

SHARON KAGAN

THE POLITICS OF COLOR

PRESENTED BY SHOW GALLERY

2021

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

In the series, *The Politics of Color*, Sharon Kagan brings her laser focus to subjects like patriotism, racism and gender identity. Kagan weaves together the formal and symbolic qualities of color, with the concepts of interconnection and separateness. Her practice begins when she knits with hemp rope or twine. The knitted sculpture is then photographed using a 3 megapixel camera. By over-enlarging the image thousands of pixelated forms emerge which Kagan painstakingly outlines in ink. Thick and thin lines and varied distances between the forms assert values to recreate the nearly lost threads. The drawings are then photographed, enlarged and printed on canvas. In order to abstract and physically breakdown the forms of the knitted images the artist grids the canvas by hand. For the work in *The Politics of Color*, the artist magnifies individual stitches thus transforming a harmless piece of knitting into a close up of a chain-linked fence.

Beginning in 2017, Kagan started having a visceral reaction to the red, white and blue of our flag as they seemed to have been co-opted by the “brand” of the far right. By 2018 Kagan began to highlight the fibrous nature of hemp rope, at times, transforming the soft thread into something barbed and menacing.

Kagan makes tangible the idea that all matter is composed of rapidly moving energy. She employs color to create an image that vibrates, pulses and moves. Her many pixelated forms within each thread demonstrate her belief that nothing is solid and nothing and no one is separate.

We have entered a time when our interconnectedness has dramatically shifted from an abstraction to a visceral reality. Sharon Kagan’s work amplifies the invisible web that connects the one to the whole. Nowhere is this more visible than in the painting, *Complexion*. The grid and the organic knitted forms represent a new matrix in which the geometric grid (the structured, ordered, masculine, the mind), partner with the organic forms of the knitting, (freedom, creativity, the feminine, the heart) where neither dominates and the two create balance. In a painting like, *Complexion* you see nuances rather than dichotomies. Its title references a palette that is drawn from the many beautiful colors of skin around the world. At times Kagan shapes the quilt like grid in the background into a view of the earth from miles above where there are no boundaries or perceivable differences. In places the edges of the threads dissolve and the interior shapes escape the larger confines of the perceived border. The artist is arguing against racism in favor of the value of all life and all people.

For well over a decade, Kagan has used knitting as a metaphor to represent our interconnectedness. While this body of work was inspired by the political divisions worldwide, the deeper aspects of the work speak even more forcefully to this moment of discovery that we are tied to each other. In the current context we have certainly learned that no one is safe unless everyone is safe.



Complexion

43.5 x 75.5 inches

Mixed media, acrylic paint, archival digital print on canvas

\$13,500



More Than Black or White

48 x 42 inches

Mixed media, acrylic paint, archival digital print on canvas

\$6,600



The Red, White and Blue: Frayed Thread

43.5 x 38 inches

Mixed media, acrylic paint, archival digital print on canvas

\$6,200

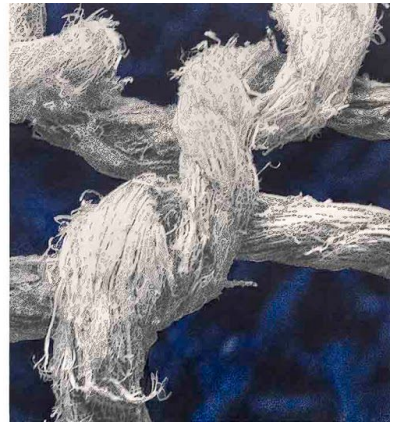
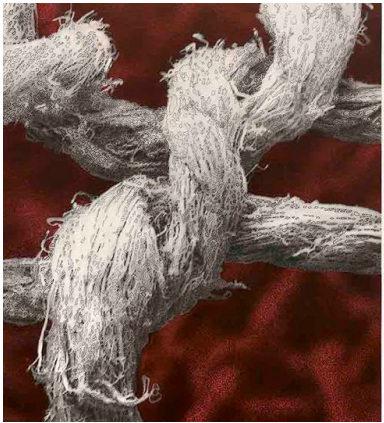


Green is the Color of...

