

## **Kimberly Chapman**

### **Artist Statement**

My work sheds light on dark topics – specifically what women endure. It's in my DNA to heavily research past and present offenses and find creative ways to make something solid that says; "This really happened and is still happening today in one form or another."

It's no secret that throughout Western history women have greatly suffered. Just as the early feminist artists used art to condemn sexual violence, I'm using the same white porcelain that emperors and kings demanded for their exquisite dinnerware to tell stories of injustice.

Due to the natural beauty of the clay's whiteness, color is often excluded. In some instances, touches of shiny clear glaze or gold luster are used sparingly. Surfaces are stretched, cracked and purposefully misshaped for an otherworldly aesthetic. Other surfaces mimic thick, indulgent cake frosting topped off with touches of molten gold.

Bridled women brutality silenced in iron masks, female refugees hunted like prey and forced into sexual slavery or an arsenal of household objects to repel an abusive husband are among explored themes.

Most recent work centers on the reasons why women were sent to mental asylums and the botched diagnosis and treatments they endured. This rich topic has yielded a collection of porcelain sculptures coupled with tintype images featuring the artist as patient. Gold masked women in straight jackets, figures melting into their bed sheets, championship trophies to male medical misogyny and a cabinet 86 patient toothbrushes are a few of the many manifestations of the collection.

My process is research heavy yet yields few preliminary drawings. It often feels as though the sculptures make themselves. They serve as a reminder that silence is the soundtrack of repression.