

Cecilia (Cissy) Schmidt was born in Louisville, Kentucky, the first member of her family who was born in the United States. Her parents, Holocaust survivors, hid during WWII in the forests and woods of three different countries, where nature nourished and protected them. Their stories of dislocation formed a common thread in her work, with a longing and respect for nature. Throughout her childhood, as the proliferation of digital images from television and computers came to visually represent the state of the natural world, which often conflicted with reality, she became interested in the tension between the natural environment and mediated reality.

Schmidt received her BFA and MFA from the Arizona State University and attended The International Center for Photography in NYC. Her work in photography, painting, sculpture, video and public installations has been exhibited nationally and internationally. She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.