

Kate Kelton at Gallery 30 South, January 2023: "The Indomitable Sentry"

Seeking to elevate brave Silence Breakers who've come forward during the #MeToo movement, Kate Kelton's portraiture combines their oft familiar faces with elements of her family's Czech architecture. Her portraits are cloaked in the garb of statues that Ladislav Šaloun sculpted onto the central train station that her great-grandfather, Josef Fanta, designed for Prague between 1901 - 1909. Sampling and mixing her own lineage, Kate has transformed a historical body of work, itself a thing of lasting beauty, exchanging granite for graphite; plaster for paint.

Kate Kelton, Bio:

Headresses and crowns deify Kate Kelton's subjects. She uplifts the Unsung Sheroes & Heroes, Patriarchy Smashers, Warrior Survivors, Silence Breakers, Philosophers, Truth-Tellers, Whistle Blowers and Thought Giants. She paints portraits cloaked in the garb of statues Ladislav Šaloun sculpted onto the train station that her great-grandfather, Josef Fanta, designed for Prague in 1901 - 1909.

Apotheosis through a reclaimed, reapplied Art Nouveau.

Sampling her own lineage, in Photoshop she first combines the desaturated faces she's sourced or shot of her chosen subjects, with the black and white photos from her family and friends, of the statues there in situ. She then uses graphite, inks, acrylic paints and glazes to create the works on panel or canvas, uplifting and elevating her battle-weary subjects to the highest reaches of architectural strata.

'Ancient and distant godlike beings, surveying a dying empire, trade places with the fresh blood of her subjects. The work presents a tactility against the digitized space, and represents a taking, an acquisition of power back from the tastemakers. Here, the mantle of the artist is above brand influencer, above internet commentator, above mere marketability. In their gaze is a warning, "Art is immortal. Come for me, why don't you?"' ~ Micah Chaim Thomas

“Kate’s recent work is a matter of expansion through contrast - she is as ephemeral as her subjects are concrete architecture; she is structural when her subjects should slip through your fingers like too-fine sand. Taken as a whole, the works in her magnificent series Sentry are incredibly intelligent, but when looked at individually, you come to understand that these are statements of life beyond themselves. The series take embellishments of a Prague train station designed by her great-grandfather, Josef Fanta, and combines these with portraits of women who have stood against the sexual harassment and assault rampant in Hollywood. These women, like Kate herself, have suffered in the era where powerful men, every bit as immovable as the train station, wielded their power without check. The portraits emblazoned on architectural elements, they are marked against the edifice, every bit as permanent, and perhaps even more defining. If you approach those as portraits, you’re taking the moment but missing the permanence. If you take them as statuary, you’re missing the fact that they are, in fact, alive within those gazes. It’s really incredible how much a shift of the light, a dart of the eye, can turn each of them from a memorial into a promise.” ~ Christopher J Garcia

Kate Kelton was born in the south of Germany, after her parents escaped Czechoslovakia. Her early years were spent in a VW bus traveling Europe with her mother, an abstract painter. Settling in Toronto, Canada at age seven, Kelton attended the Etobicoke School of the Arts as a Visual Arts Major, and received a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Film, from Ryerson University. Her father was an architect. His grandfather, and namesake, was Josef Fanta: renowned Art Nouveau architect, engineer and sculptor, who worked closely with Alphonse Mucha. Photographer Dagmar Hochová is Kelton’s great aunt, on her mother’s side. Kelton also had a recurring role on Stephen King’s *Haven* on the Syfy Channel. When the illustrated re-edition of the book it’s based on, *The Colorado Kid*, was published, she illustrated the front and back inside covers. Her first lead role on tv was opposite Eric Roberts and Eddie Izzard, in the Independent Film Channel’s *Bullet In The Face*. Alex Maleev illustrated her for the poster. Her first feature film, Deepa Mehta’s *The Republic of Love*, debuted at the Toronto International Film Festival. Her film credits include cult classics, *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle* and *American Psycho II*. Did you also spot her in music videos, like Shaggy’s “It Wasn’t Me?” Almost as good as googling her as “the Tic Tac girl.” ;} Kate has exhibited her artwork internationally for decades, at, among others: the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, the New Walk Museum & Art Gallery in the UK; Gallery 1988 in New York, Venice, and West Hollywood; Gabba Gallery, La Luz de Jesus Gallery, and Durden & Ray in Los Angeles; Art On Scene in Beverly Hills; Galerie F in Chicago; Lawless Concept in Montreal; and The Sony Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto. Her work has toured with Yoko Ono’s Group Show *Arising from Zurich*, to Portugal, to the UK and Germany.

Kate Kelton, CV:

LA, USA: ArtBarLA's "Pieces of a Dream" Group Show, 2022.

Costa Mesa, USA: Coastline Gallery's "Perceive Me" Group Show, 2022.

Online: Kristine Schomaker's "Perceive You" Group Show, 2022.

Zurich, Switzerland: Kunsthaus Zurich's "The Room Moves At The Same Speed As The Clouds" Group Show, 2022.

