

FORT GANSEVOORT

WIDEWALLS

Dawn Williams Boyd's Cloth Paintings Come to Fort Gansevoort

Exhibition Announcements
Eli Anapur – September 22, 2022



Dawn Williams Boyd - Massacre on Black Wall Street, 2022. Assorted fabrics and cotton embroidery floss 59 x 118 in.

Inspired by Disturbing Headlines

The show's title comes from Boyd's observations of catastrophic headlines that became dominant in the news over the past few years. As she explains, "...others, more learned than I—scientists, historians, social commentators were already discussing these matters and being mostly ignored. And yet, here we are, in 2022, on the very precipice of changes to the way we define ourselves—the tip of the iceberg that we know hides disaster if we don't make a course change immediately."

Her pieces reflect this urgency and push for a radical change to the ways we treat each other and the planet.

By using unusual materials like beads, sequins, cowry shells, laces, silk ribbons, and found objects, Boyd creates a distinctive aesthetic language within the larger traditions of sewing. She introduces the observer to her own modern take on visual storytelling by delivering a figurative reality crafted from a deft metamorphosis of everyday fibres.

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Using Art to Invoke Change

The Death of Democracy, 2022 shows world leaders such as Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong-un carrying a casket, the figures responsible for the demise of democracy. The allegorical character of the painting is emphasized through the figure on the left, which personifies the evil through fiery eyes and bloody claws.

Leaving Alabama, 2022 represents a diverse group of women on a road trip. Although the context may not be evident at once, the number written on the license plate 410US113 references the office citation of the historic 1973 Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court case. Boyd masterfully uses visual signifiers to create a scathing social commentary.

A young boy lying in a pool of his own blood surrounded by police badges is shown in Fear For My Life, 2022. The figure recalls the traditional religious trope of the Pietà, the ultimate image of grief. As Boyd explains, the figure represents all boys and men killed by those sworn to protect and serve.

The Tip of the Iceberg at Forth Gansevoort

The exhibition Dawn Williams Boyd: The Tip of the Iceberg will be on view at Forth Gansevoort in New York from September 23rd until November 19th, 2022.

The opening is scheduled for September 22nd, from 6 to 8 pm.