

kasia kay art projects gallery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sugarcraft

Curated by Wynter Whiteside

June 27-August 9, 2008

Opening Reception June 27, 6-9 pm

kasia kay art projects gallery

1044 W Fulton Market St., Chicago

P. 312-492-8828



Exhibiting Artists: Brandy Agnew, Nikki Renee Anderson, Thomas Brouillette, Kris Chau, Sally Curcio, Christine Marie Davis, Stephanie Divencenzo, Bee Harris, James Jaxxa, Jay Krevens, My Paper Crane, Naoshi, Matt Neff, Kristin Pavelka, Connie Richards, Kathy Santiago of Everlasting Cakes, Mark Seaman of Marked for Dessert, Lindsey Sedlar, DeAnna Skedal, Amy Stevens, Isadora Stowe, Tilly Strauss, Jen Thomas, Colleen Toledano, Twinkie Chan!, Mirek Vlas, Wynter Whiteside

Miniature and small artworks by:

Lindsey Ashpole *Edababe, Kandi Boda, Chrissy Brown, Polly Conway, *Pollyannacowgirl, Megumi Cummings of Sweet Honey Complex, Itzel Garza *Mcdoofus, Christine Green *Minimaker, April Hiraki-Morris *Pukashell, Mio Ishida *Miomio, Briana Moore *Nest, Diane Paone, Chiara Puppo *Aoisart, Elizabeth Raine of Eat Me Not, Sonicim, Jennifer Sternhagen *KungFuCowgirl, Alison Tennant, Joan Burge Wallick *CrashcanStudio, Emily-Kitturah Westenhouer, Tracy Yip *Meowgu Ong Xiao Yun

CHICAGO, IL: Since childhood, sugar has tantalized our senses of sight, smell and taste, offering a delicious form of comfort. Usually just empty calories, in *Sugarcraft* the sweet treat flavors a light yet substantive exploration of creation and consumption, whipped up by curator Wynter Whiteside and a large, diverse selection of artists from around the globe.

As Whiteside explains, "This exhibit is designed to playfully break boundaries, and to foster a dramatic interaction between artist, audience and the works themselves."



1044 West Fulton Market Street, Chicago, IL 60607, p/f 312 492 8828, www.kasiakayartprojects.com

kasia kay art projects gallery

Many of the participating artists represent the contemporary adoption of DIY practices as a response to mass production and consumption, as well as the fading line between contemporary fine art and fine craft. Using traditional or uncommon materials, including refined sugar, all encourage indulgence in eye candy and a playful conversation about the various aspects of taste. Casual viewers and art connoisseurs alike are invited to engage with both established and emerging artists.

Among the painters, Matt Neff collects wedding cakes into a pile of rosettes and bleeding colors and Isadora Stowe invokes a cake's frosted layers as a personal symbol of subtle inter-familial divisions. The prolific Tilly Strauss adds ice cream with a visceral piece from "A Month of Sundaes," a series that came to life in public view.

Sweetness in texture and sculptural form is laid out smorgasbord style, including a fur delicacy from Christine Marie Davis, James Jaxxa's cupcake fake-outs in Styrofoam and glass and a plush crying cake from My Paper Crane. Another anthropomorphized pastry is made noisily cannibalistic in a video by Kathy Santiago's Everlasting Cakes. Contributing works that are partly or wholly edible desserts, Whiteside and cake stylist Mark Seaman bring the sensual experience of *Sugarcraft* full circle.

With The Candy Shoppe!, a miniature marketplace of items from exhibiting artists and DIY crafters featured by Columbus-based show sponsor Wholly Craft!, and a wide range of price points starting at seven dollars, the curator hopes to create an irresistible temptation in gallery visitors to take a taste of the exhibition to go.

On Curator...

Wynter Whiteside is a graduate of the Columbus College of Art and Design Fine Arts Program, with independent studies in Contemporary Art, and study abroad at Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughn, Ireland. During her emergence from the Columbus gallery scene, Wynter undertook the curation of several uniquely themed, multimedia gallery exhibits, featuring both established and emerging artists, performers and musicians. The resulting critical acclaim, as well as Wynter's genuine passion for discovering new talent, has furthered her professional career as an independent curator.

Her current project, *Sugarcraft*, is an international exhibition that symphonizes the worlds of Fine Art, Contemporary Fine Craft, and the Culinary Arts. *Sugarcraft* has evolved, from an invitation to guest curate into a travelling exhibit featuring over fifty artists. *Sugarcraft* will be hosted by Kasia Kay Art Projects, Chicago, IL in spring 2008, with other dates and venues pending.

Wynter is a featured artist in *Sugarcraft*. Her mixed media paint-based works have been featured in galleries throughout the Midwest including (most recently) at Urban Institute of Contemporary Art (MI), the Carnegie (KY), Roy G. Biv Gallery (OH), Mahan Gallery (OH), and Ohio Art League. Her work has appeared in several juried exhibitions, most notably by Claudine Ise (Wexner Center for the Arts), Joe Houston



kasia kay art projects gallery

(Columbus Museum of Art), and Manifest Gallery (for *Whimsical Muse*, 2007). Wynter's works have also appeared in various experimental, nonprofit venues.

