



**VALERIE POWELL**

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**THANK YOU for your interest in my work. Consider yourself hugged!**

**@valerieshrinkydinks**

Follow me as I make stuff, eat cheese, garden, travel & play with my dog, Olive.

**ARTIST STATEMENT**

My art making practice is centered around shrinky-dinks\* {a sort of magical shrinkable plastic material} which has the ability to evolve from a thin two dimensional sheet of plastic into a three dimensional object that takes up space once heat is introduced. This plastic material is put through intense stress; it contorts, shrinks, melts and folds into itself, only then to rebound and emerge as something new and stronger...I find this to be any exciting metaphor for the human condition. This material allows me to expand the boundaries of expected form and space, while exploring the intersection between drawing and sculpture. My interest in the smallness and shrinking of memory has recently heightened in my work. Lately I have been thinking about what it means to really be familiar with something, someone or some place. I continue to use shrinkable plastic to investigate conceptual ideas about time and space; specifically, complex issues of recovery and how time tends to heal, transform, and redefine the human spirit.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Valerie Powell grew up moving from one side of the country to the other, inspired by the idea of adventure, play and discovery. She earned her MFA from Washington State University and a MA & BFA from Stephen F. Austin State University. In the studio, she is most concerned with the intersection between drawing and sculpture as well as the magical possibilities of creating art with shrinkable plastic. Her work has been widely exhibited across the US & abroad, at venues that include: Blackfish Gallery {Portland, OR}; The Ogden Museum {New Orleans, LA}; Gallery 50 {Toronto, Canada}; The Can Serrat International Art Center {El Bruc, Spain} and La Porte Peinte Centre pour les Arts {Noyers sur Serein, France}. Valerie currently resides in Huntsville, Texas where she has serious fun teaching & coordinating the WASH {Workshop in Art Studio + History} foundations program at Sam Houston State University. Valerie is deeply invested in contemporary scholarship surrounding foundations pedagogy & was recently elected President of FATE [Foundations in Art: Theory and Education].

**LISTEN** to me interview crazy awesome artists/educators on the monthly FATE podcast, Positive Space, available on iTunes.

\*Shrinky-dinks are a nifty form of shrinkable plastic, invented by a woman {Betty} in Wisconsin, during the 1960's. The material can be drawn on, cut, painted & then briefly cooked in the oven or melted by using a heat gun. This will produce a thicker form that is 1/3 it's original size. Crazy fun. I once took a road trip to Wisconsin to fill my truck with Shrinky-dinks, to meet Betty & to view the Shrinky-dink Museum {which is rather small}