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E S T A B L I S H E D 1 9 9 2

486 Harrison Ave, Boston MA 02118 • 617.482.7781
www.bostonsculptors.com • bostonsculptors@gmail.com



Jodi Colella: *Faculty of Utterance*

July 22 – September 20, 2020

First Fridays will resume soon – Check our website for updates

Gallery Hours

July 22 – August 23:

Friday, Saturday & Sunday 11-5pm

August 26 – Sept. 20:

Wednesday – Sunday, 11-5pm

Faculty of Utterance, Jodi Colella's solo exhibition at Boston Sculptors Gallery investigates cultural tensions – identity politics, institutionalized prejudice, and substance abuse—through several bodies of work. Relishing the labor of meticulous handwork Colella uses kitsch, nostalgia and needleart techniques to remind us that the 'how' of making is as important as the 'why.' Embracing dualities – beauty and malice, restraint and excess, power and oppression—Colella presents the erasure of identity as both repressive and liberating, challenging the viewer to question their own biases and imagine a more enlightened world.

Colella confronts gender-based oppression using embellishment to subvert female identities. Her *Mary Janes* are found porcelain figures obsessively wrapped with thread to obscure their physical appearance, while her *Headwear* constructions and *Shelter in Place* photographs offer similar modes of obscurement, challenging the subjugation of patriarchal environments. Further exploring social alienation, the gut-punching *Once Was* is a monumental textile composed of thousands of handmade poppies, memorializing lives lost to the opioid epidemic. Mysterious and unsettling, it signals the silencing of disenfranchised voices and calls for social reform.

Colella's exhibitions include The Textile Museum in Washington D.C.; Textile Center, Minneapolis; Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton; World of Threads, Toronto; and Da Wang Culture Highland in Shenzhen China. She has collaborated on several public art projects, and her work is held in multiple museum collections. Recently interviewed for WGBH's *Open Studio* with Jared Bowen, her work has featured in *The Boston Globe*, *Surface Design Journal*, *The Woven Tale Press*, *Vasari 21*, *Artistry in Fiber*, *POSIT* and TextileArtist.org. She is the recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship, and the founder of FiberLab.

Faculty of Utterance runs concurrently with Dennis Svoronos' exhibition *Proof of Life*.

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Contact: Almitra Stanley, Director
617.501.5600
Bostonsculptors@yahoo.com
BostonSculptors.com

Jodi Colella
781.724.8686
jicolella@comcast.net
JodiColella.com