

Leeza Doreian

Artist Statement

In all my work, I investigate ways of expressing the relationship between the physical “sensing experience” of walking through the world and the inner cognitive workings – ordering – necessary to process experience. I am also interested in how this internal world interacts with physical and cultural external realities. It is this delicate negotiation between the inner workings of the self and the external world that I am trying to synthesize.

The starting point for my current work is fabric items that I usually find in thrift stores. The fabric is then arranged on 3-dimensional constructions. Looking at these “still lifes”, I craft carefully considered oil paintings with a slow, painstaking execution that reverses the process of mechanical reproduction. I have also begun a corresponding series of works on paper, primarily in gouache. Although covering similar territory, these works are more exploratory. Individually they are often – but not always – more abstract. As a group, they have been a way to start expanding the parameters for my work as a whole.

That my subject matter is mass-produced, discarded fabric, and that I am using it to make singular – and formal – handmade works is an important part of my process. However, it is the conceptual and structural qualities of the original pattern that are the initial organizing forces in the work. The way I place a fabric in a still life disrupts its pattern and this is something that I carefully consider. Formal devices such as flattened space, implied depth, different uses of lighting, and extreme detail are used to further modify the images. The overall intent is to produce analytical work that is balanced between abstraction and representation (or documentation), while creating a new space for order and sensuality to meet.