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## Metaphorical Cities - behind the cover art

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## Metaphorical Cities - behind the cover art

### Abstract

This is a reflection on how cities function like organisms. An artist's interpretation of the spaces surrounding them.

### Keywords

Art, Science, Cities, Urban life, Humans

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## **Metaphorical Cities**

*Elana Melissa Hill*

Space is a concept that can be interpreted in various ways. I am fascinated by how humans interact with the space around them. In particular I am interested in how cities are like organisms in themselves.



### **Gas Sphere**

I move through urban and rural spaces. I collect textures, forms, and silhouettes to use in my paintings, feeling as if I am navigating languages written by others, taking notes in order to create my own. Cities are palimpsests of other's imagined ideas, collapsing time into a non-linear history, an assembly of anachronisms. I am intrigued by the way cities function like huge living bodies. Electricity, sewage, water, gas and humans are pumped through the dense flesh of cement, metal and dirt. Mimicking the behavior of an organic system, cities constantly expand,

decay, layer, and grow over their own detritus. Agglomerations flex and curve against time and gravity to create continuously shifting fields of activity. In the rural country I grew up in, like urban spaces, persistent new growth pushes through the bones and shells of exhausted structures. These paintings are a micro and simultaneously macro vision of the spaces in which we exist.

The entire body of work in which I started exploring urban space as a record of scientific advancement and its application to our physical space started in 2009 and is ongoing.

I create the artwork as an ongoing exploration of space and cities. My work can be appreciated on its own, as a piece of aesthetic work, but also as an invitation to contemplate what it means to be inside and outside of a city.

Science and art overlap in my ruminations about the space that cities inhabit. They evolve and seem to have their own ecosystem. The curiosity about the spaces around me continue to inform my work.



**Firestorm**