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Bacon Wash with Bees and Figs
watercolor on paper, 32 x 32 inches



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My most recent series of paintings consists of large scale watercolors depicting various wash-like arrangements made of bacon. Most of them are symmetrical and somewhat reminiscent of the Rorschach ink blot test. I enjoy combining the formal elegance of design with the recognizable banality of bacon, along with the surreal and absurd accompaniment of other decorative elements such as flowers, butterflies, and fruits. The arrangements are playful and satirical in an ironic fashion but also grotesque. In my not so still still-lives, I am hoping to draw subtle parallels between the decadence and fluidly evident in certain historical genres and our contemporary culture.

My works employ the conventions of the historical still-life genre in relation to contemporary consumer culture in America. My use of meat, dolls, toys, and corporate icons bridges notions of kitsch and high art by alluding to the theme of Vanitas in seventeenth-century Dutch still-life paintings. Using photographs and, more recently, digitally manipulated prints as a starting point for my paintings and works on paper, I manipulate the representation of objects to deconstruct the aesthetics of commercial ads and the politics of a world constituted by material desire. At first glance, my compositions are seductively colorful and bright. Closer inspection, however, reveals elements of shame and decay. Behind each of these comical and absurd compositions is a layer of dark humor, a commentary on the complex relationship between the politics of the body, commercialism, and cultures of consumption.

Bacon Wash with Models
watercolor on paper, 28 x 40 inches