



## ABOUT KATRINA ANDRY

A native of New Orleans, LA, Katrina Andry received an M.F.A in printmaking in 2010 from Louisiana State University. She currently lives and works in New Orleans where she maintains a studio. Andry was listed in the September 2012 *Art in Print* magazine as one of the top 50 printmakers. She has recently shown at the Hammonds House Museum (solo), the Pensacola Museum of Art (solo), the Louisiana State University Museum of Art, Baton Rouge, LA (solo), and the New Orleans Museum of Art. She has also been an artist-in-residence at Anchor Graphics in Chicago, Kala Art Institute in Berkeley, CA, and the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans.

Image credits: Above: *Mammy Complex: Unfit Mommies Make for Fit Nannies*, 2011, color reduction woodcut on archival digital print. Cover: *Feigned Fear of the Manufactured Chicken Head*, 2019, color reduction woodcut. Photo: Rick Rhodes. All images courtesy of the artist.

### CORRELATING EVENTS

#### OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, August 23, 6:30–8:00 PM  
Free for Halsey Institute members and College of Charleston community  
\$5 for general public

#### ARTIST TALK

Saturday, August 24, 2:00 PM  
Free and open to the public

#### FAMILY DAY!

Sunday, October 13, 12:00–4:00 PM  
Open to all members

#### HALSEY TALKS: ART & ACTIVISM

##### Featuring guest speaker Kali Holloway

Tuesday, October 29, 6:30 PM  
Free and open to the public

#### CURATOR-LED EXHIBITION TOUR FOR MEMBERS

Thursday, December 5, 6:00 PM  
Open to all members

#### LOCATION

The Marion and Wayland H. Cato Jr. Center for the Arts  
College of Charleston  
161 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401  
halsey.cofc.edu

#### PARKING

Available in the St. Philip St. and George St. garages

#### GALLERY HOURS

Mon.–Sat., 11:00 AM–4:00 PM during exhibitions, or by appointment  
Open until 7:00 PM on Thursdays  
Free admission!

#### CONTACT

(843) 953-4422 or halsey@cofc.edu

#### BLOG

Learn more about the exhibition at [halsey.cofc.edu/learn](http://halsey.cofc.edu/learn)


#### GUIDED GROUP TOURS BY APPOINTMENT

Free tours are led by knowledgeable and experienced guides and can be adapted to various time lengths, group sizes, and ages. To schedule a tour, contact [halseytours@cofc.edu](mailto:halseytours@cofc.edu) or call (843) 953-5659. Free, regularly-scheduled tours are offered each Saturday at 2:00 PM in the Halsey Institute galleries, unless there is a superseding artist talk.

**MISSION:** The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston School of the Arts provides a multidisciplinary laboratory for the production, presentation, interpretation, and dissemination of ideas by innovative visual artists from around the world. As a non-collecting museum, we create meaningful interactions between adventurous artists and diverse communities within a context that emphasizes the historical, social, and cultural importance of the art of our time.

**KATRINA ANDRY: OVER THERE AND HERE IS ME AND ME** is sponsored by South Carolina Humanities, a not-for-profit organization; inspiring, engaging, and enriching South Carolina with programs on literature, history, culture, and heritage. The exhibition is also supported in part by a grant from The Henry & Sylvia Yaschik Foundation.

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The Henry & Sylvia  
Yaschik Foundation



# KATRINA ANDRY

## OVER THERE AND HERE IS ME AND ME

August 23 - December 7, 2019







## SIRENS OF DECAY

Structures of power in the work of Katrina Andry

by Bryan Granger

In her woodblock print *Mammy Complex: Unfit Mommies Make for Fit Nannies*, 2011, Katrina Andry takes aim at racial stereotypes. Playing with the double standard that views some women of color as poor mothers even as they make up a large proportion of nannies taking care of white children, Andry uses her vivid printmaking skills to comment on the absurdity of stereotypes in modern society. Further highlighting the ridiculous nature of specific stereotypes, she

portrays the Unfit Mother in the work as a white woman in what the artist calls “watermelon face.” With one infant in her arms and another on her enlarged backside, this woman is ignored by her counterpart in the print, who trains her gaze on one of the babies. Peering out of the pictorial space and into the world of the viewers, the Unfit Mother slowly fades into the background, with her translucent skin becoming more and more invisible to those around her.

This print encapsulates the work of Katrina Andry. An artist based in New Orleans, Andry has used her craft to investigate how racial stereotypes function, often pointing to their illogical absurdity and the double standards they advance. Her large-scale woodblock prints confront viewers, highlighting power structures that exist due to racial stereotypes and cultural clichés.

Andry’s working process differs from typical woodblock printmaking in that she uses the same block for each color in the print, colloquially called a *suicide block*. Because Andry carves each layer on the same wooden block, she is unable to edit the prints after they have been completed. Thus her works become more like paintings than traditional prints—with their inherent capability of endless reproduction.