Exhibition Highlights:

Mark Seaman is a cake stylist and sugar artist for Libertyville's Marked for Dessert. Winner of the 2007 National Wedding Cake Competition, he devotes hundreds of hours to each of his edible artworks. For this exhibition, Seaman has been commissioned to create a multi-tiered cake of fondant and sugar.



With each new piece, potter-turned- assemblage artist Christine Marie Davis out of Howard, CO, begins a fresh hunt for found objects that speak to her. To these she adds surprising, enticing tactile elements and hard surfaces, such as the fake fur under glass cake dome in *Strawberry Surprise*.

Columbus Ohio-based artist and curator Wynter Whiteside creates paintings that look good enough to eat. Against natural canvas, images of edibles and decorative elements are adorned by glitter and paint that's tinted and applied like frosting. With *Entryway*, a painting surrounded with small shelves of fresh cupcakes, she creates a means of direct interaction with viewers, an opportunity to literally absorb her work.



Bathing his subjects in a pure, soothing light source, New York painter Thomas Brouillette presents them as somehow skewed or off. His unexpected choices in perspective, hue and finish push the limits of what is acceptable to maintain an illusion of real space.

Under the banner of My Paper Crane, Waynesboro, PA artist Heidi Kenney gives birth to a population of wide-eyed inanimate objects in plush. With *Pink Cake Crying*, she contrasts nubby fabrics and fine stitching with the pain and separation anxiety felt by a recently cut layer cake and its missing piece.



Naoshi is a Yokohama-based graphic artist who works in the Japanese medium of *sunae*, or sand painting. To this exhibition she contributes her whimsical original superhero creation *Ice Cream Man*, as well as a selection of vibrant, childlike cutout figures.

kasia kay art projects gallery

Alison Tennant from Wallasey, Wirral, UK, shares the fruits of her lifelong love of anything miniaturized. Taking polymer clay in hand (molds are never used), she shapes a mouthwatering array of exquisitely detailed cakes and candies made 1:12 scale. Tennant is a member of Custom Dolls House Miniatures and the International Guild for Miniature



Artisans.



To reflect the feminine experience of childhood and adolescence, Chicago's Nikki Renee Anderson revisits the words of Mother Goose for her most recent work. The sculpture series melds what little girls are made of physically and figuratively (sugar, spice, everything nice) into a soft-serve confection of creamy eroticized form and candy-colored coating.

'The Sleepy Ice Cream Cone' by Polly Conway

'Modern Bride' by Matt Neff

'Eye Candy' by Sally Curcio

Highlights of *The Candy Shoppe*



Chrissy Brown's Candy Shoppe Items

'Mint Chocolate Cake Charm' by Itzel Garza

'Sunae Large Stickers' by Naoshi

-PR Written by Melissa Starker (Arts Editor of *Columbus Alive*)

***SC Logo Design by Emily-Kitturah Westenhouser**

Please contact the gallery for additional information and high resolution images, and visit www.sugarcraftproject.com for additional information.

**Contact: kasia kay art projects, 1044 West Fulton Market Street, Chicago, IL 60607.
Ph: 312-492-8828 info@kasiakayartprojects.com, www.kasiakayartprojects.com**



1044 West Fulton Market Street . Chicago, IL 60607 . p/f 312 492 8828 . www.kasiakayartprojects.com





Sugarcraft

an international exhibit
curated by Wynter Whiteside
www.sugarcraftproject.com

SC is an international exhibit including works by over 50 artists, specially selected from all over the world. The exhibit focuses on the theme of indulgence in the arts while representing the contemporary adoption of DIY practices as a response to mass production and consumption, as well as the fading line between contemporary fine art and fine craft. Casual viewers and art connoisseurs alike are invited to engage with both established and emerging artists.

Hosted by:

Kasia Kay Art Projects
www.kasiakayartprojects.com
1044 W. Fulton Market St
Chicago, IL 60607

Dates:

June 27th- August 9th, 2008
Opening Reception
Friday, June 27th
6-9pm

Gallery Hours:

Wednesday - Friday 11 - 5
Tuesday by appointment

Gallery Contact Info

312-492-8828
info@kasiakayartprojects.com

Curator Contact info:

Wynter Whiteside
wynter_whiteside@hotmail.com
614.634.0982
www.okya.co.uk/wynterwhiteside

The Candy Shoppe

a miniature marketplace of items from
exhibiting artists and DIY crafters featured by
Columbus-based show sponsor Wholly Craft!
www.whollycraft.net





Artists Include:

