

## **KITTY KOPPELMAN**

### **Start Something Goods**

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I'm a queer elder printmaker, living and working on the ancestral land of the Steh Chass band of the Squaxin Island and Nisqually Indian Tribes, now known as Olympia. I use my printmaking practice as a platform for conveying humor and optimism.

My focus in my work is to try to see things as they really are, and to try to set aside what I think I'm seeing and what I think I know, so I can find the bare truth of what's in front of me. This is always the challenge when I'm drawing. Learning to draw is actually learning to see, and drawing and image-making helps me to redirect my brain to see the truth of what's really there, not just what I think is there.

For me, this process actually extends far beyond making art. There's a constant presence of smoke and mirrors churning all around that keep us from seeing the real and devastating consequences of greed and capitalism, the wealth gap, systemic racism, patriarchy that's just taken for granted, gender binary that's just taken for granted, etc. and so on and on. I am focusing on trying to cut through stories and myths and labels - political, personal, social - in an attempt to understand who I am and who I want to be, and to see how we're all built - in spite of how I've learned to think and see things.

My work integrates handmade linocut images with letterpress messages that attempt to elevate visibility and strengthen identity, especially for queer teens and children. With letterpress and linocut, I believe that there's a compelling kind of alchemy when you combine solid, specific, concise words with a rougher, handmade image. It's as if the image has the kiss of humanity, and the words are more mechanical and solid. Like complementary colors, they complete each

other, and they command more attention and consideration together than either could separately.

I feel most alive when I'm making queer-themed and anti-racist art, and I'm always trying to find new ways to integrate my own life and experiences into my works. I hope the 3 prints displayed here reflect that.

***Drag Queens Keep it Real*** – Drag is under attack. Drag is art, Drag is identity, and Drag is celebration. Here is Drag Diva Latrice Royale, in all her gorgeous glory, affirming the truth.

***Let Kids Swing*** – Kids are people, and they deserve unequivocal support to be whoever it is they discover that they are. Gender begins with self-identity, not what others would want to ascribe or assign.

***Seeds Know How to Wait*** – This was one of several pandemic prints, imagined and produced during a time of strained patience...

