

EXHIBITION CATALOG



THIS IS US

KATRINA J. MURRAY

THIS IS US

This Is Us is Katrina J. Murray's exploration of American civil liberties and internalized cultural biases. Through the use of ceramic, collage, and found objects, as well as humor and confrontation, she invites us to reflect on how we, individually and as a society, weigh our political views on the issues that divide our country – such as gun laws, women's reproductive freedom, and LGBTQ and racial equality – against the greater human consequences. Murray's experiences with bias, both personally-held as well as observed, have shaped her artistic investigation of the differences and similarities between us. "I'm presenting objects and collages that can be taken with dual meaning in the hopes that someone who has the opposite view will perceive the other's meaning or understanding," she says. From the first exhibit Murray donated part of the proceeds from sales to two Indianapolis nonprofit organizations created by mothers against gun violence: Purpose 4 My Pain and Warriors 4 Peace.

Lindsey Lord
Director, Gallery 924

PEOPLE I'D LIKE TO MEET, 2020-2022, Ceramic (Cover)

As Installed 4 ft. w x 5 ft. h

CATCH & RELEASE, 2022, Ceramic, Nylon Rope, Wire, Steel 2 ft. w x 6 ft. h

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...





LEGAL PURCHASE, 2022, *Vintage scale, ceramic*

(Top) 68,000 — The number of guns recovered from crime scenes in 2020 (nation wide) that had been purchased less than seven months earlier.

Guns sold in 2020 were more likely to show up at crime scenes within a year than in any previous period, according to “time-to-crime” figures published by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It’s some of the first evidence to suggest that the surge of gun purchases in 2020 is connected to rising gun violence. [The Trace]

PENNIES ON THE DOLLAR, 2022, *Vintage scale, ceramic*

(Bottom Left) Compared to males in the work force white women earn 83¢ on the dollar, Black women earn 62¢, and Latina women earn 57¢. [MSNBC, Equal Pay Day, March 15, 2022]

ARE WE THE ONE’S THAT CHOOSE?, 2022, *Vintage scale, ceramic*

(Bottom Right)



TRADE OFF, 2021, *Vintage scale, ceramic*

Gun violence is now the leading cause of death for all children and teens ages 1 - 19 (Nationwide). Car crashes were the previous leading cause. [childrensdefense.org] [PBS]



GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS, 2021 - 2022, Ceramic

(Right) Garden of Earthly Delights as seen in gallery

(Top) The Have and The Have Nots

(Bottom) Details from the Garden of Earthly Delights







PROFILING, 2021 - 2022, Ceramic, paper, 12 ft. w x 4 ft. h

Look past profiling to see the beauty and diversity in humanity.
(Left) (detail) Ceramic head on paper - shown at actual Size: 3.5"



BEFORE. WE BORROWED THE EARTH FROM OUR CHILDREN,
2021 - 2022, Ceramic, paper, 11 in. x 16 in. (Left)



AFTER. WE BORROWED THE EARTH FROM OUR CHILDREN,
2021 - 2022, Ceramic, paper 11 in. x 16 in. (Right)



LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS,
2021 - 2022, Ceramic, vinyl, mirror, wood, 7 ft. w x 3 ft. h



ALL TOGETHER, 2017, Paper, 20 in. w x 23 in. h

Made while in recovery from a mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI). In the making of this piece, and others like it, the artist began relearning and unlearning. The black oval shapes represent voids in memory.

IMPLICIT BIAS, 2022, Ceramic, vinyl, 6 ft. w x 8 ft. h, (installation view)

Our brains take mental shortcuts. These shortcuts are biases. The black ceramic objects are called voids, and embody biases. This installation is a 3D version of the 2D piece above.



ARTIST BIO

Educated at Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis Indiana, Katrina Murray graduated with a major in painting a minor in art history and studied for a time in Italy.