Brandy Agnew
Columbus, OH

Nikki Renee Anderson
www.nikkireneeanderson.com
Chicago, IL

Thomas Brouillette
www.larissagoldston.com
NY, NY

Kris Chau
www.krischau.com
Philadelphia, PA

Sally Curcio
www.sallycurcio.com
Northampton, MA

Christine Marie Davis
www.tactileart.com
Howard, CO

Stephanie Divencenzo
www.lilacgirl.etsy.com
Danvers, MA

Bee Harris
www.bloodofbee.com
CA

James Jaxxa
www.jamesjaxxa.com
NY, NY

Jay Krevens
The Kitty Mix
www.thekittymix.com
Chicago, IL

My Paper Crane
Heidi Kenney
www.mypapercrane.com
Waynesboro, PA

Naoshi
www.naoshii-u-iii.com
Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan

Matt Neff
Philadelphia, PA

Kristen Pavelka
Maplewood, MN

Connie Richards
www.connierichards.deviantart.com/gallery
Columbus, OH

Kathy Santiago
of Everlasting Cakes
www.everlastingcakes.co.uk
Milton Keynes, UK

Mark Seaman
www.markedfordessert.com
Chicago, IL

Lindsey Sedlar
www.lindseysedlar.etsy.com
Portland, OR

DeAnna Skedal
Kansas City, MO

Amy Stevens
www.amystevensart.com
Philadelphia, PA

Isadora Stowe
www.isadorastowe.com
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Tilly Strauss
www.tillystudio.com
Amenia, NY

Jen Thomas
www.flickr.com/photos/jenthomas
Chicago, IL

Colleen Toledano
Philadelphia, PA

Twinkie Chan!
www.twinkiechan.com
San Francisco, CA

Mirek Vlas
www.miroscreation.com
Columbus, OH

Wynter Whiteside
www.okya.co.uk/wynterwhiteside
Columbus, OH

SWEET
TALK

HOPE

DREAM

Miniature & Small Artworks by:

Lindsey Ashpole
edababe
www.edababe.etsy.com
Carteret, NJ

Kandi Boda
Tempe, AZ

Chrissy Brown
www.chrissybrown.etsy.com
Lincolnshire, England

Polly Conway
Pollyannacowgirl
www.pollyannacowgirl.etsy.com
San Francisco, CA

Megumi Cummings
Sweet Honey Complex
www.sweethoneycomplex.com
Peachtree, GA

Itzel Garza
mcdoofus
www.spastic-meteor.com
Chicago, IL

Christine Green
kitcheninthecupboard
Raymond, MA

April Hiraki-Morris
pukashell
www.pukashell.com
West Covina, CA

Mio Ishida
miomio
www.miomio.etsy.com
Minneapolis, MN

Briana Moore
nest
www.nest.etsy.com
Hot Springs, AZ

Diane Paone
www.dianepaone.com
Lake Hiawatha, NJ

Chiara Puppò
Eat Me Not
www.aoisart.com
Pleasanton, CA

Elizabeth Raine
Eat Me Not
www.eatmenot.co.uk
Sevenoaks, Kent, United Kingdom

Sonicim
www.myspace.com/cake_love
Lexington, KY

Jennifer Sternhagen
Kung Fu Cowgirl
www.kungfucowgirl.etsy.com
Plymouth, WI

Alison Tennant
www.alisonsminiatures.com
Wallasey, Wirral, England

Joan Burge Wallick
crashcanstudio
www.crashcanstudio.etsy.com
Woodstock, GA

Emily-Kitturah Westenhouser
www.umbrellagirlproductions.com
Columbus, OH

Tracy Yip
Meowgu
www.meowgu.etsy.com
Ontario, Canada

Ong Xiao Yun
mudtears
<http://ongxiaoyun.sg>
Singapore

Plus, additional works for sale through [The Candy Shoppe!](#) –a miniature shop.
Including sweet works by many of the Sugarcraft artists, along with artiians featured by [Wholly Craft!](#)



Artists Bios

Wynter Whiteside. Curator of Sugarcraft...

Columbus, OH

Wynter Whiteside is a graduate of the Columbus College of Art and Design Fine Arts Program, with independent studies in Contemporary Art, and study abroad at Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughn, Ireland. During her emergence from the Columbus gallery scene, Wynter undertook the curation of several uniquely themed, multimedia gallery exhibits, featuring both established and emerging artists, performers and musicians. The resulting critical acclaim, as well as Wynter's genuine passion for discovering new talent, has furthered her professional career as an independent curator.

Her current project, Sugarcraft, is an international exhibition that symphonizes the worlds of Fine Art, Contemporary Fine Craft, and the Culinary Arts. Sugarcraft has evolved, from an invitation to guest curate from the Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit, into a traveling exhibit featuring over forty artists. Sugarcraft will be hosted by Kasia Kay Art Projects, Chicago, IL in spring 2008, with other dates and venues pending.

