



## **Megan Wilson Artist Statement 2021**

For the past 10+ years much of my work has addressed the critical need for a fundamental shift away from capitalism and its reliance on racism, misogyny, ecocide, and white male dominance as a means to put profit before all else, negatively impacting, and ultimately destroying the health and wellbeing of all. We're all active and/or passive participants in capitalism; however, it's important to understand capitalism within the long history of global systems of colonialism, imperialism, and development. I'm interested in creative forms of engagement for provoking deeper considerations of these issues and developing paths for movement building and social/culture change towards a world of compassion and equity. Influences include philosopher and activist Cornel West; environmentalist Vandana Shiva; activist, writer, and historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz; historian Ibram X. Kendi; cultural critic and historian Thomas Frank; political activist and academic Angela Davis; journalist and social activist Dorothy Day; feminist and social activist bell hooks; economist, scholar Shoshana Zuboff; journalist and activist Raj Patel; social activist Naomi Klein; philosopher Judith Butler; economist Richard D. Wolff; and the Marxist political economist David Harvey.

Throughout my life I have been driven by a fierce belief in and commitment to social, racial, economic, and environmental justice that has shaped who I am and how I navigate in the world. This drive has impacted all facets of my life - from my creative practices to my social/political activities, to how I earn a living, and to the communities I've connected and worked with throughout the world. While social/political messaging and activism is not always present in the work I create - it is at those points that I am taking a much-needed respite to reflect and re-energize by creating work that draws from my personal and aesthetic interests and allows me space to be more playful, experimental, and contemplative. And sometimes the personal and political spaces are integrated and work together.

Additionally, my work has been influenced by the practices of Buddhism and Vipassana meditation. I often create art that is conceptually rooted in elements of these practices and that is intentionally ephemeral or that I give away. Much of my work is no longer in existence because it was never meant to be permanent - forcing the viewer/consumer, as well as myself, to let go of any expectations of its monetary worth. This is not to say that I don't appreciate or create work that's collectible and/or consumer-based; I do create and appreciate such work. However, it is integral to my practice to challenge myself in ways that are always pushing me to evolve, including the creation of work that's impermanent or gifted.