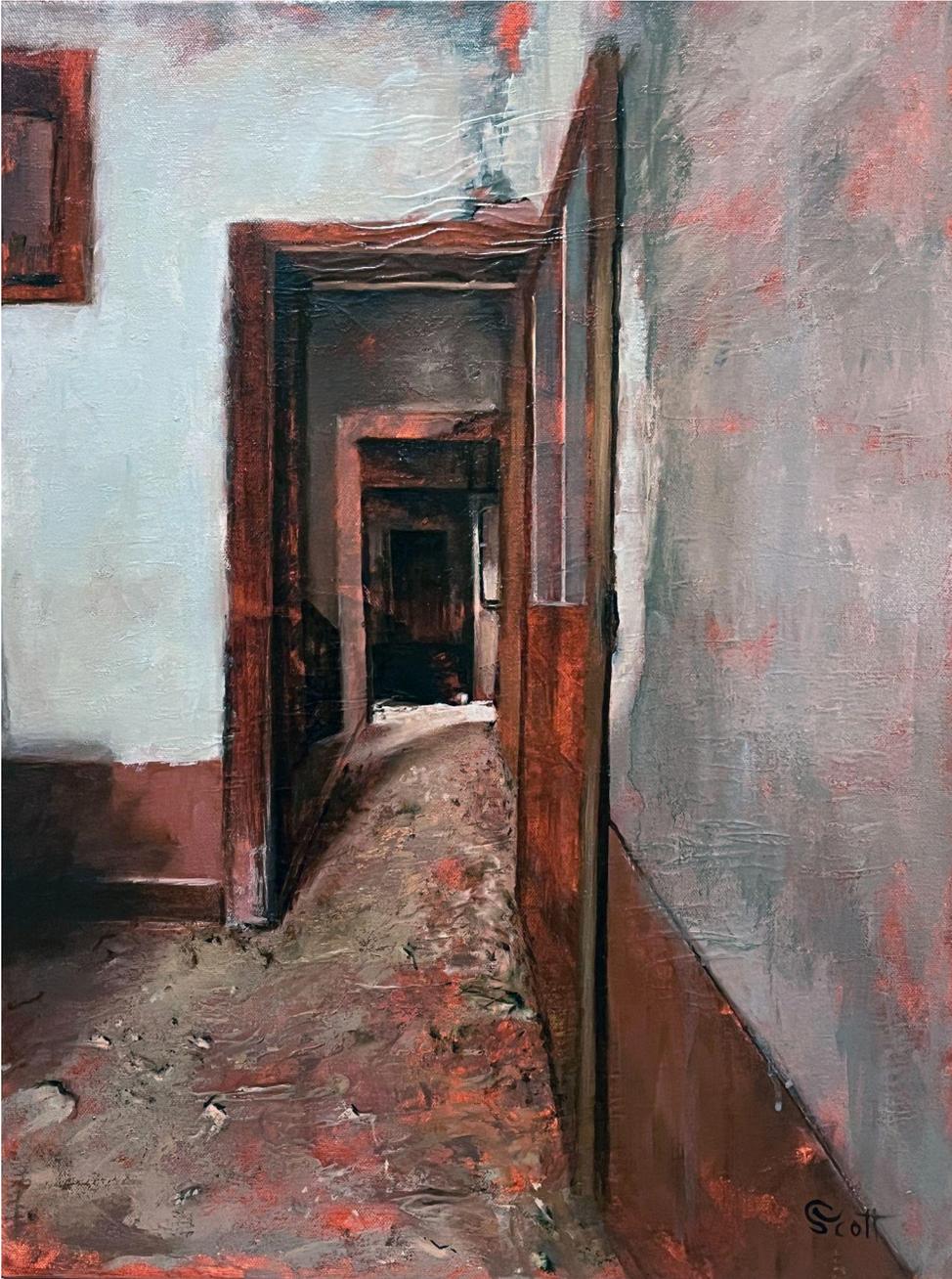
A large-scale figurative scene where Structural Omission destabilizes the continuity of the forest. The omissions are built into the structure early, allowing the rendered environment and the incomplete areas to co-determine how the narrative is perceived.



The Long View, 2025

Oil on canvas, 122 x 122 cm (48 x 48 in).

An architectural interior that tests how Structural Omission alters orientation and depth. Here the omissions function as load-bearing elements. They reorganize the spatial logic without breaking the legibility of the room.



Loss and Renewal II, 2024

Oil on canvas, 61 x 46 cm (24 x 18 in).

