



Flag Watercolor on paper 25" x 33"

Monika Malewska

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My works employ the conventions of the historical still-life genre in relation to contemporary consumer culture in America. My use of meat, dolls, toys, and corporate icons bridges notions of kitsch and high art by alluding to the theme of *Vanitas* in seventeenth-century Dutch still-life paintings.

Using photographs and more recently, digitally manipulated prints, as a starting point for my paintings and works on paper, I manipulate the representation of objects to deconstruct the aesthetics of commercial ads and the politics of a world constituted by material desire. At first glance, my compositions are seductively colorful and bright. Closer inspection, however, reveals elements of unease and decay. Behind each of these comical and absurd compositions is a layer of dark humor, a commentary on the complex relationship between the

politics of the body, commercialism, and cultures of consumption.

My most recent series of paintings consists of large scale watercolors depicting various wreath-like arrangements made of bacon. Most of them are symmetrical and somewhat reminiscent of the Rorschach ink blot test. I enjoy combining the formal elegance of design with the recognizable banality of bacon, along with the surreal and absurd accompaniment of other decorative elements such as flowers, butterflies, and fruits. The arrangements are playful and whimsical in a rococo fashion but also grotesque. In my not-so-still still-lives, I am hoping to draw subtle parallels between the decadence and frivolity evident in certain historical genres and our contemporary culture.



Bacon Wreath No. 2 Watercolor on paper 24" x 42"



Bacon Wreath No. 4 Watercolor on paper 30" x 50"



Bacon and Humming Birds Watercolor 13" x 19"

Bacon, Roses and Humming Birds Watercolor 12" x 17"





Humming Birds and Bacon, Roses Design Oil on board 30" x 30"

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