Wynter is a featured artist in Sugarcraft. Her mixed media paint-based works have been featured in galleries throughout the Midwest including (most recently) at Urban Institute of Contemporary Art (MI), the Carnegie (KY), Roy G. Biv Gallery (OH), Mahan Gallery (OH), and Ohio Art League. Her work has appeared in several juried exhibitions, most notably by Claudine Ise (Wexner Center for the Arts), Joe Houston (Columbus Museum of Art), and Manifest Gallery (for Whimsical Muse, 2007). Wynter's works have also appeared in various experimental, nonprofit venues.

Brandy Agnew

Columbus, OH

Brandy Agnew was born in San Antonio, TX. She received her BFA in painting from the Maryland Institute College of Art and her MA in art history from Ohio State University. Her work has been included in exhibitions locally in Columbus, OH, as well as nationally. She currently works as the Assistant Editor for Ceramics Monthly magazine.

Nikki Renee Anderson

Chicago, IL

Nikki Renee Anderson creates multimedia sculptures and installations that explore the feminine experience based on her personal history.

She will have a solo exhibition in 2009 at the Elmhurst Art Museum. Her work has been exhibited at The Koehnline Museum of Art, Oakton Community College, Skokie, IL; Visualizing TRANS at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Visual Culture Conference; Chicago Sculpture International Biennale at FLATFILE Galleries; SOFA Chicago 2004 with Dubhe Carreño Gallery; The Hillwood Art Museum, Long Island University, Brookville, NY; and others.

She teaches as an adjunct instructor in the art departments of Harper College, Moraine Valley College and McHenry County College. Anderson lives and works as a professional artist in Chicago, IL.





Artists Bios

Thomas Brouillette

NY, NY

Thomas Brouillette was the 2006 recipient of the Rema Hort Mann Foundation Visual Arts Grant, and was awarded the Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation Grant in 2003. Brouillette received his MFA degree from Bard College, and holds a BFA degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He lives and works in New York City. Brouillette has had solo exhibitions at White Columns in New York and Galleria Marabini in Bologna, Italy, and his work has been included in several group shows over the past 5 years. Larissa Goldston Gallery is pleased to present Thomas Brouillette's first solo gallery exhibition in New York. The exhibition will be on view from September 8th through October 6th.

Brouillette's work portrays easily identifiable imagery: delectable wedding cakes, a monumental sculpture of a horse and rider (in this case frosted with snow), a rubber glove, a swag of flowers, and a series of fountains. The shadows in the center of a stately Wedgwood-blue wedding cake are real (cast from three-dimensional beads of paint), but match illusionistic shadows painted on either side of the cake. Indeed, the very color of the cake, which we read as blue, is actually tri-color (blue at left, orange/pink at right, and grey in the middle). In other paintings, glossy or shiny ribbons are surreptitiously painted with matte color, while flat backgrounds or shadows are rendered with gloss paint. This study in opposites works against naturalistic illumination. The result is that as time passes and one walks by these paintings, the shadows may disappear or fade. The glossy elements shift and change, and, suddenly, the objects or the background may look more real.

Chrissy Brown

Lincolnshire, England

ChrissyBrown lives in the quiet English Lincolnshire market town of Sleaford and has been knitting for over 50 years. She learned to knit as a small child and has always knitted unusual items - you tell her what you want and she'll knit it however strange!

Her current interest is in knitted food - mainly cakes. She has been doing these for the past 2 years and sometimes it's hard to keep up with the demand. Each one is slightly different - just like her own cooking. They are used as playthings for the kiddies, pincushions and shabby chic displays. A plate filled with iced fairy cakes (frosted cupcakes) covered with sprinkles looks so delicious and has no calories!

She has an Etsy shop where items can be purchased or special requests made.

Kris Chau


Philadelphia, PA

Kris Chau was born and raised on the island of O'ahu in the state of Hawaii. She attended California College of Arts and Crafts and studied Illustration. She dreams and thinks about pretty girls all day long and stays up past her bedtime drawing and painting them. She currently resides in Philadelphia, Pa. and wonders everyday how she ever got here from Hawaii.

Polly Conway

San Francisco, CA

Polly Conway is a San Francisco crafter who uses a variety of media to create cute, colorful objects. Crochet, knitting, book arts, sewing, photography; Polly loves learning new skills and branching out as an artist: she just finished her MFA at California College of the Arts, in another genre altogether: poetry.



Artists Bios

Megumi Cummings

Peachtree City, GA

Sweet Honey Complex is a one girl operation. All of Sweet Honey Complex products are designed and hand crafted by Megumi Cummings. She's been crafting ever since she can remember....She is designer, crafter and part time comic inker. When she's not inking her husband's comics, she's crocheting or sitting at the sewing machine making cute and silly stuff. www.sweethoneycomplex.com / www.myspace.com/sweethoneycomplex

Sally Curcio

Northampton, MA

Sally Curcio was born in 1971 in Massachusetts. She studied at Williams College and the American College in London, England graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in painting at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She currently has a studio in Florence, Massachusetts.

