

Katie Pell
Artist statement

I have decided to make work that celebrates a paradigm of love. After many years of enjoying life as a storyteller and drawer, I am turning these skills towards creating a new ideal. It is with sadness and frustration that I reflect my culture's and community's glib celebration of aggression, bravado, cynicism and self-promotion. As attractive as it is to join in a Dorothy Parker style battle of intellects or to party like a nihilist, I feel an urgency to introduce generosity and communion into my life's work. I want to be part of the transformation of popular culture; embrace the weak, expose a maudlin dream, or comfort the soft and the lonely. It is this transformation of popular culture that can promote sharing, intercultural harmony, and, ultimately, create a compassionate and nurturing nation.

My projects are products of stories I have made up. A comic book narrating the story of several retail workers became the impetus for "Bitchen" a series of work I presented at Artpace in November 2006. Previously, my paintings have included illustrations of imaginary Mick Jagger self help groupies, allegories of interracial politics, and tales of Dewey Beach Delaware in the seventies (somewhat factual).

The successful bringing together of the car and art communities in "Bitchen" was a revelation for me. To embrace a culture that arguably promotes misogyny and unite it with a community that supports a system of elitism sparked an unexpected relationship that continues to permeate other artist's projects and businesses in San Antonio. Artpace collaborated with Get It Up Productions on the following residency and both artist clans have crossed paths to their mutual benefit creating a new found empathy for their respective life missions. The power of love! Its good for all of us! Lets make more of it!

Currently I am creating illustrations of a Neutral Milk Hotel song. This band switches between images of war and images of domestic abuse within its songs; offering a powerful warning against the smallest acts of cruelty. The third strand to the song's content is a strong assumption of the truth of metaphysical transformation. I find the lyrics both inspirational and full of admonition. I want to be a strong citizen of love, and ask that you join me in our transformation of culture, and ultimately the human predicament. Thank You.