For her exhibition *Over There and Here Is Me and Me* at the Halsey Institute, Andry is using these explorations of stereotypes to see how gentrification develops and is sustained. By looking at specific tropes like violence and drugs, she examines how such concepts are used as weapons to devalue communities, forcing out their long-time occupants and allowing these areas to become gentrified.

In February 2019, fresh from a project examining the expansion of Interstate 10 and resulting breakup of thriving Black communities in New Orleans, Andry turned her attention to Charleston, a city with a similar history of fraught racial divides. Andry traveled to Charleston to explore how gentrification is rapidly affecting residents on the city’s peninsula. The growth of gentrification and other community shifts was recently researched and published in a report by The Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture’s Race and Social Justice Initiative at the College of Charleston. The report, titled “The State of Racial Disparities in Charleston County, 2000–2015,” asserts that:

beneath all the accolades [and] adulation [directed at Charleston], its picturesque landscape, the sounds of church bells flowing, and the overarching tour guide narratives of charm and gentility is a haunting story of unfinished racial business that Charlestonians generally avoid discussing. But the spirits and ancestors beckon to be heard in the middle of the modern worship of money, gentrification, and the region’s brutal history of enslavement and Jim Crow terrorism.

Seemingly tapping into these spirits and ancestors who need to be heard, Andry created for this exhibition a new suite of prints exploring racist tropes that help foster gentrification. Based on mythological sirens, which typically have bird-like features, all of the figures in this series arise from a nest. Traditionally seen as precursors of death and suffering, the sirens in Andry’s work foretell of communities being erased due to gentrification. In *Mother Medusa Nurtures and Destroys*, 2019, the central figure has snakes coming out of her eyes, referencing the titular mythological being. Instead of having serpents as hair, Andry’s figure features traditional African braids and dress. With this work, Andry examines the idea of the Other, or a signification of the nonwhite.

In *Fabricated Satyr’s Distracted Desires*, 2019, Andry returns to mythological symbolism, this time giving the central figure the physical qualities of a satyr. In Roman myth, satyrs were viewed as intensely lustful creatures, often depicted with goatlike horns and hooves. Here Andry’s work investigates stereotypes of Black women as hypersexual beings.

Andry also calls out the use of drugs as a cliché often discussed in connection with Black violence and the tearing apart of Black communities via disproportionate incarceration. In her *Feigned Fear of the Manufactured Chicken Head*, 2019, a Black woman with needles hanging out of her arms and a heroin spoon falling from her mouth peers at the viewer through her hands, a seemingly capricious gesture. Yet her antics reference the term chicken head from the title, evoking a derogatory epithet typically used against Black women.

Also on view are a selection of prints from the artist’s ongoing series *Otherness and American Values*. As the name implies, these works analyze a range of commonly held societal values and concepts, illuminating their racist underpinnings. For instance, in her aptly titled *Genetic Inferiority: Darwin’s Theory of White Superiority and Black Unintelligence*, 2010, Andry depicts a figure in watermelon face holding

a banana as an obviously pejorative symbol when used in the presence of Black bodies. The figure sits at a traditional school desk, an allusion to the vast racial disparities in public education that still exist, suggesting that the government has systematically absorbed Darwin’s racist ideas.

Further addressing how stereotypes easily seep into pop culture, Andry combines her works from the *Otherness* series onto a digital collage of so-called Ethnic fabrics purchased from big-box and local craft stores. These fabrics contain vague references



to kente cloth and other traditional African patterns, but Andry also features cartoon animals such as elephants, leopard- and tiger-paw prints, and renderings of primitive headdresses in order to demonstrate how popular imagery of African sources is commonly reduced to vapid and derogatory caricatures.

For this exhibition Andry has also created a site-specific wallpaper installation. As part of her research in Charleston, she took several photographs of the transformation of the city’s streets and neighborhoods. Turning the images into a large-scale collage, Andry makes visitors to the gallery aware of what is happening on the peninsula. On top of the wallpaper, she has installed a series of faces in profile, cut from mirrored acrylic. Functioning as small mirrors, these faces remind the viewers that gentrification affects real people in the Charleston community while simultaneously inviting gallery visitors to see themselves in the work as well.

‘Dr. Stacy Patton, “The State of Racial Disparities in Charleston County, South Carolina, 2000-2015,” published by the Race and Social Justice Initiative, College of Charleston, 2017, p. 3. <https://rsji.cofc.edu/resources/disparities-report/>

*Bryan Granger is Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art.*

Left: *The Unfit Mommy and Her Spawn Will Wreck Your Comfortable Suburban Existence*, 2010, color reduction woodcut on archival digital print. Courtesy of the artist.  
Above: *Mother Medusa Destroys and Nurtures*, 2019, color reduction woodcut. Photo: Rick Rhodes. Courtesy of the artist.