

MAYUKO KONO

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STATEMENT

I am interested in the purpose, meaning, history, and value of the physical things occupying our lives. The cycle of invention, production, and consumption for the sake of progress has been constant in humankind's history, and is especially rampant today. Given this as the background of where we stand, I think about what it means to create a physical thing. Surrounded by an ever-increasing amount of manmade objects and images, I seek to open up new conversations on how we live through what I create.

Mundane pre-existing objects and images are the primary sources of my work. In my investigation into banal sources, I start to see alternative or hidden stories. Definitions and purposes of things are constantly in flux, supported by multiple, sometimes contradictory or conflicting contexts. These ideas become integral parts of what I create, addressing the shifting realm between the fantastic and the mundane. Resituating banal materials and imagery into new narratives, I explore the unsettling aspects often pushed away into the corners of our minds. By integrating the timelessness of mythological and magical emblems into my work, I create a contrast to the immediacy of contemporary life, seeking out the ethereal within the everyday.