

LALENA FISHER

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ARTIST STATEMENT

My work mashes up children's animation, classic iconography, and my grandmother's quilts. In my painting, rigidly-stylized characters move in acrylic paint over nostalgic fabric patterns and tangled stitching—initiating a tension that vibrates between order and disorder. In my sculpture, conflicting elements of cultural symbolism clump together to crystallize, and thumb my nose at, macho culture.

With both, I prod at dividing lines between eras of time, states of matter, internal and external realities, genders, dimensions...pushing the inherent characteristics of familiar materials or forms until they nearly morph into another state.

Fabric and stitching allow me to channel my grandmother, as well as the anger she carried with her at the gender roles that trapped her. Stitches also recall the piecing together of flesh after surgery, a constant sight in a family of women cursed with hereditary cancers. So my seams burst seductively with regret, loss, and alternate realities. Against this backdrop, childlike characters channel an honesty and vulnerability.

I engage in a struggle to impose sense and unity upon disparate raw elements with assertive paint marks, forceful needle piercings, and flamboyant colors...while still accepting and respecting that chaos has a bossy beauty of its own.