Murray lived for over three years in Germany (Deutschland) during the mid 80s. While there, fallout from the Chernobyl atomic reactor meltdown blaze in 1986 drifted into West Germany where she lived. In that time too, demonstrations against the “American occupation” took place during the birth of her youngest daughter, forcing the birth to take place in a German hospital rather than in a hospital on a military base where her, then, husband was stationed. Murray found herself in a hospital room with two other mothers. All three spoke different languages, but had the same needs. This poignant experience made a lasting impression on her.



Katrina J. Murray

Murray uses her work to investigate the differences and similarities between us. A native of the historic arts area of Brown County, Indiana, Murray now lives and works in Indianapolis, IN.

Murray began this work after her son was killed in the Iraq war by an IED in 2005. Murray went back to college (Herron School of Art and Design) to use art to heal emotionally. Learning a new way to live with her pain.

10 years later, Murray experienced a mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI) sustained in a car accident. To recover, she turned to art again. This time to rewire her brain to function normally, as well as to relearn and unlearn.

Murray is a cross disciplinary, conceptual based artist with a deep interest in the emotional and physical human condition. She explores ideas around human nature, power, and vulnerability, focusing primarily on the way we frame our sense of self regarding current cultural discourse.

Murray’s work draws from personal experience to help us consider current moments.

SELECTED EXHIBITS & EXPERIENCE

- 2022 This is us, Solo Show, Gallery 924, Indianapolis, IN
- 2022 Ann Harris, Minds I Project Drawing project and exhibition, Basil Gallery - Herron School of Art & Design, Indianapolis, IN
- 2021 Sum Of Unity, Curated By Samuel Levi Jones, Eleanor Prest Reese Gallery - Herron School of Art & Design, Indianapolis, IN
- 2020 Pandemic Research Interactive Exhibit (Ceramic Portraits) (Solo show), Schwitzer Gallery, (CCIC), Indianapolis, IN
- 2016 View from Within, Mark Borghi Fine Art/Keyes Art Consulting, New York, NY
- 2016 Asphaltum (Artist & Curator), Schwitzer Gallery, (CCIC), Indianapolis, IN
- 2015 Performance art collaboration, Music & Mark Making, Independent Music + Art Festival (IMAF), Indianapolis, IN
- 2015 Hoosier Salon vs. iMOCA, Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, Indianapolis, IN
- 2016 & 2014 Art from the Heartland, Biennial, Indianapolis Art Center, Jurors: Mindy Taylor Ross and Sarah Urist Green, Indianapolis, IN
- 2016 Rock, Paper, Hammer (2 person show), Schwitzer Gallery, (CCIC), Indianapolis, IN
- 2012-to 2015 Painting Instructor, Herron School of Art & Design's Creative Learning Program, Indianapolis, IN
- 2014 Speaker, SOFAexpo for Codaworx, Topic: IU Health Neuroscience Public Art Installation, Chicago, IL 2011
- 2011 Artist Assistant, Expedition Bogota-Indianapolis, Danielle Riede and Alberto Baraya, Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art (iMOCA)
- 2011 Attended the Venice Biennial, Venice, Italy

COLLECTIONS OF NOTE

2017 Indiana Humanities / Meredith Nicholson House, Indianapolis, IN

2013 Community North Cardiovascular Hospital, Collaborative public art, Indianapolis, IN

2012 IU Health Neuroscience building, Public art Sculpture, Indianapolis, IN

2011 100th addition to the Memorial T.C. Steel Art Collection, Eskinazi Health, Indianapolis, IN

SELECTED AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2020-21 Creative Renewal Arts Fellow of the Arts Council of Indianapolis, IN
- 2017 Award of Excellence - 119th Annual Exhibition by Richmond and Area Artists, Richmond Art Museum, Richmond, IN
- 2011 International Experience Scholarship, Study abroad, Italy



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Shannon Linker, former Director of Artist Services and Gallery 924, for selecting Katrina for a solo exhibit.

Tim Meyers for providing design, photography, and thoughtful input to the creation of this body of work.

CONTACT THE ARTIST

EMAIL

KatrinaJ.Murray@gmail.com

PHONE

317-440-2660



WEBSITE

KatrinaJMurray.com



INSTAGRAM

[@KatrinaJMurray](https://www.instagram.com/KatrinaJMurray)