

ARTIST STATEMENT

As an intersectional feminist artist, my work has always focused on pushing back against shame. Specifically, the shame surrounding the body. Our culture uses guilt, embarrassment, exclusivity and insecurity as ways to make womxn smaller, quieter and isolated. When we feel alone, we can't fight back against laws and a government that seeks to control our bodies.

I look at and research folklore, religion, movies, popular culture, erotic art and literature to find examples of women that are loud. When a body is too strange, too sexual, not functioning the way it "should", too beautiful, too powerful-especially when that body presents itself as feminine-it was/is often labeled monstrous. Witches, sirens, fairies, harpies, banshees, monsters are all labels that have been attached to these people. This manipulation is seen clearly in the way contemporary religions took older goddess figures and transformed them. When they were not absorbed and converted into virgins (The Virgin of Guadalupe), they were demonized and portrayed as gateways to evil (Lilith).

My work creates worlds, objects, stories about and for powerful, embodied monsters to inhabit. They present alternative realities and dreamscapes for us to consider.

SHED

This current body of work started when I saw a Nan Goldin piece, "Siobhan in the shower". It is a photo from 1991 that she took of her friend and lover. In it, Siobhan has her arms raised, bare breasted after a shower. She looks powerful, gentle and without shame. Her gesture and presence made me think of the images of the Minoan Snake Goddess. A small figure, bare breasted with arms raised overhead holding two wrangling snakes. She has always been a favorite of mine, the delicate, coiling power she possessed. I wanted to create a new character that embodied the energy present in both of these representations of women. The character that emerged is a sort of sea serpent woman.

The work in "Shed" represents a shift in my created world. This body of work is focused on pleasure as a mode of resistance. Radical self-acceptance, sensual movement and self-care are all present and add a layer of healing to the created universe these characters exist in.



Peel & Sigh, cel animation, 1:43, 2023

Link to video: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/815893957>



Shed, colored pencil on paper, 24" x 34", 2023



Pink Ferdinand, colored pencil on paper, 25.5" x 35.5", 2023



Bayou Witches, acrylic on paper, 60" x 48", 2023