



“For me art is a life raft, it rescues me from the crippling minutia, bureaucracy and boredom that has become our everyday“



Kathleen Griffin - www.aha-fineart.com

There is a darkness in beauty, a secret that is silenced by perfection. In the presence of this near divine state, we don't ourselves think of the physical casualties it requires. I am fascinated by desire and its traps.

My current work explores how having what you want changes you. It shows white horses, the symbol of freedom and romance changing into everyday objects and materials, domesticated and transformed by the wanting inherent in those objects, hygiene, security and comfort, a creature becoming the traps it built for itself.

These pieces represent a collision of the American ideal and the American dream. The image of wildness and freedom sacrificed to ease and cleanliness. They blend anguish and beauty together, flesh twisting, bodies held in a split second, shapes that tell the story. This work explores loss, transformation and resistance, the moment of passing from one state into another. These creatures awake to themselves, reborn as something new.

"You're beautiful when you are angry " shows a chandelier of white horse legs and red candy, tearing out impotently in sweetness and rage. Matched with these works are drawings from my "Mysteries of Space" series, which match the mathematical notes of astro physicists exploring issues of black holes and space theory. Several of these drawings, the tornadoes, are drawn on the decommissioned "Star Wars Project" and specifically looked at how we would knock the Soviet Missile from the sky. My "Vultures" drawings are from my time in Cambodia, and explore ideas of death and invisibility, and the Asian Vultures which are going extinct.

For me art is a life raft, it rescues me from the crippling minutia, bureaucracy and boredom that has become our everyday world, and allows me to say something real. When we reach our eyes through it and touch, making contact with the uncontrollable wild and irrational beautiful, a world that feels so much more complete. This moment is sacred.

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Artist BIO

Education

MFA » completed in Sculpture at the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

BFA » completed in Experimental Studio at the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, CT

Exhibitions

2016 » You're Beautiful When You're Angry » - Solo Show, AHA Fine Art, NYC, NY »

2015 » O Positive Festival »

2015 » ALL GOOD THINGS » - Group Show, AHA Fine Art, NYC, NY

2014 Bedford Art Festival, Bedford NY

2014 » "The Mysteries of Space » a collaboration between astrophycist Jiri Horak and Kathleen Griffin, Astronominal Institute, Prague & The University of Opava, Czech Republic

2014 » The Butterflies of Memory » Drawing show and lecture, Center for Architecture, NYC, Curated by Rick Bell

2013 » The Butterflies of Memory » Drawing show, Lionheart Gallery, Pound Ridge, NY,

2014 » The Vultures » The Lab of Ornathology, Cornell, drawings based on a collaboration with Biologist Aula Kapatenakos in Cambodia, Ithaca, NY

Exhibitions - I have been included in over 40 group and solo exhibitions including

2011 » Sorry 4 the Wait» AHA Fine Art Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2011 » The Vultures» The Meta House, Phnom Pehn, Cambodia, curated by Nico Mesterharm

2011 » Take Me Home» Acilles/Homberg Fine Art Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2010 » What Remains» Soap Factory, Minneapolis, MN curated by Ben Heywood

2010 » Products of Exchange» curated by Wyatt Nash, Sudhous, Berlin, Germany

2009 » Faculty Show» Binghamton Museum, Binghamton University NY

2009 » Scattered Logic » curated by Wyatt Nash, Texas Firehouse, Queens, NY

2009 » You're Beautiful When You're Angry » Solo Show, Binghamton University, NY

2009 » Faculty Show» Binghamton Museum, Binghamton University NY

2008 » East and West» curated by Wendy Lee, State Gallery, Jingdezhen, China

2008 » Greening the Arts» 3 person sculpture show, Ithaca,NY

2008 » New Works by Kathleen Griffin» curated by Lloyd Purdy, Beard Gallery,Cortland, NY

2008 » Environmentalism» curated by Kathy Kramer, Beard Gallery,Cortland, NY

2007 » Made in New York » curated by B. Spector, Sweinfurth Art Center, Auburn NY

2006 » Out of Birmingham » curated by Brett Levine, Space 301, Mobile AL

2006 » Faculty Exhibition » Dowd Fine Art Gallery, Cortland University, Cortland NY

2006 » Imagination Festival » Birmingham AL

2006 » New Work by K. Griffin and V. Randall» Schedler Minchin Fine Art, Birmingham, AL

2005 » Imagination Festival » Birmingham AL

2004 » Transformation » curated by : Jason Hogue, Rhode Island Foundation, Providence, RI

Awards & Grants

Queens Cultural Council 2010
Commision City of Ithaca Downtown, Sculpture Commision 2009
SOS Grant, New York Foundation for the Arts, 2008
Scholarly Research Grant, SUNY Cortland, 2008
NYSICA Regional Individual Artist Grant 2007
Best in Show,Golden Key Award for Sculpture and Architecture, Moss Rock Festival, 2007
Scholarly Research Grant, SUNY Cortland, 2007
Best of New England (BONE Show) Design Award, 2003
Visiting Artist • I have been a visiting artist at ten different universities including
SUNY Binghamton 2009 & 2008 Visiting Artist Ithaca College 2007
Miami University 2006 Visiting Artist College of Charleston 2006Chapel Hill 2004
Juror for Rhode Island State Council Grants 2004 University of Wisconsin Milwaukee 2004
Lecturer John Michael Kohler Arts Center University of Wisconsin Greenbay 2004
John Michael Kohler Arts Center 2004 Rhode Island School of Design fall 2003

Residencies and Exchanges

Astronomical Institute, Prague Czech Republic
Vulture Research Project, Yula Kapateno, Phnom Pehn, Cambodia
Artist in Residence, San Bao Ceramic Institute
Sloss Furnaces Artist in Residence
Kohler Artist in Residence @ John Michael Kohler Arts & Industry Program
Vermont Studio Residency
Public & Private Collections
City of Ithaca, Ithaca Downtown Partnership, University of Binghamton,
John Michael Kohler Arts Center
State Collection Jungte Zhen, San Bao Ceramic Institute, Providence Library Kohler Company
Rhode Island School of Design Artist Books Collection