

ARTIST STATEMENT

My digital print works attempt to reflect sentiments of the real, messy human condition. I find myself thirsty for real experiences in the deep ocean of controlled online public facades. I use the sensuous material of the virtual realm to speak back into the void.

Heal.

This series was commissioned by the city for the project "Microcosm". As the selected artist for Ward 8, I used the pathways of CentrepoinTE Park to explore a mental pathway of conflict resolution. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, a long list of new and old conflicts have taken center stage in our everyday psyche. Being stuck at home has made conflict inescapable, be it personal or shared. Many community members walk the pathways of parks as a break, and as a method for processing thoughts and feelings. This act of co-ambulation is key to seeking resolution and healing in our community at both the individual and collective level. Walking is meditative, and visiting a community space can reaffirm our connectedness.

I chose to create three stations within CentrepoinTE Park to feature a 24"x36" poster illustrating a statement relevant to the healing process. Each was stationed around the loop to highlight that they do not run in any particular sequence and that viewing them can be repeated multiple times. My hope was that community members sit with these statements and meditate on their personal meaning.

Each poster depicts a statement erected as a large monument on a journey across an expansive internal geography. Water floods each landscape, sitting quiet and deep while the landscape rises up to meet us. The horizon is always visible, hinting that the journey forward continues.

WEAKNESS

Continuing my work on isolation, WEAKNESS is a series of text works that stand in opposition to the colourful and alluring marketing slogans found online. Our increased need for virtual connection has necessitated a renewed ignorance of the dangers of social media. The free labour we gave companies like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook has multiplied as we desperately "like" and "retweet" as a way to feel connected to anyone and anything.

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We have forgotten that social media is marketing in the disguise of free life advice, therapy, beauty routines, exercise regimens, social activism, and cute animals. One post after another tells us how to better manage our time, fix our trauma, and find our true purpose so that we can be the most productive version of ourselves and still somehow be happy. And if you aren't happy yet, there are posts about being unhappy that find a way to sell you something.

God forbid you are a sad, messy, stupid, ugly, quiet, weak, unambitious pushover who spends your time questioning yourself. Of course, all of us are these things. Humans hold a multitude within us, and this is something these slogans will never capture. WEAKNESS playfully spells out our imperfections and celebrates them using the visual language of the immaculate digital realm.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Marianne Burlew is an installation artist whose work focuses on themes of identity via multi-sensory media such as video and sculpture. She received her MFA from the University of Waterloo in 2016. There she was able to complete internships with artists Saskia Olde Wolbers and Anne Hardy in London (UK) through the Keith and Win Shantz scholarship. Prior to her return to school, Burlew participated as an artist-in-residence in the textile studio at the Harbourfront Centre for two years. Burlew earned her BFA from York University. She has exhibited around southern Ontario in such galleries as the Idea Exchange, Red Head Gallery, the Harbourfront Centre, the Gladstone Hotel, Craft Ontario Gallery, and the Mississauga Living Arts Centre. Her work is part of private collections as well as the City of Ottawa art collection and the Fibre Art Collection at Cambridge Art Galleries.

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CV

EDUCATION

- 2016 MFA, Visual Art, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON
Thesis: "Twinning: an exhibition of video and sculpture", committee: David Blatherwick & Jane Tingley
- 2016 Fundamentals of University Teaching Certificate, University of Waterloo, ON
- 2012 Independent Study Course, supervisor Professor Michael Davey, York University, Toronto, ON
- 2011 BFA Honours, Studio Art, York University, Toronto, ON

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Twinning*, Preston Gallery, Cambridge Art Galleries, Cambridge, ON
- 2016 *Twinning*, University of Waterloo Art Gallery, Waterloo, ON

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Soft Bodies*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2021 *One Year Later*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2020 *Microcosm/Microcosme*, Public Art Ottawa commission, Ward 8, CentrepoinTE Park, Ottawa, ON
- 2020 *Alternative Process*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2019 *Licensed to Show Part 2*, Design at Riverside, Cambridge Art Galleries, Cambridge, ON
- 2018 26th Anniversary Open Studio, Enriched Bread Artists, Ottawa, ON
- 2018 *Installation Zone*, The Artist Project, Toronto, The Better Living Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2017 *The Whole Shebang*, Queen's Square Gallery, Cambridge Art Galleries, Cambridge, ON
- 2017 *Longevity*, 2017 Additions to the City of Ottawa Art Collection, City Hall Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2017 25th Anniversary Open Studio, Enriched Bread Artists, Ottawa, ON
- 2017 *Cut the Cake – Celebrate!*, Enriched Bread Artists, Ottawa, ON
- 2016 *inProgress*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2016 *Comme un chien dans un jeu de quills*, Regart Centre D'Artistes en Art Actuel, Levis, QC

