

Artist Statement:

I explore the subconscious phenomenon of dreaming. Every time I fall asleep, I involuntarily fall into a different reality. The fodder for dreaming comes from our waking experiences; in this way, dreams are immensely valuable as they are mirrors to our daily lives. The subconscious floats through all thoughts at once with no guilt, shame, or fear; what appears in dreams is as vulnerable as it gets. My art honors these journeys as portraits, narratives, confessions, memories, and dramas.

According to the late Swiss psychologist, Carl Jung, dreams were thought to be the vehicle of communication from the subconscious to the conscious mind. Archetypal symbols are used by the subconscious as a way of expressing universally understood ideas or feelings. The developing science is as enigmatic as the dreams themselves. The research is completely subjective, and entirely up to the dreamer to affirm whether or not dreams have a purpose. In my practice, I have sat down for many interviews and dream groups, and can say with certainty that meaning exists only if you want to find it. Translated into art, I try to present major plot points and symbols that the dreamer emphasizes to better understand what the subconscious is trying to convey. Even so, the work, like all art, remains subjective and ultimately up to the viewer, no matter how much I may try to manipulate the outcome. That is, there is no single meaning, each dream has infinite possibilities for interpretation.

My artistic process revolves around my dream journal entries, recordings, and dream interviews with family, friends, and strangers. I use these dreams as inspiration to create dioramas/ still lifes, which are then photographed. I use the photos as references for my paintings and drawings, which expand on the ephemeral, imaginative aspects of the dream. The still life is a poetic way of acknowledging the dream as a staged reality, a play put on by the subconscious to act out thoughts, fears, desires, etc. that need to be realized. I find that by mimicking my art practice after the way the subconscious creates dreams, the end result is more closely aligned with the nature of dreams. It is my intention that viewers will want to get lost within the art, rather than psychoanalyze it. In other words, they would want to experience Wonderland rather than read about it. By painting and drawing from dioramas, the dream now feels like it is in a tangible space, therefore giving the viewer an easier access point into believing the illusion is real.

Bio:

Saskia Becker lives and works in Fort Collins, Colorado, where she received her B.F.A. in Painting and Drawing at Colorado State University.

Throughout her art career, Saskia has maintained a focus on psycho and sociological themes. Her current work explores the subconscious mind through the vehicle of dreams. Saskia first started dream journaling in high school, and since then, has sat down for many interviews with family, friends, and strangers to discuss and record their dreams.

Saskia's work is well known throughout Northern Colorado, but outside of this, she has also shown her work in Hobart, Australia, and Dallas, Texas. In August 2020, she was awarded an artist residency with Half Crown Creative in Fort Collins. She continues to work as a resident artist at Half Crown Creative, exploring dreams from the community and herself. Her work can be found in person at Half Crown Creative, or on her website, www.saskiabecker.com.