

Miki Baird
remnants and residue



HAW CONTEMPORARY
May 19 - June 24, 2017
Opening Reception - Friday, May 19, 6 - 9 PM

Haw Contemporary is pleased to host *remnants and residue*, Miki Baird's second solo exhibition with the gallery.

STATEMENT

remnants and residue has grown from a body of work that began five plus years ago when I started collecting unsolicited mail from a single source.

Within my practice of art making my work is based on a foundation of collection, deconstruction, and re-organization of subject matter often considered to be pedestrian. Candid photography plays a large part as a modification method that I use to catch less notable characteristics from the original material. Together these procedures lead me through incremental repetitions of imagery, an altered mass of visual information. They are best described as aggregates of color, texture, pattern and surface topography, anthologies or idiosyncratic portraits that document another view of the subject.

Specifically, over the past five years I have collected, deconstructed and examined many times over the remains of my parent's junk mail. I have been stockpiling, shredding, photographing, printing and cutting unsolicited paper mail addressed to my father since 2012. After his death I chose to continue gathering the same from my mother. As unwitting collaborators each parent became a primary supplier of volume material, representatives of a demographic, and like errant threads they leave a trace undercurrent in the pattern of this ongoing work. Deconstructed, I am working with re-contextualized information, a curiously enigmatic endowment of broken down material and as a

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result over time find myself in a peculiarly interesting place---between an appreciably maligned media and the transformation of material identity. At this point in time it is the transition, the transformation of material identity that I find worthy of continued examination and the inspiration for *remnants and residue*.

This body of work represents a further shift from textual excerpts of original readable content to an emphasis on color, pattern, surface and exploratory construction methods. Bending the definition of the word recycled, *remnants and residue* re-uses and reshapes visual content. The result is an array of material iterations joined together by sequentially broken down material making use of the core processes of my practice.

Over the past decade and a half I have become increasingly aware of characteristics in my work that seem to parallel an important part of my personal history. In particular, I find that my use of repetitive reductively modified materials bear a relationship to a long line of familial fabric handlers and stitchers. As my own interest in methods of organization, breakdown and reconstruction increases I am also especially interested in reaching back for a look at techniques utilized by my grandmothers, their mothers and their communities when making rugs, quilts, blankets and clothing assembled from used garments and discarded fabrics. As a child I often helped tear, cut and organize old fabric into strips and squares for my grandmothers and aunts. Borrowing from those experiences, acknowledging the importance of the past and aware that this body of work is in a plausible stage of transition *remnants and residue* is an alternative interpretation of common pedestrian methods of making and my own reverential, indebted nod to the skillful innovative women who preceded me.

BIO

Miki Baird's work has been shown in solo and group shows nationally and internationally including the touring exhibition ***State of the Art: American Art Now***, organized by Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art with an upcoming exhibition at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville, TN on May 26, 2017 and preceded by an opening at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, February 2016. Other recent solo and group exhibitions in 2016 and 2015 include ***Kindred Virtuosities*** at the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, ***25th International Exhibition of Fibre Art: Invito A Tavola*** in Como, Italy, Paris and Venice and ***You People*** at Haw Contemporary, Kansas City, MO. In 2014 her work appeared in ***read this...part two*** at Studios Inc, ***State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now*** at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, ***The Center is a Moving Target*** at Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art Crossroads, ***9*** at Haw Contemporary, ***sum of us*** in Omaha, NE at the Bemis Contemporary Art Center, ***Mummies Are Sitting Ducks*** in Lawrence, KS and in 2013 her work was featured in ***read this*** at Haw Contemporary.

Past exhibitions were Studios Inc (2012-2013), ***National Women in the Arts 2012 Biennial Kansas City*** at UMKC (2012), Eric Fischl's ***America: Now and Here*** (2011), ***Familiar: Portraits of Proximity*** at Epstein Gallery (2010-2011) and in the ***Flat File Collection***, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (2009-2012).

Miki Baird, a native of Kansas has lived and worked as an artist in the Kansas City area since 1987. She holds a BFA and MFA from the University of Kansas then taught for a decade in the Sculpture and Interdisciplinary Arts Departments at the Kansas City Art Institute. Her work is held in museum, corporate and private collections. She is represented by Haw Contemporary in Kansas City, Missouri.

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