

Teacher Guide

Cheryl Donegan: GRLZ + VEILS

January 19–March 31, 2019



Cheryl Donegan. *untitled_track_resist_double_different_reds*, 2017. Hand-dyed, digitally printed cotton fabric. Courtesy the artist and David Shelton Gallery, Houston, Texas.

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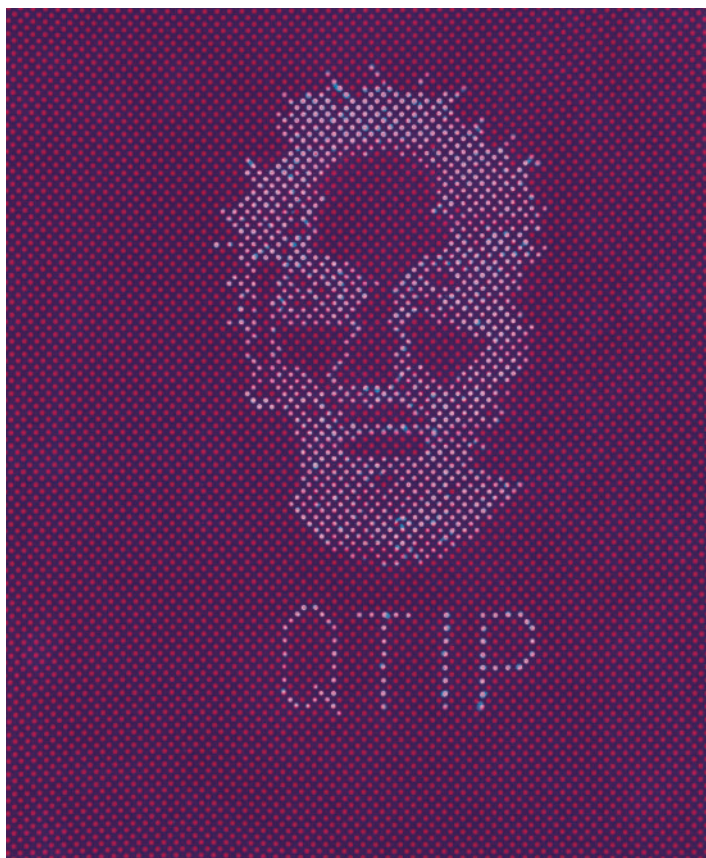
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EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

- *Cheryl Donegan: GRLZ + VEILS* features over seventy works including dye resists made with Elmer's glue, scanned tracksuits that become paintings and also large swaths of fabric, and hand prints that are adapted with clever drawings.
- The exhibition also includes several pieces of fashion on mannequins which use fabric that Donegan has also designed often using inspiration from mundane and everyday objects. One example is the cell phone snapshots of the designs scratched into window unit air conditioners that can be seen all around New York City. Donegan takes these images and has them printed on fabric that she used to make a collection of garments.
- Donegan is primarily known as a video artist and some of her early works are standard in art history text books. Several of her videos are featured in the exhibition including a series of Vines using the short-form video platform for six-second videos.
- Donegan is always experimenting in the studio and using readily-available materials in new ways. One example is updating the traditional hot-wax method of batik with Elmer's School Glue.
- In her paintings, Donegan is interested in the surface and pushing to incorporate a greater level of tactility.
- One of Donegan's many influences is Comme des Garçons (a Japanese fashion label founded and headed by Rei Kawakubo), specifically the 1997 collection which was widely referred to as "Lumps and Bumps." Donegan uses a similar method, loud colors, competing angles, and clashing layers in some of her gingham paintings.



Cheryl Donegan. *Raster_Star_QTip*, 2016. Hand-dyed cotton fabric. Courtesy the artist and David Shelton Gallery, Houston, Texas.

Key Questions

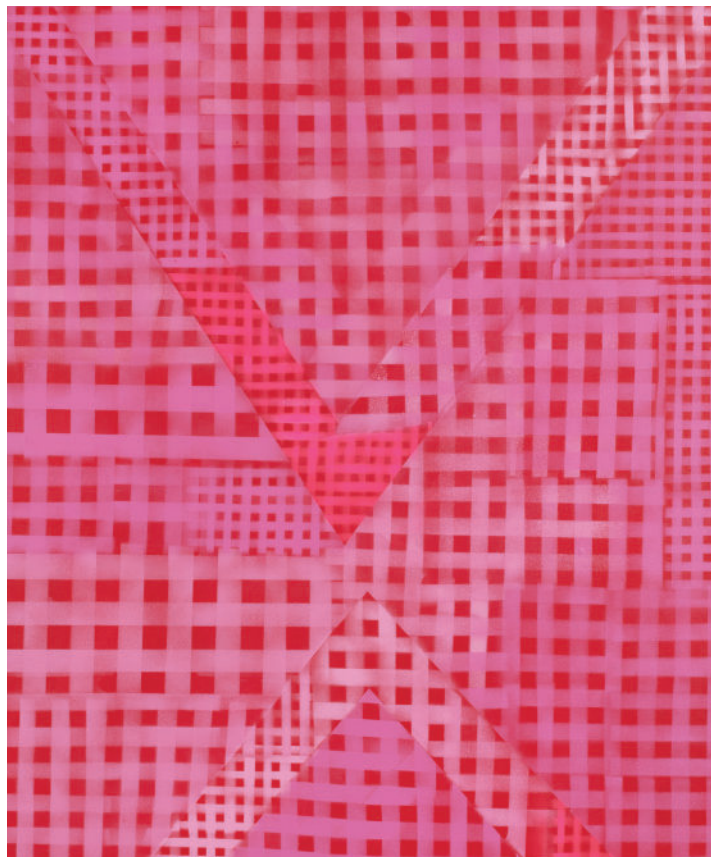
- What artists, thinkers, writers, and designers inspire you in your work?
- What everyday sites, materials, sounds, and objects influence your work?
- Have you ever explored a new way to create something? Have you ever updated a traditional artistic process?
- Can you list artists that are using current technology to create artwork?
- How do Donegan's videos, paintings, and fashion/fabric works relate to each other? Can you identify common themes and patterns?

Curriculum Connections

Technology | Cheryl Donegan often plays with technology in her work – either with her videos or how she creates fabric with images she takes or by scanning other objects. Can you create something that uses technology in a new way? Does it work how you imagined? If not, how are you adjusting for the unexpected results?

Visual Art | Donegan references many people that she likes and admires in her work – through her *The Raster Stars* series, but also more subtly by emulating the Comme des Garçons fashion line known as “Lumps and Bumps” in her *Gingham on Board* series. Make a list of people that you admire. Can you create a series of work that features them or pays homage to what you appreciate about them?

Art History | Cheryl Donegan references many other artists in her work, she also explores a variety of traditional techniques. Research these artists and references that Donegan makes, does that deepen your understanding of the work? What other artists reference and question art history in their work?



Cheryl Donegan. *Untitled*, 2012. Acrylic and spray paint on canvas. Courtesy Collection Donald Donegan Jr.