

Artist Statement

I use old stuff to make new art about issues that just won't go away.

At first glance, it may seem that my work is obsessed with the past. While it's true I often use aged materials, it's not to glorify the past but to emphasize history's continued influence over the present. Everything has a backstory, much of it connected to race. I make these implied narratives tangible, using the mediums of collage, assemblage sculpture, and altered books.

Issues of identity, violence, and sacrifice are the most compelling to me as an artist. My collages layer translucent images over opaque scenes to illustrate how race shapes how we live. Assemblage sculptures combine 2D and 3D elements to flesh out flattened narratives attached to the Black body. Niches and tiny containers in my altered books compel the viewer to adjust focus onto the individual realities hidden in our shared myths.

We are connected, like it or not. My goals are to reveal where these intersections have limited the potential of marginalized people, and to honor their triumphs. I'm well aware I can't compel a more privileged viewer to change their worldview. I just hope I can make it more difficult to un-see what needs to be changed.

Lisa Myers Bulmash

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