



JEANA EVE KLEIN

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BIO

At the age of 7, Jeana Eve Klein pillaged her mother's dormant knitting basket and made 100 yarn pom-poms which she strung together and hauled through the house on a leash, like a long, limp pet snake. At the time, she lived in Michigan and it was probably winter, so it was a perfectly reasonable way to pass the time. A couple years later, she got ahold of the latest issue of *Woman's Day* and bastardized its simple doll-making recipe with a result whose household name alternated between FrankenKlein (due to the sloppiness of his stitching) or EinKlein (due to the exuberance of his hair). In the thirty-plus years since, Klein has continued exploring the world of textiles in all its infinite, tactile, compulsive joy.

Now that she is college-educated (with an undergraduate degree from the College of Design at North Carolina State University and MFA from Arizona State University) and a theoretical full-fledged professional, Klein's work has become more consistent and cohesive than her early beginnings. Her recent studio practice has coalesced around the broad theme of value: how society in general assigns value (or worthlessness) to objects, and how the art world, specifically, assigns value to works of art, craft and design. These ideas are made tangible through large mixed media quilts and tiny obsessive embroideries. The quilts draw—both visually and conceptually—on Klein's infatuation with abandoned houses. She uses digital photography and inkjet printing to capture the reality of abandonment, superimposed with her painted imaginings of the houses' former lives. In the embroideries, Klein analyzes the value of the artist's hand by neurotically making (and counting) French knots, and then somehow convincing others to do her stitching for her.

Klein's work has been exhibited nationally, including recent solo and duo exhibitions at the Hickory Museum of Art in Hickory, NC, the Foundry Arts Centre in St. Charles, MO, City Gallery in North Charleston, SC, VisArts in Rockville, MD and Gallery One in Ellensburg, WA. Images of her work have been printed in *American Craft* and several volumes of *Surface Design Journal*. She has been the lucky recipient of one *Foundations Fellows* grant, two *University Research Grants* and three *Undergraduate Research Assistantships*, all generously supported by Appalachian State University. She is a 2014 recipient of a *Craft Artist Fellowship* from the North Carolina Arts Council.

Klein lives in Boone, North Carolina with her awesome husband and two super cute kids, and is Associate Professor of Fibers in the Art Department at Appalachian State University.