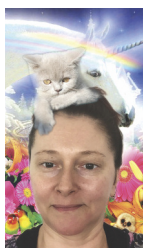




Clouds, 2016, Graphite on paper

Onloaded: Karolina Sussland/*Clouds*

April 15 – May 15, 2016



My parents had a choice of countries when they were planning our escape from Czechoslovakia - either Australia or the United States - due to the distribution of relatives that had gotten out before the borders closed. My aunt, who lived in Phoenix, used to send my parents *Arizona Highways* magazines which influenced my parents' decision to relocate here. The supersaturated photos of sunsets found in those magazines (circa late 1970s) represented the utopian American Dream. I'm drawn to this pretense of perfection. Originally I replaced the foreground with interference gold, the most commercial color in existence, and the background with white, the color used for purity. As the series continued, I

started using nature photos from people across the United States, removing the sky and replacing it with a cloudy sunset sky drawn with graphite. I was still thinking about the American Dream only broadening the scope of imagery from Arizona to the entire United States. I'm using other people's photos because the images can't come from me; it can't be real to me. In this latest series, I'm only drawing the sunset clouds in graphite with no land visible at all. For me, there is something magical about how delicate the graphite is. The clouds are all based on a Google image "cloud" search because, like the landscapes, the cloud references can't come from me. I wanted to do something specific within the container so I'm transforming the space into a container holding the American Dream, the sunset sky part which started as white representing purity.

Karolina Sussland earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drawing from Arizona State University and taught algebra and geometry at Metropolitan Arts Institute, Phoenix. Since 2000, her work has been actively exhibited within Arizona and also in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2012. In 2012, she was awarded the prestigious Artists Material Grant from the Contemporary Forum, Phoenix Art Museum. She has participated in two Artist Residencies – one at the Banff Center in Banff, Alberta, Canada, and the other at Vermont Studio. Her art is found in various private and corporate collections.

Karolina Sussland

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