

ELIA ALBA

BIOGRAPHY

Elia Alba was born in New York City in 1962. She received her Bachelor of Arts (Specials Honors Curriculum) from Hunter College in 1994 where she graduated magna cum laude and completed the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program in 2001. Ms. Alba is a multi-media artist whose work has been exhibited and screened at various national and international institutions, including Yerba Buena Center for the Arts; El Museo del Barrio; The RISD Museum; Valencia Institute of Modern Art, IVAM, Spain; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; ARCO, Madrid; Jersey City Museum; Science Museum, London; and ITAU Cultural Institute, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and most recently the 10th Havana Biennial. Her awards have included the Whitney Museum Van Lier Foundation Fellowship 2001; Studio Museum in Harlem, Artist in Residence Fellowship Program (1998-1999), New York Foundation for the Arts Grant (Crafts 2002 and Photography 2008); Pollack-Krasner Foundation Grant (2002) and Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant (2002 and 2008). Her work has been reviewed in the Art Nexus, The Guardian, Time Out, FlashArt, Tema Celeste and The New York Times. She lives and works in Queens, New York.

STATEMENT

For the past 4 years, I have been combining sewing with photography to create photo-based work. My most recent project addresses classical sculpture and features busts of my close friends and family. They were made by deconstructing and reconstructing actual photographs I had taken of the sitters from all sides and then photo-transferring color-copied images on fabric to produce a skin like quality of the material. Head and torso were sewn together and placed over a wire armature to prevent the collapse of the soft form. All busts sit on pedestals superficially emulating the use of pedestals in classical sculpture.

As societies struggle with subjectivity and personal identities have "become" fractured, complex, and splintered, they are in state of constant re-definition. The busts comment not only on the ephemeral nature of identity but present to the viewer a potential collapse of our perceptions.

Materials and fabrication process: photo transfer over cotton fabric (high-quality muslin), grommets, rope. The transfer is applied with a heat press (or iron) then a Gel medium is applied over the entire busts as a sealer. The inks used for printing the images onto the transfer paper are authentic Epson photo inks. No remanufactured / refurbished inks were used. The sealer, inks, and transfer materials are all archival. Exposure to bright light and extreme heat is not recommended.