

Alison Pack Bova

## Statement

My work is driven by my love of forming and fabrication techniques and attention to small details akin to jewelry making. Color on metal is an essential part of my process as it breathes life into my work. It's the icing on the cake. Creating a narrative referencing dark humor, sexuality, and the tender sweetness of naivete and innocence allows me to understand and come to terms with my own girlhood fantasies and young adult experiences. Hyper-feminine imagery referencing candy and sweets such as hearts, flowers and bows are the "canvas" on which to render my experience with various emotional states while honoring my love of all things feminine. They visually symbolize my own sexuality and sexual experiences while subtly exploring eroticism. In turn, this creates a continuous dialogue between me and metal. Due to the often-kitsch nature of my imagery, it is my goal to create works that are as beautifully and meticulously crafted as possible to elevate both form and meaning.

My process begins with exploring the basic idea of a form related to a function. It might be a small sculpture, teapot, or piece of jewelry. I start by making paper models. Once I am satisfied with the model, I begin creating it out of metal. I use traditional metalsmithing techniques such as forming, fabrication, the lost wax casting process, and enameling. The unexpected twists and turns of the process continuously teach and guide me towards a finished piece. This is essential for me to create technically complex and sophisticated pieces.

As the work develops, I allow the metal to speak to me, so I can convey the personality of the piece through careful color selection and surface treatment. For 25 years, I have been using a combination of painting techniques with acrylic paints on the copper surfaces and in recent years I use vitreous enamel combined with those painting processes for my wearable pieces.