The use of unusual media and the re-contextualization of content that is censored or marginalized characterize Ms. Curcio's paintings, graphics, installations and assemblages. Her work revives the form of cultural critique found in the Dadaist tradition.

Ms. Curcio's work has been recognized both locally and internationally. She received the Gallery Award (1st prize) from the New Art 2006: National Competition for Emerging Artists from the MPG Contemporary Gallery in Boston (juror Raphaela Platow, Chief Curator, Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University).

Christine Marie Davis

Howard, CO

As a child, Christine Marie Davis relieved the boredom with the suburban Midwest by developing an obsession for Play Doh and shrunken heads. As an adult, she discovered "real" clay and decided she'd rather play in the mud all day than work a straight job. After building her own pottery studio and kiln, she produced functional and decorative pottery for fifteen years, showing and selling her work regionally and nationally.

Returning to her early interests, she now creates macabre anomalies of form and function; mixed media sculptural assemblages that reference skin, body parts and organic forms. She delights in the childish mischief of presenting the viewer with attractive and intriguing objects that are also strange, puzzling and ultimately unsettling.

She lives and works in the central Colorado Mountains with her fantasy/horror writer husband, Ron Sering and her Jack Russell Terrier, Molly Brown.

Stephanie DiVencenzo

Danvers, MA

The first time I picked up a paintbrush was in college, almost 7 years ago. I graduated from Merrimack College with a degree in Psychology, but my secondary focus was art. Painting and drawing is my main hobby, and my website is <http://lilacgirl.etsy.com>. I use everything to create art, from acrylic paints, to pencil, ballpoint pens, Crayola crayons, watercolors and sharpie markers. I also write poetry and will sometimes incorporate that into my artwork. My work is sometimes dark, sometimes whimsical, but always intense. This painting to be exhibited in Sugarcraft is my visual interpretation of the children's song "If All the Raindrops."

Artists Bios

Itzel Garza

Chicago, IL

I was born in the city of Monterrey in Mexico. When I was a month old, my family and I moved to Chicago and I have lived there ever since. Living here has been inspirational to me. Everywhere you look, there's a new art exhibit somewhere, or some project going on that sometimes spans the entire city. I'm always inspired by watching people make things. Whether it be painting, building something, or baking a cake, it inspires me to go and do something. This is the source of my art; the need to do something with my hands. My cakes were born from that need. Curious about polymer clay, I purchased some and began to experiment with what little colors I had in my collection. One of these experiments turned out to be the Chocolate Cake Friendship Charm. After making a few more, I decided to sell them on my online journal to friends and anyone curious about them. I sold quite a few, and decided to open an internet store, where I kept creating and making more and more charms. I love when someone buys a charm. Not because of the profits or anything that can come out of the purchase, but because that means I have to sit and make more cakes and that, to me, is the best part, because with every cake charm I make, another idea is born. Every cake is evolved from another. It's something that friends and family identify me with now, and even they give me hints and inspiration.

Christine Green

Raymond, New Hampshire

"I have been making dollhouse miniatures for a better part of my life. Within the past couple of years, my main focus has been in miniature food as there are so many options to choose from and because I get to eat the model when I'm done! I recently received Artisan status through the International Guild of Miniature Artisans. Only those who produce work of superior quality receive this honor. The exhibit "Sugarcraft" has given me the perfect opportunity to share my delectable delights with all those who have a sweet tooth and even better, my treats have zero calories. Enjoy!"

April Hiraki-Morris

West Covina, CA

April is a crochet artisan that uses some of the techniques of Amigurumi from Japan. She works with many textures and fibers. Blending new, vintage and recycled yarns to create these "Incredible Inedible" desserts. Recently added to the collection is her line of Sweet Treat Dessert rings, cupcake bracelets and Sweetheart cake pins using miniatures made from a flexible polymer clay, All her items are one-of-a-kind and handmade individually like a miniature work of art.

Mio Ishida

Minneapolis, MN

I live in Minneapolis with my best friend Timmy the bunny. I like to make stuff with my hands. jewelry, felt animals, bookbinding, candy, ukrainian eggs... I didn't play with toys as a kid. I learned how to sew, knit, fold paper and cook.

I'd rather create than consume material things.





Artists Bios

James Jaxxa

NY, NY

James Jaxxa lives and works in New York City, and he previously lived in Seattle. His art combines everyday materials with those that are bright, glittery and sensuous, resulting in works that melds fantasy and reality, explores dichotomies, and evokes the playful abandon of youth.

Jaxxa's work has been exhibited at several places in New York City including Longwood Art Project, Exit Art, Rush Arts Gallery and at the New Museum's Winter Party at the Maritime Hotel. In the Seattle area, his work was shown at numerous locations including the Bellevue Art Museum, Vital 5, and venues with the Seattle Art Museum. He is a recipient of an Artists Space Independent Project Grant and Seattle Arts Commission Purchase Award. Jaxxa attended the School of Visual Arts and Rhode Island School of Design, and received his B.S. and M.S. from Michigan State University.

Heidi Kenney - My Paper Crane

Waynesboro, PA

Heidi Kenney creates 3D anthropomorphic plush characters that range from sweet cupcakes to sad used tissues. She has been creating plush artwork for the past four years and has shown in galleries all over the USA and even in Japan and Australia. She recently has her first solo show at Art Star Gallery in Philadelphia PA. She has also appeared in various print articles and books including The New York Times, Boston Globe, I Am Plastic, and Dot Dash Dot.

Jay Krevens

Chicago, IL

Childhood is mostly associated with things of comfort - stuffed animals, food, holidays. Likewise, my childhood was stuffed with fantasies of sweets and daydreams of animal friendships. Later in life I started to create an environment to reflect this dream world, eventually leading to the fabrication of animal friends of my own. I wanted to make something others could be apart of and feel. My world is inviting, full of safe, warm colors and soft, touchable forms. Here, you can play with friends; you can enjoy playing pretend.

Meowgu

Canada

Born in Hong Kong, raised in Canada, Meowgu, now age 26, loves to experiment on all forms of art and crafts. Upon completion of a B.A. in Psychology, Meowgu traveled to various places in Asian including Shanghai and Japan. Each trip brings new thought to the experimental aspect of Meowgu's work and allows Meowgu to bravely try out innovative ideas. Meowgu now resides in Canada and is working on a Post grad certificate in psychology.

Artistic statement: Cakes, candies, pudding, cookies, ice-cream are all symbols of happiness to Meowgu. They bring simple pleasures and joy to everyone who see and taste them. By making miniature cake brooches, ice-cream hair pins, candy rings and other sweet accessories, Meowgu wants to bring smiles to those who wear them, and also to those who see them.



Artists Bios

Naoshi

Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan

I am a Sunae artist (SUNAE is a Japanese word for sand picture). I draw an image on a seal mount; put a cord to the line. Then I peel the cut part off and sprinkle colored sand onto it- then the SunAE is complete. It is a very fine a sensitive work-- & is not easy to revise colors. I have shown in many galleries throughout Japan and Europe... most recently being Pop N Flop Galley (France). Sugarcraft is my first United States exhibit.

Chiara Puppo (aoisart)

Pleasanton, CA

Aoi grown up in the Italian Alps, between gorgeous Nature and scrumptious food, she was born from two crafty souls who nourished her inclination towards creating from the beginning. She started cooking real food by early age helping the women of the house, between gnocchi and a tortellini to prepare for lunch. Amazed by Asian countries by the age of reason she chose to learn and deepen her interest for the country of the rising sun and she then married her shining prince following him in 2002 in the States. Coming to the "New World" Aoi tried to find her balance between cooking family recipes and relaxing while crafting and drawing. At the beginning of 2005 she found out that food and craft can go together and she started creating miniature food for dollhouses in polymer clay. Feeling to show off her love for food she started transforming her food miniature into jewelry. Being naturally drawn to sweets she mainly concentrated in creating cake slice earrings which became her signature creations. Nowadays Aoi keeps creating food related items following her "FoodCraft" way of life; she keeps cooking and learning new recipes which often inspire her newest polymer clay miniature creations. The "Aoi" signature comes from her passion for the Orient and anything colorful, the word means "blue and green" in Japanese and Chiara always wanted a colorful nickname. The future looks filled with more craft and more food to combine and to share with whoever craves for 100% calorie free food!

Kathy Santiago

Tatenhoe City, Milton Keynes, UK

Fun, frivolity and an edgy quirkiness may best describe the work of Kathy Santiago. Underneath these whimsical images is a social commentary and peeling away of the veneers of today's life, particularly in Britain. The branding of areas of her work poke fun at marketing gurus, our gullibility and need to identify with media induced celebrity front men that are seen as necessary to validate our identity. Examples of this are seen in The Glow Show, Everlasting Cakes and Road Show series plus Monster Juice.

Everlasting Cakes embodies a life's work of baking and image making. A synopsis of what women (and some men) do in connecting with themselves, their selves and their families. The cakes become everlasting because of the images, but also through the act that they always exist as pieces of information shared between (wo)men. The transfer of these recipes ensures memories of experience, the particular person and tradition. Somewhere nourishment is addressed with gay abandon and disrespect for carrot munching faddists.

The cake is symbol of indulgence: of joy and enjoyment, something that size 0's deny and the rest of us guiltily partake. It is not only the eating, it is the making, an alchemy that takes place in the kitchen. The process of doing so is just as creative as picture making. This is something we can all do. Not just famous artists and media friendly celebrity chefs.....

The Road Show is an onslaught of painted works, books, rejection slips, cakes and 'Burp' The Movie – all of which celebrate in the broadest of senses the cake and related experiences.



