

Artist Statement: Nesting Series

I created a series of fertility lamps and birds nests that address the meaning of the word nesting. Each sculpture addresses a different issue of nesting, such as family life, empty nest syndrome, birth, rebirth, fertility and reproduction.

Motherhood is one of the most prevalent themes found in African Art and some artisans created figurines that promote fertility. Just as in African Art, Kiri designed fertility lamps with spiritual meaning. Instead of using the human reproductive organs of females as symbols, she used male reproductive organs. Rope light and translucent pieces of plastic were placed inside a mold and cast in silicone and urethane. These glowing penises create light iridescent shadows on the vases.

Similar to the art of Georgia O'Keefe, she incorporated the reproductive organs of flowers in her lamps. Many artists visibly depict the anatomy of the pistil and stamen. Kiri's clay vases depict the reproductive organs of flowers, one of which is the Hibiscus flower. The aphrodisiac qualities of a Hibiscus flower symbolizes fertility and reproduction.

The Birds Nest Sculpture Installation questions the meaning of the word nesting. Each nest addresses a different issue of nesting. The nests are made of polyurethane tubing and vary in color and were either dangling from the branch of a tree or sitting on the stove in a kitchen. Some nests were empty while others weren't. Due to its size, Ostrich eggs were placed on top of some nests. Three of the eggs were cast in aqua resin and painted with patina and the other three were real. Whereas, the warmth of the lighted eggs gives a different message than the cold colored eggs, the raw eggs give a different message than the cooked ones. Strangers of all ages and genders were asked to draw or write a word that reflects what they think of the term, "nesting". One of the lighted eggs is covered with words that can be a good conversation piece.

The spiritual qualities of the fertility lamps and birds nests have affected peoples lives. Some couples who bought Kiri's fertility lamps and birds eggs have claimed that they helped their fertility issues. The beauty of these works of art have also enhanced their well being. On the otherhand, the sense of humor of "The Player" has been a conversation piece in the heterosexual and gay communities.