



ARTIST OCCUPIED SOUTH GALLERY

Presented by the CAN'D AID Foundation

Since 1986



left to right: Then & Now detail, work in progress

HEATHER KEGEL

Studio hours: Thursdays & Fridays from 12-5 pm & Saturday 12-4 pm

The South Gallery Artist program is a new initiative of the Firehouse Art Center. It developed in the fall of 2015 as we begin to think about our 30th anniversary and the role of the Firehouse in the community. In 1986, the first artists starting creating within the walls of the Firehouse and we see this program as both a return to that initial impulse as well as a response to a community need. Studio space for artists—emerging or established—is often hard to find and costly. For the general community, the creative process is often a bit of a mystery and not understood. Visitors can experience a working studio for a behind the scenes look at an artist at work. Our selected artist, Heather Kegel, will interact with visitors by collecting stories to incorporate into her final exhibition.

ARTIST STATEMENT

In my most recent ceramic works and screen prints, I concentrated on my heritage and the important role objects—specifically heirloom quilts—play in telling the story of me and my family. With those pieces, I focused on the shapes, forms, and history of quilts and quilting patterns. Quilts are as notorious for their use in storytelling as they are for their utilitarian functions. In the work I will create during this residency, I will explore the narrative aspect of quilting by illustrating myths, fairytales, and folklore from my Finnish heritage through printmaking and ceramics. I have been searching for a way to add narrative aspects to my work, and this residency will provide the space and focus I need to create a deeply personal body of work.

My love for stories started at a young age when my grandfather told me about his childhood and living in Brazil. Sadly, my grandmother, who was born and raised in Finland, passed away before I had the chance to hear her stories. Because of this, I have an acute interest in stories from Finland; I feel as though the folktales and myths I have read about were the same stories she knew as a child. The body of work I will create during the residency will bring these stories to life.

As an avid reader, I am captivated by stories from other cultures. During the course of this residency, I will illustrate stories from my heritage, but am also looking for stories from elsewhere. I am enlisting the help of Firehouse Art Center patrons and visitors in sharing stories from their heritages. I am hoping to collect stories from a wide range of traditions that can then be represented in work.

FIREHOUSE ART CENTER
FOURTH & COFFMAN, LONGMONT
WEDS-SUN 12-5 PM

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