Ellen Greene

My recent work has focused on vintage women's gloves painted with reworked traditional western tattoo motifs and the visual tension between these two symbols. The gloves are symbols of a historical set of “ladylike” behavior that included modesty, purity and submissive attitudes. The tattoos in contrast speak a language of masculine behaviors. Traditional western tattoo narrative developed through sailor, and later, biker culture. These heroic and deviant imagery narratives leave out any authentic feminine expression. I seek to rework these traditional motifs to find a voice for my personal experiences as a heavily tattooed woman in the traditional role of wife and mother.

I use vintage objects, photography and painting to purge emotional static from daily living. I am in a constant conversation through objects with my body, my world, pop culture, gender politics and caregiving.

Selected Exhibitions

Lindenwood University: “Murder Ballads” : solo exhibition, St. Louis 2015

Packer Schopf Gallery: “Murder Ballads” : solo exhibition, Chicago 2014

Maison Folie Wazemmems: “Epidurmiques #2” : group exhibition, Lille France 2013

Packer Schopf Gallery: “Invisible Mother’s Milk” : solo exhibition, Chicago 2012

Owen’s Art Gallery, Mount Allison University: “Tattoo”: group exhibition, Sackville New Brunswick, Canada 2012

Packer Schopf Gallery: “Outsider Art Fair”: New York, NY 2012

Blue Gallery: “Nude”: invitational group exhibition, Kansas City, MO 2012

Birdies: “Ellen Greene”: solo exhibition, Kansas City, MO 2012

Firecat Gallery: “Ballad of the Tattooed Lady”: solo exhibition, Chicago, IL 2011

Jack Olson Gallery: “Inked: Tattoo Imagery in Contemporary Art” : group exhibition, NIU DeKalb, IL 2011

Kansas City Art Institute: “Art and Design Auction, Emerging Talent”: curated by Julian Zugazagoitia: Kansas City, MO 2011

Believe Inn: “Hold Fast to Dreams”: group show, Chicago, IL 2011
Parlor Gallery: “Birds of a Feather”: group show, Asbury Park, NJ 2011
Tattoo Factory; “Last Unicorn”: group show, Chicago, IL 2010
Mercy Seat: “ Ellen Greene”: solo exhibition, Kansas Cit, MO 2010
Mercer Gallery: “Herstory”: invitational exhibition: curated by Margaret Le June: Rochester, NY 2009

Selected Bibliography

Raw Visions magazine #77: Feature article: “Invisible Mother’s Milk” by Alicia Eler Bust Magazine: feature article: “Glove Story” by Alison Baitz 2012

Her Kansas City Magazine: featured article: “Second Skin: artists tells story on vintage leather gloves” by Crystal K. Wiebe 201

Skin Deep Magazine: featured artist: “The Gloves are Off!” by Trent Aiken Smith 2011 Chicago Sun Times: feature article: “Ballad of Ellen Greene” by Sarah Terez-Rosenblum 2011 Artists Essay:by Alicia Eler 2012

Education

BFA Kansas CIty Art Institute, University of State, City, State — Painting, 1998
School of Visual Arts, painting seminar: New York, NY- summer 1991
Marie Walsh Sharpe painting and drawing seminar, Colorado Springs, CO 1991