

First and foremost, I'm a story teller. I use different mediums to express my narratives. Sometimes that's a feature film, other times a photograph or a light installation. Thematically I focus on people and their personal stories and experiences, using their narrative to amplify the conversation about the 'invisible' people in our society.

In my earlier work I focused on stories that would link directly to my own personal life. Now I'm less interested in 'me' as a subject than I am in other people and creating a platform for them. Having lived in America for over a decade has strongly influenced my work. There is so much going on that triggers my emotion, often hugely upsetting me. Even though this country inspires me profoundly, my work definitely takes a critical view of social, political and cultural issues, addressing the disparity and the deliberate suppression of minorities, police brutality, and racism. For a majority the American Dream is unachievable and merely a propaganda tool. Through expressing emotions, poignant, confrontational and sometimes glossy images I'm trying to amplify a feeling and dialogue that I believe is urgent today. I like to tackle timely subjects. My work conveys what deeply moves and motivates me in life.

While I work in a variety of mediums, the process in each project is pretty much the same. The idea is often inspired by someone or a story that I came across. I decide on the form/medium in which I want to place the narrative. It's often very intuitive if I chose to create a sculpture or a neon. For a film, video installation or photograph, I 'cast' people, mixing reality with fiction. But I'd like to keep it as personal and authentic as possible and prefer working with cast who connect to the subject or are the subject. For example, working with Niaya Jones in my latest video installation LIVING IN AMERICA these two approaches came together beautifully. I wanted to create a choreography addressing what it means to be a Gen Z African American teen growing up in the projects. When I met Niaya and learned of her story we were able to organically implement these elements in to the choreography. And because she is a prolific "krumping" dancer she was able to be the performer as well.

I write, direct, photograph and edit most of my work myself. As an artist I'm definitely driven by a strong sense of idealism that if we openly address our problems we can overcome our differences and unite.

Miriam Kruishoop