

MARGARET WRIGHT / VISUAL ARTIST

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Artist Statement:

I live for narrative. I also possess a consuming interest in multiple points of view. I love the time-based aspect of photographing, which allows me to repetitively collect information then recompose as it suits me. I'm continually amazed and interested in what it takes to live -- to both survive and succeed -- in my artwork I tell visual stories about human interactions and growth. Over the past 20 years my work has dealt with issues of childhood, adolescence, parenthood and personhood.

Oceans and Chicago's freshwater sea, Lake Michigan, inspire my current project, Antidote. It is concerned with the way that humans use relaxation and vacations to temporarily leave "themselves" -- their identities and concerns -- in order to return to "themselves". Each piece is designed to create a specific relationship with the viewer's body. The series is called *Antidote* because I want it to provide an antidote to everyday life. My process has grown to include new modes of communicating my ideas. My previous work has been based exclusively in still photography and photographic montage; this new project includes image-based fiber constructions and multimedia installation.

The goal in my work is to make visual narrative by assembling images and materials in various ways to create sites for hiatus, catalyst and catharsis.

Biography:

Margaret Wright is a Chicago-based visual artist. She has exhibited extensively in the US and has had numerous solo exhibitions at universities and been included in group shows by curators such as Catherine Edelman and Alison Nordstrom. She was chosen for Review Santa Fe in 2008 and she was named a featured artist for Chicago Artists Month 2010; during which she also curated a featured exhibition, *Alone Together; Urban Community as Family*, which was a featured exhibition that year. She is a founding member of the collectives Stella and Standard Usage Project. In 2014, Wright exhibited with the Stellas at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art. Wright has done additional curatorial projects with both Stella and Standard Usage Project. She was awarded an Albert P. Weisman Memorial Scholarship, the Follett Graduate Fellowship, the Illinois Arts Council grant and a Fellowship Award Honorable Mention at SAIC. Wright received her BFA in filmmaking from The Art Institute of Chicago and her MFA in photography from Columbia College Chicago and she is an Adjunct Professor of Photography at Columbia College Chicago.

Wright's work displays a tension between classical beauty and rupture, which she traces to the dual influence of classic modernist photography and mid last century independent art film. Wright's work remains involved with the passage of time in images, which through the very nature of photography, changes our perception of events by framing the individual moment and excluding moments before and after. Increasingly, she uses techniques such as montage, fiber constructions and installation, sometimes literally tearing the printed image into pieces and rearranging them. She makes these choices to engage the violence buried in the act of recording and stilling time and move beyond the boundaries of the 2-dimensional image in order to expand the narrative contained in the work.