

Kacy Jung

Through digital photography, printable fabric, and photo-sculptures, Kacy examines how the manipulative nature of the capitalist system influences job identity, class consciousness, and personal decision-making.

Capitalism, which was supposed to free people from feudalism, has turned into a monster. This profit-driven society, consumerism, and the downside of social-economic inequality have enslaved the population. Some people have to work several jobs to receive basic human rights. Some get lost in the rat-race competition of wealthy accumulation. Self-interests become a privilege, and this pandemic only makes the discrepancy larger.

The stark contrasts between those who cannot afford to stop working for maintaining minimum critical infrastructure operations, including the food supply chains workers, the public transit workers, or Amazon delivers (ironically, those are usually the ones who cannot afford to stop working to make a living), versus those who are doing so-called "bullshit jobs" are disheartening.

Responding to the shelter-in-place order, Kacy begins to pay more attention to the household items and everyday tools. After seeing the shopping bags piled behind the cashier at Trader Joe's, she cannot help but draw a comparison between grocery bags and human labor - both are expected to be competitive in terms of cost. It is better if they can be easily managed and are space-saving. Trivial, lightweight, but at the same time, both can carry so much weight.

Through the confluence of digital photography, post-processing, resin-coated printed fabric, and photo-sculptures, Kacy creates a novel visual language that responds to today's twisted world and troubled minds; the metaphor of thread and fabric illustrates how individuals weave together to form a web from which no one can escape. By blurring the 2-D and 3-D with printed semi-transparent fabrics, she also explores a new possibility that extends beyond traditional photographic prints to invite the light, 3-D, and texture back to the final work.

This work, "*21 Grams, the Weight of Souls- Grocery Bag #2*", is part of an ongoing interview/ photo-sculpture project "*21 Grams, the Weight of Souls*" which highlights the power of art and the struggles of those who are battling between having remunerative careers and pursuing their dreams. The image used in this work is of Oakland-based painter Courtney Griffith.

For more information about the interview between the artist Kacy and Courtney, please visit:

