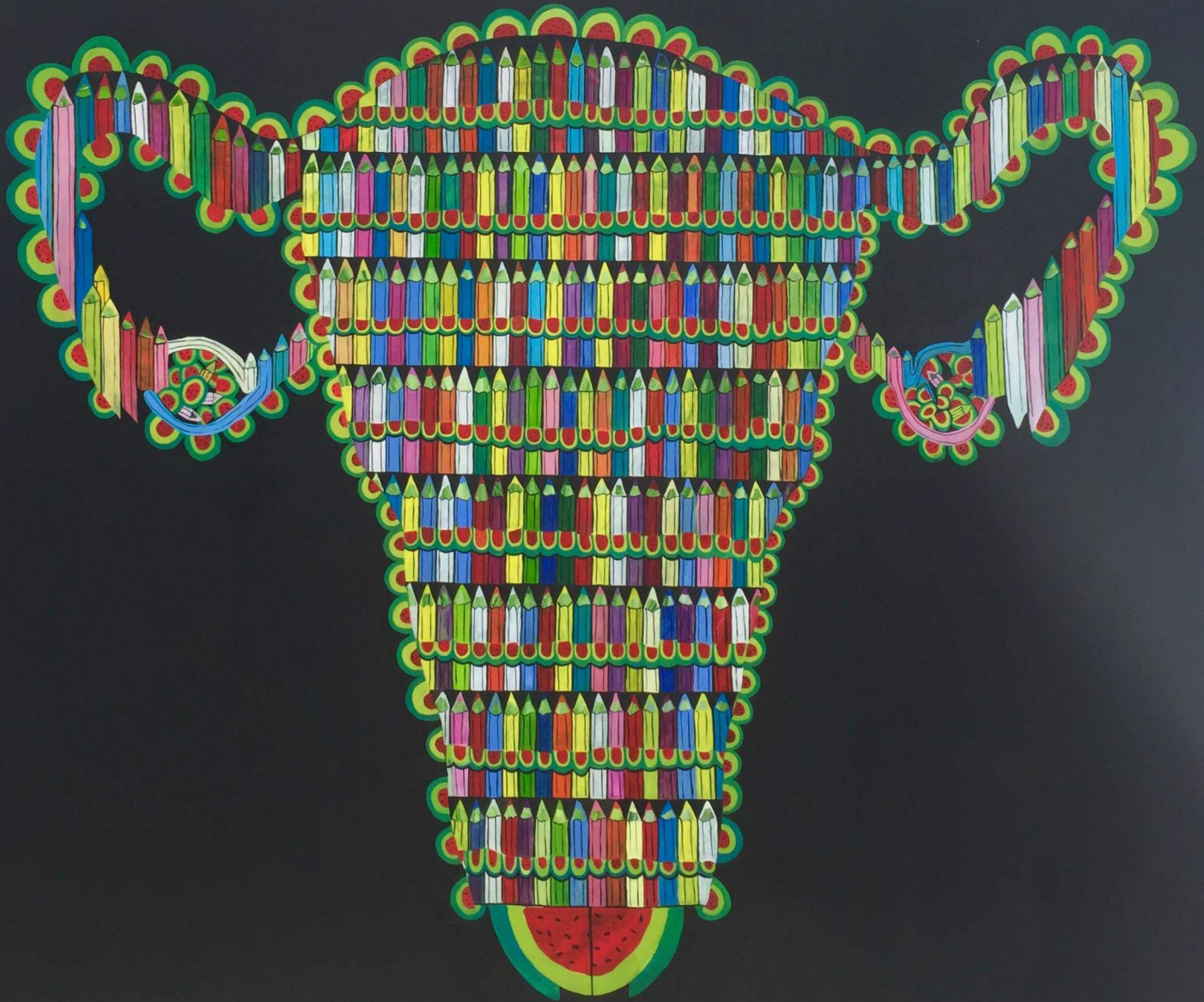


I Think Therefore I

Celina Teaque at London's Kristin Hjellegjerde galler

ARTS & CULTURE (/CATEGORIES/ARTS-AND-CULTURE)



Painter Celina Teague

(<http://kristinhjellegjerde.com/exhibitions/16/overview/>) is fascinated by the strange relationship us humans have with the news, "we live with a constant feed of news coming into our lives" she explains, "bombarded by headlines, images and stories, often the mix is quite disturbing so you could see images of a horrific disaster next to photos of the most gossipy item out there".

It is this odd fusion and its impact on our psyche that inspires this young artist.

"*The Daily Mail* format is a good example of the often peculiar mix of image overload we are exposed to" she adds with great passion, "on the one side are dark, serious stories while next to these, on the right is the showbiz stuff. I am interested in the inbetween, in our ability to move from one extreme to the next and digest it all. In a way, the show has been about finding this grey area, I am also intrigued by the fact we constantly see dark images and how it affects us"

Celina wants people to take time and reflect on the stories themselves; "my inspiration is these stories and so I often start a painting with a knee jerk response to something that has happened, in that respect, the way I paint is unplanned, it emerges and grows on the canvas. I am hit by a strong emotion and compulsion to express an idea".

I talk to Celina at the end of an intense creative period as her show *I Think Therefore I #* is coming to a close (September 5th). "I used to take a lot more time on paintings, even two three months" she explains, "but this time I only had six months to put the entire show together so I had less time, but it was a good exercise for me to be less of a perfectionist. It did mean making sacrifices where as I haven't been socially friendly, haven't seen anyone and was just cut off from everyone in order to get things done".

Celina received her MA in Fine Art from London's Central Saint Martins College and I wonder how instrumental art college education was in her career and she casts "a fantastic network of fellow art students" as the greatest advantage to the time spent at the London college. "I also had a great tutor who encouraged me to visit galleries and look at others people's art which was inspirational but generally speaking art schools in the UK tend to leave you to do your own work, you are not really guided unlike German art schools.

I ask Celina to speak of a painting directly inspired by a news item and she chooses I Am No One (<http://kristinhjellegjerde.com/artists/87-celina-teague/works/778/>); “thinking of the Bring Back Our Girls (<http://mashable.com/2014/05/07/michelle-obama-nigeria-bring-back-our-girls/http://mashable.com/2014/05/07/michelle-obama-nigeria-bring-back-our-girls/>) campaign; it is amazing to think that this campaign was a huge social media story with the kidnapped girls being everywhere but then we moved on. The pencil has become a global symbol of freedom of expression. I chose to paint one pencil for each child that was abducted, together they form the shape of a uterus it is not a bull's head like some believe”.

As for what the future holds Celina speaks of her love of painting and art. "I cannot imagine doing anything else" she concludes, "I studied English and drama, but found a home with painting"

I tell Celina of the many artists I talk to who are disheartened by the many obstacles in their path to recognition and she acknowledges the grim reality experienced by many graduates, "it's a tough road for any artist" she replies, "I know I am privileged to find a great gallery that I love working with, it's tough but you must have faith. Its about making your voice heard, you can only work from your heart and see where things go”.