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- 2016 *Contemporary Textile Collection: 1*, Queen's Square Gallery, Cambridge Art Galleries, Cambridge, ON
- 2015 *MFA Preview*, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON
- 2015 *Excavations*, The Artery, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON
- 2015 *Select Works*, Design at Riverside Gallery, Cambridge Art Galleries, Cambridge, ON
- 2014 *Fibreworks 2014*, Queen's Square Gallery, Cambridge Art Galleries, Cambridge, ON
- 2014 *The Red and The Black*, World of Threads Festival, The Gallery at Queen Elizabeth Park Community & Cultural Centre, Oakville, ON
- 2014 *Materialize*, Craft Ontario Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2014 *Objectified Matter*, Atelier "Ascenseur", Artscape Youngplace, Toronto, ON
- 2014 *Textile Studio Vitrine*, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2014 *Hard Twist 8: This is Personal*, Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, ON
- 2013 *13*, Ontario Craft Council Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2013 *International Textiles Show*, The Art Factory, Paterson, NJ, USA
- 2013 *Wonderscape*, Craft Corridor, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2013 Summer Emerging Artist Exhibit, Gallery 1313, Toronto, ON
- 2013 *Today, From Yesterday and Tomorrow*, Gallery 918 Toronto, ON
- 2013 *Fabricated: An Exhibition of Wearable Art*, Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA, USA
- 2012 *Darn It!*, The Living Arts Centre, Mississauga, ON
- 2012 *Where Were You When Amy Winehouse Died?*, World of Threads Festival, gallerywest, Toronto, ON
- 2012 *Hard Twist 7: Touch Me, Feel Me*, Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, ON

PERFORMANCES OF "SKIN"

- 2013 *Today, From Yesterday and Tomorrow*, Gallery 918 Toronto, ON
- 2012 *Where Were You When Amy Winehouse Died?*, World of Threads Festival, gallerywest, Toronto, ON
- 2012 STRUTT Wearable Art Show, Niagara Artists Centre, St. Catharines, ON
- 2012 *Textile Studio*, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, ON

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2014 *Don't Touch Me*, Redhead Gallery, 401 Richmond, Toronto, ON

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ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- 2016 Comme un chien dans un jeu de quills, Collaborative residency with Jacques Samson, Regart Centre D'Artistes en Art Actuel, Levis QC
- 2012-14 Artist-in-Residence, Textile Studio, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2011 Odette Sculpture Residency, York University, Toronto, ON

COLLECTIONS

- 2017 "Skin: Bedroom" 2012, digital print. City of Ottawa Art Collection.
- 2014 "Studies in Crochet", 2014, mixed media. Cambridge Art Galleries Textile Collection

AWARDS + GRANTS

- 2015 Shantz Internship Scholarship with Saskia Olde Wolbers, Univeristy of Waterloo
- 2015 Graduate Experience Award, Winter 2015 semester, University of Waterloo
- 2014 Graduate Experience Award, Fall 2014 semester, University of Waterloo
- 2014 OAC Exhibition Grant for Don't Touch, Redhead Gallery, 401 Richmond, Toronto, ON
- 2012 Artist-in-Residence Scholarship, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2011 Judith Schwarz Purchase Award, York Univeristy Visual Arts Open House
- 2011 BMO First! Art Award Application Nomination, York University Visual Arts Open House
- 2010 Synesthesia, Juried Art Show at Propeller Gallery, York University Visual Arts Open House

PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 "Embodiment and Reverie in Marianne Burlew's Twinning," by Natalie Hunter, Curatorial Essay for "Twinning" at Preston Gallery, Cambridge Art Galleries, Cambridge, ON
- 2016 "Two different approaches to experience," by Kurt Watkins, Waterloo Region Record
- 2010 Featured art in Echolocation 10 (September 2010). Toronto: Coach House Press.

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