48 x 42 inches

Mixed media, acrylic paint, archival digital print on canvas

\$6,600

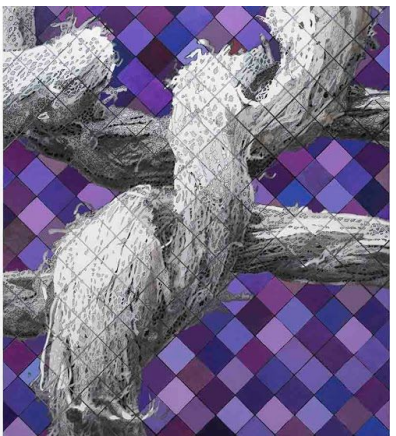
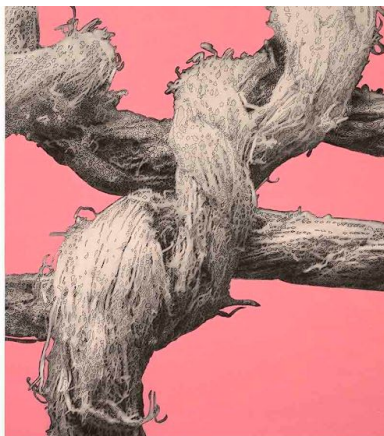
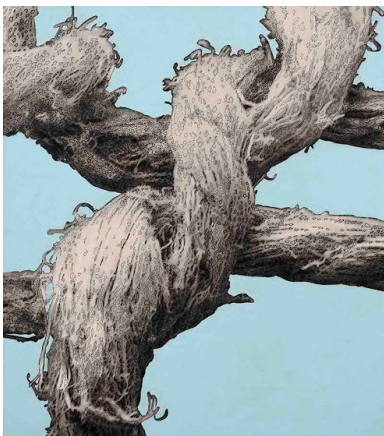


Red, White and Blue

20.25 x 18 inches (triptyque)

Mixed media, acrylic paint, archival digital print on canvas

\$7,800



HIS/HERS/THEIRS

20.25 x 18 inches (triptyque)

Mixed media, acrylic paint, archival digital print on canvas

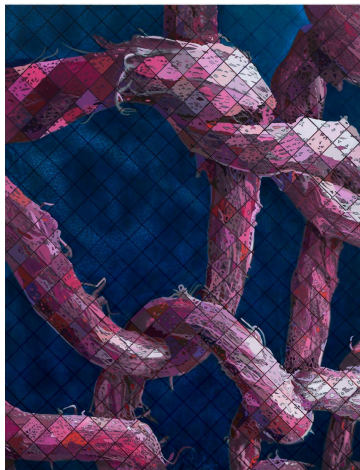
\$7,800



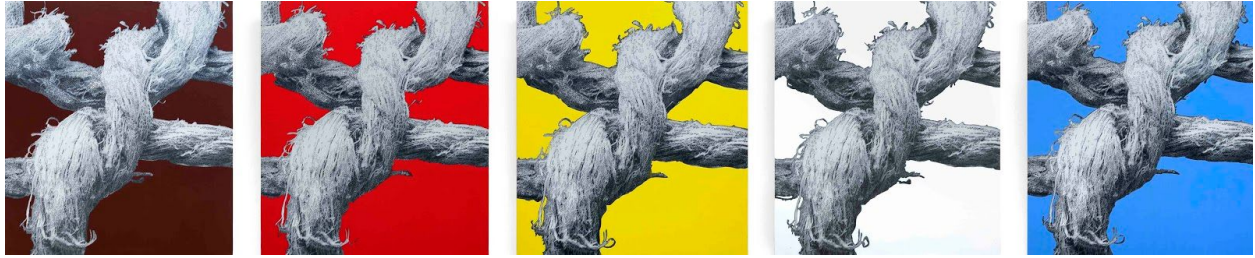
The Immateriality of All Things
14 x 12.25 inches
Mixed media drawing on archival paper
\$2,000



Jacob's Ladder
17.75 x 10 inches
Mixed media drawing on archival paper
\$2,200



Pink Over Blue
49.5 x 37.75 inches
Mixed media, acrylic paint, archival digital print on canvas
\$6,600



Color Mixing

20.25 x 18 inches

5 different panels each one of the colors used to mix skin tones

Mixed media, acrylic paint, archival digital print on canvas

\$2,800 each or \$12,000/5



Stressing the System

66 x 66 inches

Hemp twine, stainless steel, and brass

\$3500



For Betsy Ross (and all the women who stitch the world together)

8 feet x 2 feet

Cotton, wood, brass, and mixed media

\$5000