
MINE, YOURS, OURS

Monika Meler, Turn Your Back to the Forest, Your Front to Me, Intaglio, Paper-Cut, Collage, Thread, 22 x 30", 2021

In *Mine, Yours, Ours* Monika Meler explores ideas related to the Anthropocene. The series of work suggests that humans can only love that which they touch, build, or are responsible for making. There is clearly a contradiction between what is valuable and what humans value. This contradiction defines the Anthropocene, a geological term for the age of humans, or more specifically the impact that humans have had on the earth especially through global warming, industrialization, and colonization.

Meler explores this contradiction through her process. Using printmaking, papercuts, and collage she incorporates shapes that resemble rocks, pieces of earth, or natural forms and images that were made from domestic objects intended to imitate nature, to examine the root of the problem of “value,” in its many manifestations and forms. Meler is interested in examining how we value the objects in our homes that are meant to mimic or celebrate nature while actual natural environments are left to perish.

Originally from Brodnica, Poland, Monika Meler earned her B.F.A. from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. She continued studies at Purdue University, where she earned an M.A., followed with an M.F.A from the Tyler School of Art, Temple University. While at Tyler, she spent a year studying in Rome, Italy.

Meler completed residencies at the Center for Contemporary Printmaking in Connecticut, the Frans Masereel Center in Belgium, the Cork Printmakers in Ireland and the Women's Studio Workshop in New York. Solo exhibits include Liminal Passages at Longwood College in Virginia, The Distance Between at the Limerick Printmakers Gallery in Ireland and Contain/Retain at the Cocoon Gallery in Kansas City. Currently Monika is Associate Professor at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, IN.

Coding Me Softly



Janna Ahrndt, *MomentOM0rit*, video, 2020

Janna Ahrndt is part of a wave of new media artists rejecting the notion that craft and technology are directly opposed. Her work explores how deconstructing everyday technologies, or even making them for yourself can be used to question larger oppressive systems and create a space for participatory political action. Her activist and social art practice blur the lines between the materiality of craft and the digital realm of new media technologies to create socio-political interventions

Her textile based new media project titled “P@TCH,” is like a Fitbit for your ethical performance, using light and social media to allow the user to track their progress as an advocate for an environmental, ethical stance. Ahrndt will conduct a P@tch workshop that will be free and open to the Wabash Community. P@tch Workshops are built to create a space for creativity and discussion surrounding the conflict between personal and corporate accountability to affect change.

In P@tch workshops participants create their own critical design object that allows them to discuss boundaries that inhibit personal political action that shift from the online space to the physical realm, as well as question the limits of personal and corporate responsibility. Workshop participants will learn the basics of embroidery, conductive thread circuitry, to

get them started making their own self-accountability-tracker that can be synced to their twitter feed.

Janna Ahrndt received her MFA in Electronic and Time-Based Art from Purdue University and currently she is Visiting Assistant Professor of Digital Art at Indiana University. She has presented her research on the use of DIY electronics as a medium for participatory political art at ISEA 2019 in Gwangju South Korea and facilitated workshops for the P@tch project in collaboration with the Science Gallery in Melbourne Australia and the Science Gallery in Dublin Ireland.



Examples of P@tch Workshop Creations to track CO2 use.