

## Bio Note

I make joyful 2D and installation art to counter cruelty in the world by creating lighthearted environments in which to contemplate politically charged imagery.

As I developed a practice in painting, drawing, encaustic, installation art, and neon, everyday materials and processes would prove particularly important to me. I have a rigorous studio practice with a restrained, meticulous way of working in multiple areas around my home in Tucson, Arizona. It was not until the age of thirty that I decided to become a visual artist. Lack of formal training in the genre has led to unlikely pairings of methods and materials. I have learned to embrace accidents as moments of innovation and progress.

I am a first generation college graduate and I wouldn't paint the way I do if I hadn't studied poetry. I earned a BA in English at The University of California, Berkeley, and an MFA in poetry at St. Mary's College, California. My undergraduate studies introduced me to art as an agent of social change, but poetry really taught me to think (allegorically, symbolically, metaphorically). My art is on the side of life that insists, "Don't Shoot."

Using the most beautiful and most intense color, I present a world epitomized by one of its peaceful denizens. At the same time, I am compelled to fulfill art's potential to serve as a form of protest. BOTH AND, a series of trans images, is at an intersection of feminism, reproductive health, and LGBTQ equality. My initial drawings for the series, a subconscious response to my formerly repressed homosexuality, were made during recovery from a surgery to diagnose endometriosis (I have since had a radical hysterectomy). As a woman and a lesbian, in a culture that presupposes procreation, I feel that my purpose is to make art that inspires tenderness, compassion, and empathy.

Travel continues to be an influence and inspiration for my work— to visit museums, galleries and artists around the world, and also to discover new tools and materials. For the past few years, I have been creating a body of work with pure pigments that I discovered in Pisac, in the Sacred Valley of Peru.

I have work in private collections in New York, Seattle, Napa, San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, Aliso Viejo, Los Angeles, Hawaii, Phoenix, Tucson, Austin, Lima, Shanghai, and Paris.