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Charlotte-Kruk-puts-a-twist-on-the-id was blocked

Artist Charlotte Kruk puts a twist on the idea of eye candy





Charlotte Kruk, Chewy Fruit Twins: Starburst and Miss Now & Later, 1996. Recycled Starburst® and Now & Later® wrappers, plastic, and cotton, 36 x 25 x 25 inches each dress. Courtesy of the Artist. Photography: Keay Edwards.



RACINE, WIS.- [The Racine Art Museum](#) commissioned artist and sculpture Charlotte Kruk to create a new exhibition for its Windows on Fifth Gallery. Open August 1, 2014 through July 26, 2015, Consumer Couture - The Politics of Having is a series of vignettes that explore the dynamics of a "disposable, packaged society." With both humor and serious intent, Kruk uses recognizable consumer packaging - such as gum and candy wrappers, sugar and coffee bags, and food tins - to create garments and sculptures that reflect our material culture. Visually compelling and conceptually provocative, Kruk's work questions the relationship between dress, power, gender, and consumerism.

Clothing - like other forms of bodily adornment - can reflect personal, social, and cultural interests and issues. Modern industrialized capitalist societies - especially those that follow "Western" cultural trends - offer many options for dress. What we wear and how we wear it is inextricably linked to advertising, body image, social class, and influence. Interested in consumerism and wastefulness as well as self-image, Kruk plays with all of these concepts. In order to get materials to use as fabric, either Kruk or friends and family have to consume the product, carefully extracting it from its packaging. The care with which she has to treat what others so easily destroy and/or throw away encourages the artist to think about what we value and why.

While every gender in society is impacted by images in the media, Kruk tends to create garments/sculptures relating to women because she absorbs and applies the information to herself, and because women are the ones most often held up as "eye candy." The connection between this phrase and her choice of material (candy packaging being a primary one) is not accidental. Kruk relays that personally she has long been concerned with body image, consumption of both food and goods, and the guilt that comes from eating what she really wants versus what she should.

Kruk is descended from a long line of domestic seamstresses, who - in the artist's words - would "sew out of necessity." While she has academic art training, she is a self-taught garment-maker and completed her first wearable sculpture at 23. Early garments were purposefully "ladylike" as the artist was trying to visually represent the "idealized perfect society girl." Kruk created strapless 1950s style dresses with full skirts, and fitted and feminine silhouettes. The retro fashion that she has often evoked has been idealized as representations of proper dress and etiquette. Kruk always considers the wearability of her garments and accessories as well as the physical restrictions of the materials she is using as fabric. Over time, she has experimented with various styles of dress as well as unwearable sculpture - both of which are included in her windows installation at RAM.



Today's News

August 1, 2014

[Oldest continually operating signals intelligence station in the world celebrates centenary](#)

['Hofmann by Hofmann' on view at the Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive](#)

[Alexander Calder, Barbara Hepworth and Jackson Pollock are among the highlights for 2015 at Tate](#)

[Global leader in the arts Edward Dolman joins Phillips as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer](#)

[Richard Avedon's revealing portraits unveiled at Art Gallery of Western Australia](#)

[Garage Museum exhibition explores relationship between globalization and art in the 1990s](#)

[Huntington Library acquires rare book of 17th-century Chinese woodblock prints](#)

Most Popular Last Seven Days

- 1.- [As Paris tourists have picnics, more and more rats are seen at the Jardin des Tuileries](#)
- 2.- [Ukraine rebels go to the museum: To steal World War II tanks and two howitzers](#)
- 3.- [Richard III's new visitor centre on the site where his remains were discovered opens](#)
- 4.- [Mexican archaeologists find Pre-Hispanic mortuary bundle in the State of Hidalgo](#)
- 5.- [Globally unique 3D scanner developed by Fraunhofer IGD in use in a museum for the first time](#)
- 6.- [World's largest solar boat on Greek prehistoric mission around the Franchthi cave](#)

South Africa shantytown forces anti-apartheid Red Location Museum to close

[Hoyland painting returns to The Fitzwilliam Museum by popular demand](#)

One hundred years of British wedding dresses to go on display at the Gallery of Costume, Platt Hall

[LACMA exhibits recently conserved mural 'Abbot Kinney and the Story of Venice'](#)

New exhibition features dynamic installations of the works of Stanley Tigerman and Zago Architecture

[Moments in a Stream: Ewerdt Hilgemann's 'Implosion' sculptures on view at Park Avenue](#)

Artist Charlotte Kruk puts a twist on the idea of eye candy

[Material Collaborations: Mindy Solomon Gallery presents the work of David Hicks & Alejandro Contreras](#)

'Multiplicity: City as subject/matter' opens at Invisible Exports

[Counterpoint: Talbot Rice Gallery plays host to a range of diverse installation works](#)

'Jeremy Thomas: Ditching the Cardigan' opens at Charlotte Jackson Fine Art in Santa Fe

[Special exhibition at Toledo Museum of Art marks 50th anniversary of Civil Rights Act](#)

'Kazumi Tanaka: Mother and Child Reunion' opens at the Fabric Workshop and Museum

['Generation: 25 Years of Contemporary Art in Scotland' opens at Stills](#)

The Studio Museum in Harlem presents 'Charles Gaines: Gridwork 1974-1989'

7.- [Archaeologists discover Roman 'free choice' cemetery in the 2,700-year-old ancient port of Rome](#)

8.- [Getty Foundation announces grant to conserve iconic](#)

masterpieces by Caravaggio and Rubens

9.- [Artist Tracey Emin's 'My Bed', bought by German art collector Christian Duerckheim, to return to Britain](#)

10.- [Wine cup used by Classical Greek statesman Pericles found in commoner's grave: report](#)

[Barbara Ernst Prey: The Cloisters: Escape the City in the City](#)

[Dianne Hales: The 10 Worst Things That Happened to Mona Lisa](#)

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[Liz Insogna: Hein Koh](#)

[Hannah Stephenson: Part and Parcel: Poet January Gill O'Neil](#)

[Aline Pimentel: A Conversation With Kazuhiro Tsuji](#)

[Deirdre Maloney: The Messy, Imperfect Blog Post](#)

[Mary Alice Stephenson: One Of Pop Culture's Coolest Artists Empowers Girls](#)

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