

## **Amjadi - Artist Statement – 2019**

My work as an artist is always at once personal, my “small piece of truth” and yet frequently seeks a kinship within otherness and difference. One of the questions that I carry through my work is the sufficiency of the story I tell, and why and how my identity is articulated in the work. My work thus carries my history as an Iranian-American, yet is never just that, nor always that. Identity explored in my work is neither fixed nor an erasure, but always an ongoing synthetic process of investigation and becoming. My work locates itself in the personal while seeking the threads that bind local to global, personal to universal; it listens for the humming just beneath the background of our everyday lives.

My choice of medium is driven by the concept for the work; I alternate between various media including ceramics, performance, installation and video art to explore and express my ideas. Often in my work the symbolism of iconic images serves as the background and generative field for my negotiation of the relationship between past and present, tradition and modernity, and individual versus collective identity, and further to inspire dialogue about our understanding of temporal and cultural contingencies woven into the roots of our histories.

My work is a measuring of self through a gathering of history. I might, for instance, recall a memory from my childhood, or retrieve a memento or story from my cultural history, one that is rich with its own set of significances and associations, and ask about its meaning to me personally, and whether or not it can be appropriated into my work, and then given back as something other, preferably more than when I first gathered it. In this way my work intends to reach into our shared world, draw from it something I find personally significant, make it my own, and then place it back into the shared experience.

My work seeks to draw on multiple cultural histories in ways that explore ideological limitations, and investigate broader global concerns including nationalism, identity, history, memory, borders, safety, the comfort and unpredictability of home and world, and the poetics of creative expression; synthetic, hybrid, and vital.

Ultimately my work as an artist explores the voices of curios and collectibles, the lost artifact, or forgotten story, the consumable good, tchotchke and souvenir, each with their own history and use, each with their own significance and association, yet each imbued with the potential to say more. My work as an artist is to carry the multiplicity of references and indications of their original voice, their affective promise and disclosure and to develop a grammar of objects; to gather the fragments and fractures, the disruptions and denial of our world; the glimmering hope, resilience and renewal, and to discover the threads that bind local to global, personal to universal, to narrate my small piece of truth and weave it into this map of our making.