







the Snook gallery





RECONSTRUCTION

Kenny Nguyen

KENNY NGUYEN

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work explores the concept of cultural identity, integration, and displacement. My studio practice is influenced by Vietnamese cultural heritage and background in fashion design. I use silk, a cultural-rich material, as a metaphor for my personal identity.

Silk has an important role in Vietnamese culture as well as the traditional art. After I've moved to the U.S., my research has shifted from traditional silk printing techniques to deconstruction and reconstruction of the textile itself. I used the material as a medium to paint and build a new structure for each installation. It's a repeated process of destroying and reweaving. Cutting, tearing, beating, sanding, sewing, sewing, attaching, leaving. Silk has become the connector that tied both cultures together.

My Silk Piece installations were constructed in the way garments would be made. I started from based on an imagination body. Each silk and shape was secured temporarily with a push pin and consistency changed during the installation process. The forms are not permanent, when I removed the piece in a new space the process will be repeated but the result will never look the same. The reweaving of silk is a delicate to structural material was reminiscent of my identity transformation. I see silk as my second skin, because it reconstructs my own self and recapturing memories.