Vancouver, CANADA: Vancouver Art Gallery's "Yoko Ono: Growing Freedom; The Instructions of Yoko Ono And The Art Of John And Yoko" Group Show, 2022.

San Diego, USA: Mesa College Art Gallery's "Perceive Me" Group Show, 2022.

Lancaster, USA: MOAH Cedar's "Perceive Me" Group Show, 2021.

Camarillo, USA: Studio Channel Islands' "Perceive Me" Group Show, 2021.

Mesa, USA: Mesa Community College's "Perceive Me" Group Show, 2021.

Newport Beach, USA: Coastline Community College's "Perceive Me" Group Show, 2021.

LA, USA: Sloan Fine Art's "2020: Our Vision. Our Voices." Group Show, 2020.

Porto, Portugal: Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art's "Yoko Ono: The Learning Garden of Freedom" Group Show, 2020.

LA, CA: Skirball Cultural Center's "LA Times Presents Chasing Cosby Live," Solo artist, 2020.

Calgary, CANADA: Contempo Calgary's "Yoko Ono: Growing Freedom; The Instructions of Yoko Ono And The Art Of John And Yoko" Group Show, 2020.

Santa Monica, USA: Annenberg Space's "2020: Our Vision. Our Voices." Group Show, 2020.

LA, USA: Cal State LA & Ronald H. Silverman Fine Art Gallery's "Perceive Me" Group Show, 2020.

Cambridge, UK: University of Cambridge's Ruskin Gallery "Yoko Ono: ARISING" Group Show, 2019.

Pasadena, USA: Gallery 30 South's "The Coaster Show" Group Show, 2019.

San Diego, USA: Vista Library's Julian Hernandez Solo Show, Group adjacent 2019.

Syracuse, USA: The Everson Museum Of Art's "Yoko One: Remembering The Future." Part of the ARISING group, 2019.

Chicago, USA: The Art Institute of Chicago's Yoko Ono "Arising," part of the ARISING group, 2019.

Montreal, Canada: Foundation Phi pour L'Art Contemporain's "Liberté Conquérante / Growing Freedom: The Instructions of Yoko Ono And The Art Of John And Yoko," part of the ARISING group, 2019.

Leipzig, Germany: Museum of Fine Arts' Yoko Ono "PEACE IS POWER," part of the ARISING group, 2019.

Los Angeles, USA: The Montalban's "A Feminist Perspective 5.0" Group Show, 2019.

Los Angeles, USA: Cactus Gallery's "SENTRY" Solo Show, 2019.

OC, USA: San Juan Capistrano Library's "Day of the Dead Festival" Group Show, 2018.

Pasadena, CA: Gallery 30 South's "The Coaster Show" Group Show, 2018.

West Hollywood, USA: New Profanity's "LollyPopCulture" Group Show, 2018.

Vancouver, Canada: Art! Vancouver's "Pop+X" Group Show, 2018.

LA, USA: La Luz de Jesus' "LALUZAPALOOZA" Group Show, 2018.

LA, USA: The Gabba Gallery's "ARTSTAR" Solo Show, 2018.

Leicester, UK: New Walk Museum & Art Gallery' "L.O.V.E. Art" Group Show, 2018.

LA, USA: The Gabba Gallery's "WISHLIST 5" Group Show, 2017.

Beverly Hills, USA: Art on Scene's "Back To School Special" Group Show, 2017.

LA, USA: La Luz de Jesus' "COASTER SHOW 2017" Group Show, 2017.

LA, USA: The Gabba Gallery's "Cratedigger" Group Show, 2017.

LA, USA: Durden & Ray's "Book Club: Going Native" Group Show, 2017.

LA, USA: The Gabba Gallery's "Joe's Train Station" Solo Show, 2017.

LA, USA: Giant Robot Presents: "POST IT SHOW" Group Show, 2016.

LA, USA: The Gabba Gallery's "WISHLIST 4 & 4.5" Group Show, 2016.

LA, USA: La Luz de Jesus' "COASTER SHOW 2016" Group Show, 2016.

LA, USA: The Gabba Gallery's "Cratedigger: The Lost Art of Album Cover Art" Group Show, 2016.

Chicago, USA: Galerie F's "Cities" Group Show, 2016.

LA, USA: La Luz de Jesus' "LALUZAPALOOZA" Group Show, 2016.

LA, USA: Vakseen's "Vanity Pop" Group Show, 2016.

LA, USA: The Gabba Gallery's "WISHLIST 3" Group Show, 2015.

LA, USA: The Gabba Gallery's "Wood, Metal, Screw 2" Group Show, 2015.


Hawthorne, USA: Phantom Galleries LA's "Art Fusion 15" Group Show, 2015.

LA, USA: The Gabba Gallery's "Zodiac In Retrograde" Group Show, 2015.

LA, USA: Gallery 1988's "Is This Thing On? 2" Group Show, 2012.

Venice, USA: Gallery 1988's "Suspense & Gallows Humor, A Tribute To Hitchcock" Group Show 2012.

NYC, USA: Gallery 1988's "Crazy 4 Cult" Pop-up Group Show, 2012.



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