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## Exhibition Overview

- Amy Blakemore was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1958. She has worked in Houston since 1985 when she moved here to be an Artist in Residence at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's Core program.
- Blakemore is also an accomplished ceramicist.
- Blakemore creates her images using a Diana camera; the Diana is a box camera with a plastic body and simple plastic meniscus lens. This means that the images taken with this camera often feature low contrast, strange colors, and blurring. Light often leaks into the camera through seams in the plastic body and creates glares and discoloration on the images.
- In 2010, Blakemore started using a Robot Royal camera in addition to the Diana. The Robot Royal has a steel body and a fine optical glass lens. Images taken with this camera do not have the varied results of the plastic camera.
- Blakemore prints all of her images in the darkroom through a very exacting process.
- Blakemore has been called "a painter's photographer." The images in this exhibition show her response to portraiture, landscape, and still life.
- Through her photographs, Blakemore collects objects, images, and emotions.
- Blakemore was Art League's Texas Artist of the Year in 2013.

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## Key Questions

- Does the vignette effect and chromatic aberrations change how you view the objects and people featured in Blakemore's photographs?
- How do you experience analogue photography in the era of Instagram and Snapchat?
- What story do you create about Blakemore through experiencing these photographs of her objects, memories, and experiences?
- Many of Blakemore's images show her collections of objects and memories. What would your collection of objects and memories look like? What would you be sure to include?

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## Curriculum Connections

**VISUAL ARTS** Research various photographic processes, cameras, and analogue printing. What does it mean to create a collection or to curate a group of photographs?

**LANGUAGE ARTS** Write a fictional story or poem about one of Blakemore's images. Tell a story about the person depicted or about who might collect the items photographed. Be creative!

**HISTORY** Learn about the history of photography. What impact did photography have on our society throughout history? How is photography viewed and used today? Who are some of history's most notable photographers? How did they create change through their images?

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## CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM HOUSTON

*For Teachers*

# Amy Blakemore: People, Cars & Buildings, Sculptures, Flowers, and Junk

ON VIEW

AUGUST 20–NOVEMBER 27, 2016  
BROWN FOUNDATION GALLERY

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## Exhibition Overview

- Thedra Cullar-Ledford grew up in Eagle Pass, TX and received her Masters degree at Christ Church in Oxford, England.
- Her early work focuses on playing with southern stereotypes and the assumptions made about Texas themes especially related to masculinity.
- She also created many humorous conceptual sculptures, including a large block made up entirely of romance novels that references minimalist sculpture.
- Later she made large oversized paintings of dolls, which focus on the notable distortions in their plastic bodies, delving into themes related to body image and expected societal roles along gender lines.
- In 2013 during preparations for donating a kidney to a friend, a final mammogram detected breast cancer and required two rounds of surgery and a double mastectomy. She chose not to have reconstructive surgery.
- Cullar-Ledford has found a community of friends with similar experiences; they all celebrate the idea of “flat and fabulous.”
- Cullar-Ledford believes, “It’s not my job to change my body so other people don’t have to think about cancer.”
- Cullar-Ledford explored the role breasts have played throughout art history, including making a series of paintings of breasts on trays in homage to the standard depictions of St. Agatha of Sicily who was martyred by having her breasts cut off and is typically depicted with her breasts presented on a tray.

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## Key Questions

- How can major life events impact an artist’s creative path? What are some examples?
- How do your favorite childhood toys challenge or contribute to societal stereotypes?
- What associations are made about Texans? What are some examples of people from Texas who defy these assumptions?

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## Curriculum Connections

**VISUAL ARTS** How do contemporary artists reference art history? What are some examples? How are artists influenced by major life events? What are some examples of artists who create art with a message or as a call to activism?

**HEALTH** How do you make decisions about your personal health? How do you get information about medical issues?

**GENDER STUDIES** How do children’s toys contribute to gender stereotypes? What are some examples of toys that defy these boundaries?

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## CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM HOUSTON

*For Teachers*

# Thedra Cullar- Ledford: Lady Part Follies

ON VIEW

AUGUST 20–NOVEMBER 27, 2016

BROWN FOUNDATION GALLERY

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## Exhibition Overview

- Susie Rosmarin was trained as a sculptor but now works predominantly as a painter.
- Rosmarin studied sculpture at the University of St. Thomas in Houston and then went on to graduate from Pratt Institute in New York City.
- Working in sculpture, Rosmarin found she was always running out of materials and wanted the immediacy of creating. The easiest option was to turn to pencil and paper.
- Rosmarin returned to Houston and shifted from paper to canvas, using thin drafting tape and algorithms to create complex paintings.
- Rosmarin's paintings are born out of strategies to defy the two-dimensional frame.
- Rosmarin uses a mathematical algorithm in creating her paintings and sculptures that make them look machine generated.
- Work in the exhibition spans a 30-year period and includes paintings, sculpture, photography, and recent digital works.
- In the mid 1990s when she had been creating line drawings and paintings for nearly fifteen years, she was getting a bit restless. While watching television, she started noticing all of this static and was inspired to use her tape grid system to attempt to paint the television static.
- Rosmarin is very interested in the nature of perception: What do people see and how can she subvert that?

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## Key Questions

- What artists and artworks have you encountered that play with optical illusions and perceptions?
- How does the use of color in the artworks influence the illusion?
- What was Rosmarin's inspiration in creating these artworks?
- How does an artist use a mathematical algorithm in creating a work of art?

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## Curriculum Connections

**MATH** How can an artist use algorithms and formulas to create various patterns and images? What are some examples of artists whose work intersects with math?

**SCIENCE** Research perception and how our eyes understand color and space. What other artists are working with science and illusions to create art?

**VISUAL ART** What is Op Art? How do different artists approach creating optical illusions? What is your response to Op Art? How can Rosmarin's work also be viewed as a landscape?

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## CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM HOUSTON

*For Teachers*

# Susie Rosmarin: Lines and Grids: The Lost Decade and Beyond

ON VIEW

AUGUST 20–NOVEMBER 27, 2016

BROWN FOUNDATION GALLERY