



a natural state

Artist: Leslie Pierce

Video 1: Spotlight (The Interview)

Pierce: I had this conversation with somebody I went to art school with and another friend who's considering going back to school right now who's an artist, and they were discussing the meaning of their art...what it means, you know. And I said, "Gosh, I'm, I'm purely a decorative artist. To me, I, I'm just trying to make something that's beautiful. It doesn't have any meaning other than it's just a beautiful object. I have...you know, I'm not trying to save the world or anything."

And the same thing when I do printmaking. I'm not trying to make any statement with that kind of art either. Really, I'm just a strict decorative artist. I like to do still lifes. I don't like to do portraiture or anything like that. I'm just art for art's sake--that's all I'm interested in.

I got to go see the Picasso-Matisse show they had at the Queens MoMA last year, and I was surprised. I was going in thinking I would be more drawn to the Picasso pieces, but I wasn't. I was more drawn to the Matisse pieces, because they were strictly beautiful paintings. The ones I liked were the really colorful cutouts that Matisse did and just the beautiful still-life paintings. So that's, that's what I lean towards myself.

I don't tell people I do gourd art when they ask me what I do unless I've got something I can show them, because I think the connotations right off the bat is that you've made a snowman or, you know, some kind of little painted, like, a kitty cat into a gourd or something real kind of kitschy-like. That has a lot of negative connotations as far as being crafty.

I don't think there are a lot of great examples of fine art-type gourds out there. So it's something I don't really...I...people...I tell them I'm an artist. I talk about printmaking or something else that's more accessible.

The design itself turns out really pretty. It's real minimal-looking to me, and it looks like older art to me. And our family's really big into history and art. My sister's an archaeologist. So we do like older things. We like older broken things, too, so this just seems to fit in. I like that this looks like something that could've been around a while.

End.

