

NOELLE LORRAINE WILLIAMS
Artist Statement | American Alienation
2010

I create 21st century saints.

Their names are Condoleezza, Michelle and the Forsaken People and they embody the crisis of contemporary American emotional identity – our interiority.

As Americans, who are we? What are we made of? What are our greatest fears?

I bear witness to human fear. My work reveals a fantastical theatre of American emotional identity.

The figures I create embody the psychic alienation of living in crisis - between multiple time periods, locations, identities, communities and realities. They stand alone or together; hungry to connect or even destroy one and another.

These beings are circus like.

They all partake in ritualized actions of betrayal and salvation between themselves, the ancestors and contemporary time - community. This unresolved travel between history, the present and the future is the crisis of American identity, alienation.

By unleashing this pandemonium of conflict, I bear witness to the crisis of fear, vulnerability and the ritual that embraces them – this American Alienation.

Technical Statement

I build social interventionist sculptures that bear witness to our contemporary fears. Similar to traditional spiritual objects they are meant to convey a period of transformation such as salvation, epiphany, despair or desire. My sculpture practice includes traditional and contemporary techniques such as woodwork, bead embroidery, sewing and painting. Ranging

from sewing and beading clothing, building armatures and deconstructing west and central African masks and sculptures made for international tourist trade I integrate what is contemporary with what is historical. Elaborating on forms that are sacred – I interpret how we represent our inner lives. My art practice re-imagines a contemporary ritualistic/ceremonial object utilizing cultural symbols and beliefs from my own culture and others that embody what is sacred, desired and feared.