

Hanna Corneliussen: Perfect so first off, could you tell us a little bit more about your piece like what are some of the main themes and how and why did these themes develop etc.

Jody Joldersma: yeah my pieces solitude in a room of one's own and it's kind of loosely based off the Virginia woolf essay solitude in a room and one zone.

Jody Joldersma: or a room of one's own and.

Jody Joldersma: So basically it's kind of a play on that that in order to create in order to write in her case, but in order to create in general, when.

Jody Joldersma: A woman needs a space of her own she needs money she needs a space of her own where she doesn't get interrupted, where she can focus on what she's doing.

Jody Joldersma: And it's sort of a kind of tongue in cheek kind of play on that, because if you look closely at the image she's kind of in a straitjacket and kind of.

Jody Joldersma: You know disassociated from herself so it's like in in a sort of modern world like sometimes the only way women get those spaces are kind of like.

Jody Joldersma: By being marginalized or by being you know you're crazy or that sort of thing so it's kind of it's about exploring that that dynamic, I think, and you know, can we have healthy versions of that what happens if it's an unhealthy version of that sort of dynamic.

Hanna Corneliussen: wow yeah that's so interesting, this is definitely one of the pieces that I think resonated with Danny and I, the most were like this is something that we personally buy for ourselves and put.

Hanna Corneliussen: Inner inner houses so yeah I just hearing you explain it more just yet just resonates with me even more so.

Hanna Corneliussen: Our exhibit has a dual theme one of standing still feeling frozen in time and the second of resiliency and emerging from struggle still standing So what are your reflections on this theme, as it relates to your work yeah.

Jody Joldersma: um well couple years ago I started working on a series of work called apocalypse ironically enough and then all kind of happened and and um.

Jody Joldersma: I guess it was about my partly about my own life and times, where I felt stuck and didn't feel like I could connect to what I feel like you know my purpose is.

Hanna Corneliussen: or.

Jody Joldersma: What I want to share with the world and so kind of analyzing you know when we are in that standstill, what can we do if you can't act if you're you know, and so I look at it as a time of reflection.

Jody Joldersma: You know, like everything that we're going on going through right now, a new world is being created that's actually the meaning of apocalypse it's that um.

Jody Joldersma: A new beginning a new uncovering of truth is being created now and so.

Jody Joldersma: it's up to us all to if we can you know if we have the privilege to do it be able to reflect upon what was our old world like, how can we make it better, what is our ability to change things and I think for me it's.

Jody Joldersma: it's kind of about like what your your theme is it feels like you know that sort of dynamic where.

Jody Joldersma: You know um it might feel like we're stuck but at the same time it's it's this process of creation it's the first phase of creation where you're you know coming up with all the possibilities and then hopefully that can turn into action later.

Hanna Corneliussen: that's so wonderful and it sounds like what you're talking about is is kind of your goals and outcomes that you want the visitor to have for the viewer to have for your art so prompting this kind of moment of reflection.

Hanna Corneliussen: So i'm leaning into that more what are some ideas emotions and conversations that you hope viewers will have with this piece, on top of reflection.

Jody Joldersma: yeah um I like to work with symbolism alot and I like the idea, like, for instance, the Taro is a great symbolic, you know kind of artistic thing and, and so I think of.

Jody Joldersma: Like the symbolism of that and sort of like the young and archetypes and you know how all of these things, everyone has these understandings inside of us sort of like a dream symbolism.

Jody Joldersma: And, but it's slightly different for everyone, you know it comes out in these different ways, so what I like to do with my art is I try and create a space where it's like creating a group dreaming, where we can share these.

Jody Joldersma: Symbols you know where it's like I might have a specific idea that i'm trying to bring but for me that's just my dream, and I want other people to bring their exploration of those symbols to to the viewing.

Jody Joldersma: And so maybe it would be something completely different for them and I don't see that as like Oh, they interpret it wrong or anything like that.

Jody Joldersma: I mean sure you can probably come up with a really bizarre interpretation that i'd be like oh my God that but you know, I think that it's important that it's a dialogue between the creator and the viewer it's not just this, this is my idea and you'll have to accept it.

Jody Joldersma: So I want people to feel like they can play with my images and my symbolism and bring their own ideas like my goal is just to inspire new thought.

Hanna Corneliussen: wow I think that's so beautiful and important, and I think it's something that historically museums have struggled with.

Hanna Corneliussen: So I think it's so cool that you bring this up in your work and and really a kind of have a lens that you work with under um so kind of switching gears a little bit we're hitting like the 1213 month mark of of lockdown.

Hanna Corneliussen: um, can you tell us a little bit about your past year, like what you've been up to and how these last month's have impacted you yeah.

Jody Joldersma: um well definitely hasn't been easy, but I do feel like i've been quite privileged throughout the whole process.

Jody Joldersma: yeah I had in 2019 i'd left a really bad relationship and.

Jody Joldersma: so glad to move on and have my own space and kind of be able to recreate and reimagine myself and so.

Jody Joldersma: This whole pandemic has been part of that, for me, and I was lucky enough to meet a new partner and he's been amazing through this whole thing so.

Jody Joldersma: You know i've been lucky enough to you know, be able to share the pandemic with somebody and.

Jody Joldersma: we've been just like you know, trying to turn to gardening and all these other approaches to try and feel like you know we're still connected to the world, so we don't feel too isolated, so we don't feel like we're just waiting until this is over.

Jody Joldersma: You know, so I think it's really given me a lot of understanding of the range of things i'm capable of I never thought I had a green thumb before this.

