

KELLY O'CONNOR

ARTIST STATEMENT

I begin my collage process by collecting images of saccharine America from fairy tales, musicals and fashion magazines. My work addresses society's obsession with image and what it can reveal about us individually and as a whole. By manipulating seemingly innocent subject matter into slightly ominous renderings reveals subliminal messages of the author and the psyche of society. The resulting collage images are constructed of candied colored felt, thread, and fabric.

Society forms ideals as children, which leads to expectations as adults. In turn, adult experiences and fantasies are disguised by the innocence that these images imply. I try to demystify the idealism in these characters without disparaging my love for them. My intent is for viewers to feel like they are on the outside witnessing an unsettling scene.

By manipulating these characters and subject matter I can reveal something deeper about their creator and the audience. Much of my work is trying to create a false sense of joy in synthetic serotonin driven society.