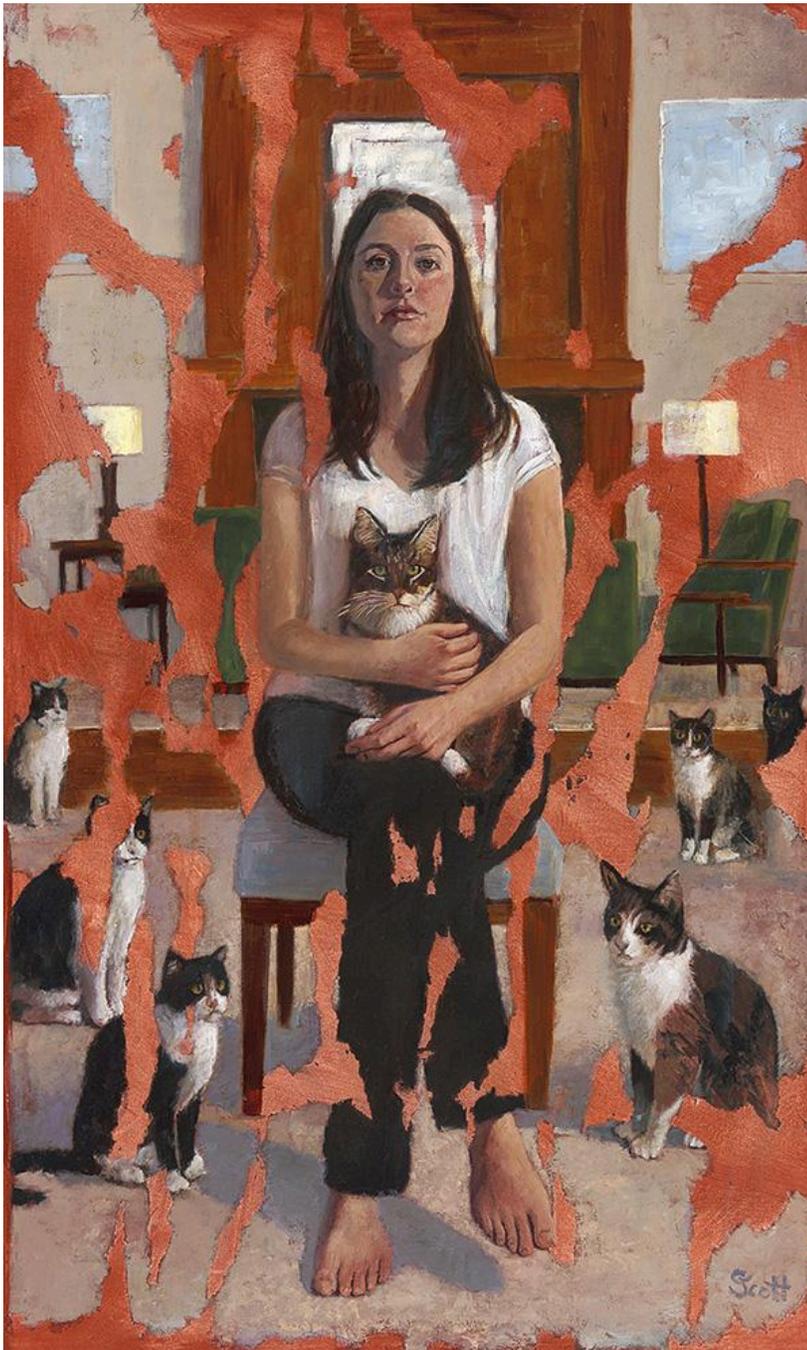
A transitional interior where Structural Omission interrupts the connective structure of the space. The omission operates as a structural hinge that shifts how the viewer reads passage, boundary, and spatial commitment.



It Was Just as Uncertain from Above, 2025

Oil on canvas, 122 x 122 cm (48 x 48 in), in progress.

A dense natural setting where Structural Omission interferes with conventional cues of stability and recognition. The disruptions govern how foreground and depth assemble and make orientation an open condition rather than a resolved fact.



It Made Sense to Her, 2025

Oil on canvas, 102 x 61 cm (40 x 24 in).

A domestic interior in which Structural Omission recalibrates presence and attention. The interruptions redirect the viewer's hierarchy of importance inside the room and redefine coherence at the level of structure rather than detail.



Still, She Checked Again, 2025

Oil on canvas, 61 x 46 cm (24 x 18 in).

A threshold scene where Structural Omission alters recognition and visual continuity. The omission does not conceal information. It reveals how contingent perception becomes within spaces that appear familiar.



The Path Split Long Before She Noticed, 2025

Oil on canvas, 102 x 61 cm (40 x 24 in).

A landscape that uses Structural Omission to reconfigure grounding and direction. The disruptions modify how the terrain reads. It feels both traversable and unsettled while retaining internal logic.



Red Rope, Pedestal and Power, 2024

Oil on canvas, 102 x 61 cm (40 x 24 in).

A staged interior where Structural Omission intervenes in hierarchy and spatial authority. The omissions redirect attention away from conventional focal structures and distribute visual power across the surface.



Running from Stillness, 2023

Oil on canvas, 61 x 46 cm (24 x 18 in).

An early exploration of Structural Omission in which interruption becomes a structuring force. The omissions reshape gesture and focus and shift the viewer's expectations of where the narrative should resolve.

SELECTED WRITING AND REFERENCES

Critical Writing

- [Seed, John. "Structural Omission: Painting at the Edge of Knowing." YouTube, 2025](#)

Scholarly Access (DOIs)

- Scott, Deborah (2025). *The Artist Doesn't Know: On the Epistemological Limits of Representation and the Framework I Call Structural Omission*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17253731>
- Scott, Deborah (2025). *Structural Omission: A Framework for Representation in the Post-Certainty Era*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17446052>
- Scott, Deborah (2025). *Structural Omission vs. Narrative Closure*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17253420>
- Scott, Deborah (2025). *The Half-Life of Certainty: Structural Omission and Realist Painting in the Post-Certainty Era*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17664980>

Substack Essays

- [Naming the Gap: What Makes Omissions Structural](#)
- [Omission as Structure](#)

Web Hubs

- [Structural Omission](#)
- [Post-Certainty Era](#)

CONTACT + QUICK LINKS

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Quick Access Links (PDFs + Essays)

- [Structural Omission](#) (Pillar Page)
- [Post-Certainty Era](#) (Pillar Page)
- [Substack](#)
- Zenodo
- [PhilPapers](#)