A.I.R.

Seeing Things

Ann Stoddard

Ann Stoddard, *Black Angel*

November 16 – December 17, 2017
Opening Reception: Friday November 17, 6-8PM
First Thursday Gallery Walk: December 7, 6-8PM

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to present the gallery's first solo exhibition with National Artists Ann Stoddard. The exhibition will be comprised by video installation social sculptures, video and conceptual installations from Stoddard's "Seeing Things" series. Hybrid media approaches invite participation in the artistic deconstruction of racial and ethnic profiling, inquiring: *Are we seeing things? Is our vision warped by implicit bias? Can art and technology increase empathy?*

Video installation social sculptures "Black Angel" and "ColorBlind" offer an interactive approach to video portraiture. The pieces evoke a wired public space in which racial profiling takes place by combining conceptual art with a collective spirit, - electronics with a low-tech sensibility. Micro-video cameras 'watch the watchers', elevating the viewer's role while empowering the profiling 'target', reversing expectations of *'who's profiling whom?'* In the 4-channel video installation "Seeing Things, Headscarf", random simultaneous views of a woman donning a headscarf (black-and-white quad-screen) seem to ask: *Who decides when scarves are fashion, when they signify devotion, - repression?* In the faux store display installation "BARED THREADS", veils and headscarves with reverse inscriptions* (*hand-embroidered by artist) challenge traditional Western assumptions, - ask: *How does a Western wedding veil covering the face differ from a niqab?*

Ann Stoddard's 25 solo exhibitions include: 39 th St. Gallery Pop-Up, Brentwood MD, 2016; Pass Gallery DC 2009; Radford Art Museum, 2007; Siegfried Gallery, Ohio University, 2006; District of Columbia Art Center, 2003; Baltimore's School 33 Art Center 2003; SPACES Art Center, Cleveland. Stoddard has participated in numerous national invitational exhibitions, including: "Create/Change" Hillyer Art Space (DC), 2017; "Art of Engagement" 2017, "Art as Politics" 2016, Touchstone Gallery, DC; "OneHouse" (Art Watch), Touchstone Gallery, DC 2017; "XXChange 2016, Area 405-Station North, Baltimore; "The Personal is Political is Personal" 440 Gallery, Brooklyn, 2016; "Implicit Bias," Smith Center Gallery, DC 2015; "The Personal is Political is Personal" 440 Gallery, Brooklyn, 2016; A.I.R. Gallery National Members Exhibitions, Brooklyn 2016, 2017;"Zeitgeist, UnderSurveillance," Nevin Kelly Gallery, DC; "Accelerating Sequences," MOCA-GA; Society for Photographic Education's "2004 Dialogue Exhibition"; 2004 Annual Juried Exhibition, COCA, Seattle; "From Your House to Our House" Atlanta's Contemporary Art Center 2002; "Culture of Class," Maryland Institute College of Art, "Across Borders," Art Museum of the Americas (DC).

Ann Stoddard lives in Maryland near Washington DC, teaches at Montgomery College, and occasionally writes for Afterimage Magazine.Awards include: Individual Artist Fellowship 2017 (Prince George's County Arts Council MD); Juror's Award in "Art as Politics" National Exhibition, Touchstone Gallery, Washington DC, 2016; 1st Prize in the 2015 MNCPPC Juried Exhibition "N/ever Again" Harmony Hall Art Center, MD; Chairman's Award, Biennial 2002 Peninsula Fine Arts Center VA; Maryland State Arts Council awards. Reviews in: The Washington Post, The Baltimore Sun, AfterImage Magazine, Athens OH News Review, Muslim Link, The Milwaukee Sentinel.

The gallery is wheelchair accessible.

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