Jody Joldersma: Is my family even had like a farm and i'm like oh i'm the one that can grow things but it's just been so forgiving and easy and and enjoyable to do, and I do feel like.

Jody Joldersma: It says this year is giving me a chance to heal from my past it's given me a chance to kind of like reassess where my art is going, you know.

Jody Joldersma: And I have really very much missed art walks and being able to open my studio and share that with people so definitely you know I do hope that there's some sort of you know, return to the art world and things like that soon, but.

Jody Joldersma: You know I do feel like i've been, you know as an introvert this hasn't been as hard on me as it could be on somebody else and i'm housing secure, so I haven't had to worry about that challenge so.

Jody Joldersma: I do feel quite quite lucky that I I just happened to be kind of prepared hit right at the right time for me so.

Jody Joldersma: Definitely feel like this has given me a chance to re envision what the rest of my life will be like so.

Hanna Corneliussen: I love this kind of positive energy that you have an outlook.

Hanna Corneliussen: on it, you know I it's so healthy and and you're right, this is a time for reflection and self care right.

Jody Joldersma: Definitely had sad days, and you know it's like, especially in Seattle, when you get the winter blues on top of like you know being stuck at home, but.

Jody Joldersma: I do try and.

Jody Joldersma: You know, get try and focus on what can be done.

Jody Joldersma: You know time feel like so my energy just floundering and.

Hanna Corneliussen: yeah yeah that's wonderful um has can you talk a little bit about how art has maybe helped with that, like not foundering feeling.

Hanna Corneliussen: Or how you've changed as an artist, maybe in the past 12 months.

Jody Joldersma: yeah I think it's made me rethink you know all the different assumptions, I have, for one thing about what I was trying to do and i'm you know, like what even aren't how are we going to display our it in the future, how are we going to present it.

Jody Joldersma: So it's you know those challenges of wondering, you know how much should I change or alter what i'm doing versus how much you know, is this is kind of what I do and I don't want to divert too far from it, so I think it's kind of been about i've given myself a lot of.

Jody Joldersma: Freedom and i've been I think kind of kinder to myself normally I would have been more like a stickler like you have to get this done and you get this done and.

Jody Joldersma: and have like a more like timeline that was more restrictive, but I think that.

Jody Joldersma: You know you can't do that anymore, now we have to kind of open up to new ways of doing things and reflect on things and.

Jody Joldersma: and fundamentally it forced me to think about well what if there you know things never really go back to normal and.

Jody Joldersma: My niche of art just ceases to be a thing, and what would that mean for me So what does it mean to me beyond the commercial.

Jody Joldersma: Beyond the connection to others just my own would I do this if there weren't others, and you know I think the answer has been yes.

Jody Joldersma: You know that this is an important dialogue, even if it's with just myself, though I love sharing it with others, and I think that's so crucial.

Jody Joldersma: And also just finding new ways of doing that i've never you know I I.

Jody Joldersma: You know, do instagram stuff like that occasionally but it's never been like i'm not a big social media person so it's kind of like finding a place where I feel comfortable where i'm, not just on social media all the time.

Jody Joldersma: Just generally how easy it is during the pandemic to kind of feel like oh i'm just going to check, you know the Internet.

Jody Joldersma: To that, instead, and kind of the days slips away and you're like I didn't do anything.

Jody Joldersma: And so, trying to find more of a balanced idea were making sure that I am giving myself the way and freedom to explore, but that i'm not just mindlessly acting so making sure that there's some some kind of accountability.

Hanna Corneliussen: yeah wow that's wonderful and I love, how you, you talk about it as like a coping mechanism and I, because I feel like so many people even that maybe don't have a huge art background I really leaned into art and creativity during this time to cope and kind of as a healing.

Hanna Corneliussen: tool so that's wonderful um Is there something that you hope everybody can take away from this past year's events, if anything.

Jody Joldersma: um well, I hope that you know people aren't too hard on themselves, you know internally blame themselves for something beyond beyond their own power.

Jody Joldersma: And also that that they can find a place to explore, you know it's so hard so many people are in such bad circumstances so.

Jody Joldersma: it's you know, hoping, people are just functioning and surviving is is another aspect so just you know, hoping, hoping that.

Jody Joldersma: Maybe my perspective on this, you know, can help other people feel like.

Jody Joldersma: They can get their own motivation up and kind of keep keep that hamster wheel going, you know, so we still feel like we're making progress and not getting too bogged down in this it's kind of like a perpetual snow day.

Jody Joldersma: Is longer and longer.

Hanna Corneliussen: yeah oh I love that snow day analogy.

Hanna Corneliussen: that's a great metaphor for the state, I feel like.

Hanna Corneliussen: we're in um but it's so wonderful i'm so that was our last question is there anything that you would like to add, before we end, this is also a good time to talk about ways folks can access your work, if you have any.

Jody Joldersma: yeah I have a website it's jodi jodi older small.com that's Jay oh Jay O D y J O El de R s ma calm.

Jody Joldersma: And i'm on instagram same name um Facebook all the Twitter like that, and so yeah mostly mostly do instagram I you know sucker for images.

Jody Joldersma: The easy thing as an artist, you know so yeah that's kind of where i'll update the latest stuff i'm doing put whatever i'm working on in a story, so you can see, the latest thing i'm doing.

Jody Joldersma: yeah that's you know but i'm working on the Apocalypse series right now and I maybe have a venue but we don't know where the venue is going to be eventually so we'll see.

Hanna Corneliussen: Oh that's so exciting, though, and we're so excited to have you a part of the show and to have you here today, so thanks again so much for your time.

yeah.

Danielle New: I agree, I want to stop the recording.

Danielle New: awesome.