

# LARISSA BRANTNER JAMES – ARTIST STATEMENT

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Born in Thousand Oaks, California 1979

Lives and works in Los Angeles, California

2012 MFA CalArts, School of Art, Photography and Media Program

2002 BFA UCLA, School of Art, Theory and Practice of the Moving Image

My creative practice is interdisciplinary, utilizing multimedia, and new genres. I am interested in photography and video's fictitious nature - how moving and still images reveal the unreal and imaginary spaces of the human psyche. I look for magic and myth within the common place.

In 2011, my CalArts MFA solo show titled "Investment Process" addressed issues of commodity, commerce, and a societal desire to possess and collect objects. The work explores how cultures construct and process pleasure through industry and production.

In 2012, my CalArts MFA thesis show titled "Ab Ovo", I use sculpture to transform tangible objects into a representational fiction and depict a warped mythology. Taking on the style of classic Greco Roman marble sculptures with a nod to trompe l'oeil technique, the work refers to Janus, the ancient Roman god of beginnings and transitions. "Ab Ovo" is latin for "in the beginning", "the origin", or "the egg" and the show speaks of complimentary, as well as contradictory, concepts of life and death.