Artists Bios

Mark Seaman

Chicago, IL

Mark Seaman is a professional cake stylist and founder of Marked for Dessert, Chicago's most distinctive cake boutique. Marked for Dessert specializes in distinctive cakes for weddings, corporate events, and other social soirées featuring elegant hand-crafted sugar flowers of life-like gum paste and stunning pulled sugar.

Mark's inspiration to enter the world of fine pastry began when he was a small child. He is following in the footsteps of his grandfather who owned and operated the Ideal Bakery in Pennsylvania for forty years. His grandfather's classic recipes provided a foundation for a unique array of products. Mark later honed his culinary skills at the Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago where he added contemporary techniques to his repertoire.

Mark developed his expertise in special occasion and wedding cake design through intensive training at the Wilton School of Cake Decorating, the International Sugar Art Collection School of Confectionary Art, and the French Pastry School. He has trained with leading cake decorators, chocolatiers, and sugar artists from around the world including Colette Peters, Nicholas Lodge, Stéphane Glacier, and Alan Dunn.

Mark's showpieces and centerpiece cakes, including a cake designed after Versace's Butterfly Garden china pattern which was featured on the Food Network, highlight Mark's ability to blend tradition with current trends to achieve extraordinary results.

In September 2007, Mark won first place in the National Wedding Cake Competition sponsored by the Oklahoma Sugar Art Show, the largest sugar art show in the country.

Mark is an active member of the International Cake Exploration Societé and CARBA (the Chicago Area Retail Bakers Association).

Lindsey Sedlar

Portland, OR


Lindsey Sedlar studied Crafts with a focus on ceramics at the College for Creative Studies in Michigan and received her BFA in 2006. Lindsey loves porcelain and oil paint but decoupage is her secret love. She also majored in Art Education and is currently searching for a job teaching High School art in Portland Oregon. She misses the Midwest and loves cupcakes.

DeAnna Skeane

Kansas City, Missouri

The cutters started as a joke to friends; my husband is Jewish and instead of Christmas cookies of angels and Santa's I gave all of my friends Hanukkah Victor cookies instead of Hanukkah Harry cookies.

DeAnna M. Skedel is currently a research associate and foundations coordinator at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. She completed her MFA with a concentration in Sculpture at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1997, and her BFA in Metalsmithing at the University of Akron, Ohio in 1995. The school specializes in non-traditional materials for jewelry, so cookie cutters were not much of a jump. DeAnna co-teaches a fine arts program in Florence, Italy which she co-created in 2002 and has been nationally exhibiting her sculptures, installations and drawings since 1994. To contact the artist please e-mail her at dmsfaa@yahoo.com or more specifically for information on a custom cookie cutter portrait at cookieswrdlv@yahoo.com.





Artists Bios

Sonicism

Lexington, KY

Sonicim is a lover of all things sweet and colorful. Cakelove is her project where she explores the notion of 'appetite' in all forms: that as we lay our eyes on something colorful, beautiful, cute, appealing, edible or not.

Amy Stevens

Philadelphia, PA

Confections started as a celebration of Amy Stevens' 30th birthday and soon became an affirmation of her fetish for color and her longtime obsession with cake imagery. Her interest in the current resurgence of do-it yourself domesticity has fueled this project of making confectionary creations and photographing them to a whole other level.

Amy Stevens grew up in the Southwestern United States in Arizona and New Mexico. She earned her BFA in Photography and a certificate in Women's Studies from Arizona State University and after 4 years in Seattle, she moved east for graduate school where she earned her MFA from Tyler School of Art. Stevens has shown her work in group and solo shows in Portland, Seattle, Cleveland, Boston, Providence, Albuquerque, Syracuse and Chattanooga, Michigan and Montreal. She received Honorable Mention in Photo Review's 2005 National Competition and is currently a fellow in the competitive Career Development Program with The Center for Emerging Visual Artists in Philadelphia. In the past year, her work has been mentioned and published in BUCKS Magazine, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia City Paper and The News Journal of Wilmington, Delaware. Her 2007 exhibition schedule includes group shows at the Delaware Art Museum, The Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, Tower Gallery and The Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit as well as solo shows with In Liquid at the Crane Arts Building, The Philadelphia International Airport, Mew Gallery and the Center for Emerging Visual Artists.

Isadora Stowe

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Born 1977, Iowa City, Iowa. My father is a printmaking professor at New Mexico State University who has had a major influence on my art education from an early age. I always assumed everyone went on vacation to go to museums and hear lectures. It wasn't until later that I understood this dedication to art education was unique to my family. I grew up in Las Cruces New Mexico, a border community between El Paso, TX and Juarez, Mexico population of about 100,000. I have been lucky enough to travel the world and live in Oaxaca Mexico, and Tel Aviv, Israel . I currently live with my daughter and husband while pursuing my Master of Fine Arts degree in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

My current work is about personal symbolism that allows the viewer to glimpse into the world it represents. My paintings deal with personal imagery, which relates to home, marriage and family. This narrative is told through imagery such as cakes, birds, animals and a recurring female child.



