

S. P. Harper

ARTIST STATEMENT

Eliciting desire. What is it? Who creates it? **S. P. Harper** answers by focusing on the intersection of rubbish and *objects d'art*. **377 Karats** is a 3D sculpture employing repurposed milk crates and wire. It illustrates how products change from valuable to worthless and re-emerge desirable. Part of eco-centric art, aka neo-materialism, inspired by her *diamantaire* (diamond cutter) grandfather, Harper sculpts and paints abstract geometrics using reclaimed materials, synthesizing historical and contemporary styles by mixing the classical tradition of still-life with modernism.

Through reforming and re-employing elements, her work reduces, re-uses and up-cycles. Applying diverse media such as discarded wallpaper, tablecloth, curtain, metal, plastic and wood fragments, Harper employs various disciplines including MIG welding, circular saw (*with diamond blade!*), table saw, jigsaw and sewing. Background recycled patterns vanished behind opaque oil paint subtly reappear through transparent gem stone dust and acrylic wash. *Gods of Fire* have been chosen to represent birthstones arranged in a didactic collection. Eternal flames emerge from the facets of jewels to reflect and transfix.