

Contact:

Mary Admasian
802.223.5811
Lightson_Mary@comcast.net
Artist Web Site:
MaryAdmasianART.com

Kristen M. Watson
802.578.0300
kristen@kristenmwatson.com
Artist Web Site:
kristenmwatson.com

February 10, 2017

The SHE Project runs from February 10-June 24, 2017

Opening Reception: Friday, March 10, 5 to 8pm

Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday 12:00 – 6:00pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The University of Vermont's Living, Learning Gallery presents

"The SHE Project" Part 1

Femme by Kristen M. Watson and Mary Admasian

BURLINGTON, VT: ["The SHE Project"](#) – part 1 is a collaborative exhibit created by Vermont multidisciplinary artists Kristen M. Watson and Mary Admasian. The two have a common interest in creating interactive works that explore what women of all ages experience as they navigate the pressure to maintain a youthful appearance at any cost, and what they contend with as they age in the highly visual social media era, where celebrity culture reigns, and where we much more frequently see ourselves and are seen by others. Consequently a phenomenon of personal social branding and hyper-scrutiny has emerged.

With a nod to the tradition of [femme](#), art constructed of found and saved objects that express a female narrative, Watson and Admasian use mirrors, cosmetics, beautification products, and natural elements to address themes around self-confidence, worth, and age-related sexual power. They explore their own experiences as targets of aggressively marketed "beautification" products that promise youth, glamour, and success. Watson & Admasian create compelling works that comment on the influence of history, social norms, perception, social media, and vanity on the current state of womanhood.

About the Artists:

[Kristen M. Watson's](#) work focuses on conceptual installations and intuitive painting that begin with concentrated introspection and behavioral observation rooted in her study of spirituality and social psychology. Her art explores how thought, spirituality, and culture (currently digital culture) affect human behavior and relationships.

Watson is currently working as an artist in residence at New City Galerie, Burlington, VT, and she has completed artist residencies at Vermont Studio Center and the Rensing Center in South Carolina.

Watson spent her formative years in Ohio and Virginia then traveled the northeast for several years before settling in Vermont in 2000. She spent over a decade in medicine before committing to her studio practice & business full time. She holds degrees in Studio Art and Psychology from the University of Vermont (summa cum laude) and a Vermont Art Educator license. She exhibits her work locally and regionally in group and solo shows, and has been selected for several juried exhibits. Her work is also held in private and public collections.

[Mary Admasian](#) is a multidisciplinary artist who explores how raw forms can symbolize the human challenges surrounding gender, social norms, and the psychological tension between our daily and inner lives. As she states, "By transforming common and found materials into conceptually stimulating images, I want my work to create a narrative that provokes insight, thought, and social action in the viewer."

Admasian is the recipient of a 2016/17 Vermont Arts Endowment Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation Grant for her sculpture "Weighted Tears" for her upcoming June 2017 exhibit at the Brattleboro Museum. She has exhibited her work nationally. Her work is in the collections of colleges, institutions, and prominent art collectors. Mary has received two fellowships to the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont. She has also created site-specific work and installations in collaboration with other artists, filmmakers, musicians, and writers.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Mary Admasian has lived in Vermont most of her adult life. She earned a BFA from Colby-Sawyer College with honors in painting and has worked as an artist, curator, marketing consultant, and creative director for the visual and performing arts. Other disciplines of art include Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, Printmaking, and Mixed Media.

If you need additional images or would like to set-up an interview, please contact the artists directly.

Follow us on **Instagram: @kmwatsonvt and @maryadmasian**

