

ARTIST STATEMENT

For me, images from the popular culture of my childhood, such as Bugs and Elmer continue to be powerful. As my my first encounter with visual representation of the figure, I learned to draw by copying their faces and bodies, eventually adding new features. New characters joined the original cast. I identified with the figures, they populated real and imagined spaces. These drawings were a powerful tool to explain and/or transform reality.

Today my drawing/painting uses a larger vocabulary of histories, constructions, strategies etc. But I return to the language of coloring books and comics as a blueprint and starting point for my work.

I transform these childhood images by erasure, layering, painting out. The figure and the ground struggle to relate and are influenced by each other's force. The evidence of the hand drives both the tension and resolution of the image. The past is reimagined to serve present needs. The transformed childhood images remain powerful to explain reality.