

Debbie Kupinsky- Artist Statement

Working with the figure allows me to play out narratives within my work and collaborate with the familiar. The themes I find myself replaying are ones that are archetypal and have been recurring for thousands of years in sculpture, mythology and fairy tales. I often explore the concepts of duality, struggle and the narrative of the stranger, but ultimately I am interested in how we reconcile the beauty and innocence in the world with the inevitable loss of innocence. I am particularly drawn to the world of fairy tales where innocence is often stalked by an undercurrent of violence and subject matter can contrast with imagery. By taking benign figurines or figures and creating heads that are unsettling, I am pitting the ideal of the sentimental object against the grotesque, so that the viewer must think about the objects on a deeper level. My work is both familiar and strange as it echoes the everyday world while remaking it in an unexpected way. I am especially drawn to what I call 'objects of innocence' like thimbles, teacups, small cast animals, and pill boxes that can be reinterpreted as a symbolic for the loss of innocence. As an artist it makes sense to me to work with existing material culture, especially objects that suggest fragility, sentimentality and nostalgia. When hunting for objects to either cast or inspire me I am struck by the endless parade of beautiful objects cast aside after death and as they sit anonymously in some shop. I get the feeling that they meant something to someone once and will mean something again.