

Sasha Baskin

Artist's Statement

"Using screenshots from episodes of "The Bachelor," my work addresses pop culture as a modern form of mythology. Within reality television, I find a new kind of repetitive storytelling and the creation of new gods and goddesses.

In the Greek Myth of the judgment of Paris, three goddesses wait for a mortal to offer them an apple proclaiming the chosen one the most beautiful. On "The Bachelor," women wait for roses delivered when a man makes the choice of whom he wants to keep dating and sends the rest home. The rose is a new manifestation of the apple: another icon for a new religious system, another symbol of validation. These shows create a language of icons, symbols, gods, and goddesses. They pull their viewers in through repetition and the desire to support familiar heroes and heroines. When one contestant is rejected, she is chosen as the next season's lead. We get to watch her trials and tribulations as she, once exiled, finds love. She will call the process a "journey" reinforcing her personal Odyssey-like story.

My work examines and critiques this repetitive structure, this drive to create repetitive mythologies, to recreate the Iliad and the Odyssey in high heels, hair extensions, and contoured makeup on reality television stages. We tell these same stories over and over again in an attempt to explain human interaction, beauty, love, drama, and competition. I weave screenshots like chapters in a hero's journey and overlay digital patterns and lace grids to create veiled goddesses out of reality television starlets. I render these screenshots in hand and jacquard woven threads and hand-worked filet lace. Through textile processes I incorporate the repetitive structure of myth into the very fabric of their representation.

I veil these reality television heroines in lace and woven roses. I explore this iconic symbol of the rose as a repetitive image of purity, sexuality, traditional values, and femininity. I am fascinated by the pattern and the opportunity for control offered by the symbol. The question "will you accept this rose?" is asked at every juncture in "The Bachelor." The opportunity exists to change the pattern and say no, but that choice is never taken. The story (and pattern) repeats itself. Within this repetition, I offer the women I weave the power to wear and control their own roses: to take agency over the symbol of choice and validation which defines their mythological journey.



CV

Sasha Baskin

Lives and works in Baltimore, Maryland.

Education

2018 MFA Craft/Material Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
2014 BFA Drawing, Summa Cum Laude, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

Solo and Two Person Exhibitions

2020 *Sasha Baskin and Christina Humphreys: The Mechanical Bride*, IS Projects, Ft Lauderdale, FL
2019 *Not a Metaphor*, Sandra J. Blaine Gallery, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN
2018 *Soft Serve*, curator Gabrielle Tillenburg, Willow Street Gallery, Washington, D.C.
Will You Accept This Rose, Curator Chase Westfall, Anderson Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University
2017 *Substrates*, curator Beth Crisman, Montpelier Art Center, Laurel, MD
2015 Sasha Baskin, Melanie Millar, and Fari Rahimi, JM Gallery, Dallas, TX **Publications**

Selected Group Exhibitions

2020 *Tools of the Trade*, Blue Spiral 1 Gallery, Asheville NC Fiber 2020, Silvermine Arts Center, New Canaan, CT
Images for Baltimore, invitational, Baltimore, MD (online benefit exhibition due to COVID-19)
Collector's Night, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington DC, (cancelled due to COVID-19)
High Frequency, Washington Project for the Arts, (online auction due to COVID-19 Pandemic)
2019 *Know Your Meme: Stitching Viral Phenomena*, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, San Jose, CA
BIG, Dock 1053, VAE, Raleigh, NC
10th Annual Drawing Discourse, curator Claire Gilman (Chief Curator, The Drawing Center, New York, NY), Holden Gallery, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC
19th Sevier County Juried Biennial, curator Sarah Stanley Sandra J. Blaine Gallery, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN
2018 Private Residence, Emporium Arts Center, Knoxville, TN



- Up The Gravel Path*, Slocumb Galleries, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN
The Softest Touch, Wolpert Gallery, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN
Spotlight on Student Fiber Trends, juror Rachel Meginnes, Fine Arts Center, Greenville, SC
Emerge, Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, VA
 2017 *Handcrafted*, curator Camille Ann Brewer, Blackrock Center for the Arts, Germantown, MD
Room Before, curator Veronica Roberts, (Curator, Blanton Museum, Austin, TX) Visual Arts Center, Austin, TX
Altered Realities, Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD
Future Tense, curators Teresa Paschke, and Andrea Vail, MK Gallery, Portland State University, Portland, OR
 2016 *Critical*, Curator Jason Hackett, Homan Gallery, Richmond VA
Toast, Depot Gallery, Richmond, VA
XXChange, jurors Myrtis Bedolla (Founder, Gallery Myrtis, Baltimore, MD), Zoe Charlton, Breon Gilleran, and Megan Van Wagoner, Area 405, Baltimore, MD
 2015 *Portraits and Profiles: Inspirations in My Life*, invitational, Columbia Art Center, Columbia, MD
 NICHE Awards, Finalist Gallery: American Made Show, Washington DC
 2014 *BIngo*, jurors Deana Haggag, Stewart Watson, and Cara Ober, Platform Gallery, Baltimore, MD
Material Matters, juror Joan Livingstone (Chair, Fiber and Material Studies Dept, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago IL) Union Street Gallery, Chicago Heights, IL

Residencies, Research, Awards and Grants

- 2020 Winter Residency, Penland School of Craft, Penland, NC
 2019 Adjunct Faculty Professional Development Fund, MICA, Baltimore, MD
 2018 Semi-finalist, Fulbright Open Study Award, Fulbright US Student Program, New York, NY
 Trabue Professional Arts Scholarship for Women, Gatlinburg, TN
 Artist-in-Residence, Arrowmont School of Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN
 2017 VCUarts Graduate Student Research Grant, Richmond VA
 Craft/Material Studies Graduate Award, Richmond VA
 Outstanding Student Award, Surface Design Association, Las Vegas, NV
 Graduate Travel Grant, VCU, Richmond, VA
 2016 Conference Scholarship, American Craft Council, Minneapolis, MN
 Graduate Teaching Assistantship, VCU, Richmond, VA
 General Grant, Penland School of Crafts, Penland, NC
 Graduate Travel Grant, VCU, Richmond, VA
 2015 Cynthia and Edwina Bringle Scholarship, Penland School of Crafts, Penland, NC
 NICHE Award: Decorate Fiber, NICHE Magazine
 2014 Juror's Choice, Platform Gallery, Baltimore, MD

Collections

2019	Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Permanent Collection, Gatlinburg, TN
2016	Patricia Brown, Private Collection, Richmond, VA Bruce Mickey, Private Collection, Dallas, TX
2015	The Myrmidons Group, Shrewsbury, PA
2014	Ferrari Consultancy, New York, NY
2013	Baltimore School for the Arts, Baltimore, MD
2011	Union Mill, Baltimore, MD

