

Kaleena Stasiak is an interdisciplinary artist who uses an assortment of haptic media such as printmaking, ceramics, textiles, and wood furniture to explore methods of the consumption of history. Her material investigations question the way individual, regional, and national identities are constructed in order to understand the formulation of collective myths, their relevance to the present, and ways to productively disrupt them. Recent shows include *Tournament of Lies* at Wassaic Project in Wassaic, NY, *Identity Measures* curated by Jordan Amirkhani at the Contemporary Art Center in New Orleans, LA, *Give Them the Slip* curated by Wendy Vogel and presented by Regina Rex at bitforms Gallery in New York, NY, and *Ancient Art Objects* curated by Katie Geha at Whitespace in Atlanta, GA. Stasiak received her BFA in Printmaking from the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto, Ontario in 2008 and her MFA in Printmaking & Book Arts from the University of Georgia in 2018. Currently she is a full-time faculty member teaching Printmaking & Foundations at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia.

In my craft-based research I explore the performative reproduction of formerly functional objects as a method of interpreting history and re-envisioning the future. Digging through a lexicon of symbols and imagery evoking American colonial times, folk art, and quilts, I interrogate representations of early history and domestic labor. These graphic cyphers denote the power and breadth of traditional women's work, functional handicraft, and the impulse to create. The implied utility of the sculptures hearkens back to human rituals of survival, opening these practices to expanded modern interpretations. Windsocks, whirligigs, and weathervanes once served vital human needs, but now litter antique malls and craft shows, their former utility relinquished for kitsch and nostalgic value. Decoration and ornamentation become expressions of desire, signifiers of identity, and autobiographical documentation of lives omitted from text-based historical narratives and artistic discourse.