

Nancy Jo Ward

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ARTIST STATEMENT

My art practice is an interdisciplinary approach to exploring human emotion through fictional portraiture. I am inspired by the infinitely variable visual culture of the web and create art influenced by personal narratives to explore the links between our digital culture, identity, gender, and social activism. Through a diverse mix of hybrid processes - photography, phone apps, algorithms, and AI mixed with traditional drawing and painting processes I produce physical work translated from the digital. Combining media allows for curiosity, discovery, and an active dialog with the process. Linking the worlds of emotion, form, surface, and light through deciphering my experience and playing with various media keeps me engaged and connected to a larger body - our collective identities.

I investigate substrates and printing processes using archival inks and hand-finishing with analog media to create versions of my work, not editions. Different forms of my art practice include works on archival papers, aluminum, crystalline-coated polymer illuminated by LED lightboxes, augmented reality, animation, experimental video, and projection.

I currently teach design in California. In 2018, I received my MFA with Distinction in Fine Art Digital from the University of Arts London. My work has been shown in physical and virtual juried exhibitions in the US, the UK, Italy, Greece, Austria, and United Arab Emirates.

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