

Ila Krishnamoorthy in conversation with...

SUSANNAH LIGUORI

IK: How would you describe your work ethic?

SL: My work ethic revolves mostly around trial and error material tests. I usually find my work coming out of these tests, rather than having a vision of what I want the final physical outcome to visually amount itself to. I try to have a revolving vocabulary of non-art-materials at hand to ensure that the work never remains at a stand still in conversation.

IK: What is your preferred medium?

SL: I work mostly with materials I find at the hardware store or the stationary store. I tend to edge away from typical art materials, as I find it easy to get sucked into their implied function. I prefer domestic fixer-uppers that can be bent to an artistic context while still functioning as themselves.

IK: What are three words that you would use to describe your artwork's style?

SL: Function, logic, shift.

IK: What do you do outside of your art practice, and how do you think it affects your work?

SL: Outside of being a student, I am also a full time model¹ with IMG. I travel a lot—come from a shoot straight to the plaster studio and back again. I have to separate the two worlds, as I do not—or am not yet ready to merge the two. Making a living based purely off of my outer image is far from connected to any of the work I make. This line is helpful for me to focus my energy on the making rather than the back and forth between the polar opposite worlds which I'm choosing not to merge. The grey area between the two roles I play allows for me to make work in this in between, unsure space.



¹ (Image) Liguori in *T Magazine*, August 2011

IK: What was your experience working with a curator?

SL: I found it very eye-opening. Working with a curator who didn't have any studio art education background forced me to discuss my work in a far more boiled down, less conceptual manner. I was able to see the work in a new way, in a more surface / basic manner which isn't something I tend to do.

IK: What was your favorite aspect or moment about SHS?

SL: There were so many! I guess what I felt was most rewarding was reading what my curator, Kathleen, wrote about my works and Laura's work in the press release and catalogue essay. Having someone with complete distance from the "making" process—but who got to know us very well—writing about the work was so great.

IK: What are some of your interests?

SL: People, mostly. I have always been an observer, a watcher, a sponge. I am fascinated with humans in a non critical, but mythical kind of way. I also like sunshine and pasta—they both interest me in terms of happiness.



IK: List some of your favorite artists.

SL: Louise Bourgeois, Mike Kelley, Alice Neel, Eva Hesse, Dave Hardy², Egon Schiele, Marlene McCarty, and my mom.

IK: What is one thing you learned through your experience with SHS?

SL: Collaborating without the result of a collaborative physical piece. The show Laura and I created consisted of works that were in conversation and that were "collaborating" through concept. I felt like the show was a work in and of itself because Laura and I approached the project by making things specifically for the shared world we created. I love collaboration. I think it fuels and tickles a part of the brain the ego can't really be a part of. It forces you to use a vocabulary of making that is less selfish.

² (Image)
Dave Hardy, *Kaylee*, 2012
Glass, polyurethane foam, pretzel rod, pencils, cement, ink paint, tape
87 x 69 x 12 inches

IK: *Where are you from?*

SL: **Los Angeles.**

IK: *What is your favorite food?*

SL: **PASTA**

IK: *What is your favorite movie?*

SL: **Cinema Paradiso³**



IK: *How many licks does it take to get to the center of a tootsie roll, in your opinion?*

SL: **Depends on the mood of the lick.**

IK: *Do you have a pet? If so, what is his / her name?*

SL: **Yes. Jim. Black cat. Runt of litter found in Harlem. Boss of my life.**

IK: *What are your plans for after graduation?*

SL: **Continue to make things and support that adventure by whatever means necessary. Hopefully with my brain and not my body.**

IK: *What is one thing you would change about SHS?*

SL: **Group studio visits from those within SHS before and along the process of the show.**

IK: *What's your favorite color?*

SL: **Mustard yellow.⁴**

IK: *Do you feel restricted by a gallery setting, like the white cube is slowly closing in on you?*



SL: **This was my first ever show, so yes. But I just had to remove the gallery idea and think more about it as a set rather than this pressurized space.**

IK: *What is one piece of advice you would give to next year's SHS artists?*

SL: **Make something everyday. Make trash. Use the time, the studio, the visits, the people as much as you can because it's over in a second. ◆**

³ (Image) Giuseppe Tornatore, *Cinema Paradiso*, 1988

⁴ (Image) Woeber's "Salad Style" Mustard, since 1905