Artists Bios

Tilly Strauss

Amenia, NY

For the past 15 years Tilly Strauss has been living on a farm in the town of Northeast. Her studio is a converted poultry slaughterhouse. The subjects are taken from the local scenery. The landscape of the farm is a romantic blend of pasture, woods, hills and ponds.

Strauss exhibits locally and has found a successful following across the country. Two of her sewn pastoral paintings are in the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. Her work has shown at the Attleboro Museum, the Berkshire Museum, the Albany Center Galleries, St John's University, and has been printed in the New York Times, the Poughkeepsie Journal, the Pulse, and the Millerton News, among others. In 2004 she was a recipient of the Dutchess County Executive Arts Award for her work with students on Amenia Historical Anniversary murals. In 2006 Strauss was commissioned to paint cows for the Boston Cow Parade. This year she has been awarded a commission to create a giant map of Dutchess County for the Poughkeepsie NY Train Station.

What is the "Painting a Day" phenomenon? It is an excellent exercise in daily discipline that Strauss considers a sacred act. The two to three hours of painting each day develop focus and enhanced awareness. By putting the paintings on the web, Strauss is able to keep her prices low enough for enterprising collectors. "Painting a Day" is a growing movement among pioneering artists and savvy collectors around the world! To see more of Tilly's and other daily painter's works fresh with paint check out:

Alison Tennant

Wallasey, Wirral, England

Since childhood I was enthralled by miniature everyday items. That together with a love for model making and artistry, the seed was planted for a future passion for 1:12 scale miniatures.

A nurse by day, I spend any spare time making miniature food from polymer clay, my workshop being the kitchen table. Everything is made with attention to detail for realism and no molds are used so they are truly unique. I just wish that my 'real' food turned out as well as my miniatures!

I'm a member of Custom Dolls House Miniatures (CDHM) and the International Guild for Miniature Artisans (IGMA).

Jen Thomas

Chicago, IL

Jen Thomas is a writer, printmaker, and book artist who lives and works in Chicago. When she's not constructing three-dimensional board games about renter's nightmares and painful weddings, she spends her time publishing etchings of trailer parks under her own imprint, Veronica Press. Her writing has appeared in The Bonefolder, Punk Planet, Afterimage, and Blister Packs - a Love Bunni Press anthology and her art has been exhibited nationally.





Artists Bios

Twinkie Chan!

San Francisco, CA

Twinkie Chan makes yummy food-themed scarves, and sometimes plushies, mittens, and other goodies. Her love for fake food is wide and deep. She used to spend all her allowance on fake Fisher Price kitchen toys and meals, with the squishy "rising" muffins and the plastic hamburgers.

She has been crocheting goodies like tiger-head Kleenex cozies, frog hats with dangly legs, and BBQ pork bun dolls for her friends and family since she was ten years old. When her Grandma Wendleton first taught her to crochet in the 80s, she made lots of misshapen brown squares for a long time and called them "mini blankets." You have to start somewhere!

Her recent love for food-themed scarves began with moving to San Francisco where the fog rolls in at night. She often shunned scarves because they were bulky and boring and reminded her of old ladies, so she set off to create cozy scarves that were fabulous, fun, and funny! She is inspired by the cookie aisle and bakery section at her local supermarket.

Twinkie opened her website, www.twinkiechan.com, in 2005 with a dozen scarves and some tater-tot dolls. In order to avoid disturbing her roommates, she'd crochet on the floor of her closet at three in the morning, and she has been buried under yarn and pom-poms ever since. Her work has been featured in many style and craft blogs throughout cyberspace, was highlighted on HGTV's craft show Uncommon Threads as well as mentioned in a "bump" on the Cartoon Network, and has been in print in magazines such as Giant Robot, Nickelodeon Magazine, and Glamour Italia.

Joan Burge Wallick

Woodstock, GA

One of my favorite childhood memories was playing restaurant or market with my brothers and sister. We spent most of the time creating the items to serve or sell using colored paper, fabric scraps and of course 'mudpies'. Now my combination of motherhood and background in art gives me the permission to "keep playing" with pretend food.

Isn't it the dessert that gets the biggest reaction of oohs and aahs when it is presented at a gathering or a celebration? I can't help myself when I see a real confectionary treat - it challenges me to translate it into felt and thus hopefully capture the excitement that surrounded the original confectionary's presentation.

I have a background in sculpture and have exhibited narrative mixed media and ceramic works which sometimes include sweets in their content. Once I began raising small children I changed my medium to felt sculptures thus allowing me the flexibility of time to start and stop unlike ceramics. Four years ago I began creating a line of gift items called 'Felt Fab' which can be found online and in gift boutiques.

I attended the Columbus College of Art and Design and have a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Atlanta College of Art and Design.

