

Disorderly Conduct

Bursting with energy, artist Allison Gregory's works are commanding attention BY ANGELICA BREM

Tucked away in her South Austin garage-turned-studio, local artist Allison Gregory is busy creating artwork she calls “bubble-gum pop.” At times visually hectic, her artwork can make your head spin. But once you meet Gregory, it’s clear why. The self-diagnosed ADD sufferer channels bottomless energy into creating fun, vibrant, funky artwork.

After receiving her BFA in studio art from University of Redlands in California and a degree in graphic arts and design from Platt College in San Diego, the self-taught artist came to Texas with two choices: To play it safe with a graphic design desk job or try and pursue her passion to be a full-time working artist. She chose the latter, and 10 years later, she’s still gainfully employed.

Working with her favorite colors—indigo blue and hot pink—her pieces mix childlike happiness with adult chaos, so

there’s a little something for everyone. Her “Red Red Wine” is a grid of playful colors overlapped with glittery layers that create movement, almost as if the design is melting over the canvas edges. And perhaps nothing is more visually busy than neon, which Gregory incorporates whenever possible. “As hideous as it is, I am a product of the ’80s,” the artist admits proudly. “Loud, bright and tacky.”

But her abstract designs, fun scenes and quirky patterns aren’t just for canvases. Her work adorns everything from sculptures for the Cow Parade—her piece brought in a record-breaking donation—to an Austin GuitarTown guitar that auctioned for more than \$15,000, cellphone and iPad cases for DecalGirl and barware for Ritzenhoff.

Continually inspired by the late artist Keith Haring, Gregory tries to emulate

what he sparked in her years ago. Painting to keep herself balanced emotionally, Gregory constantly is deriving her inspiration from pop culture, found objects and toys—and from wandering the aisles of Party City, Hobby Lobby and Michaels. “When I hit a roadblock and begin to feel like my work is becoming stale, I typically spend two hours going through all the aisles, gathering ideas in my head,” she says. “It works every time.”

In her paint-splattered space, Gregory, who describes her studio as a “complete and utter mess,” works with acrylic paints, glitter, epoxy and resins. She uses rugs to cover the concrete in her garage to keep the mess contained. “It pretty much looks like a Jackson Pollock painting,” she says.

She finds working alone and in silence blissful. “I’m a bit ADD and it doesn’t take much to veer off course,” she says. “I find silence completely peaceful and require it to fully concentrate. Once I am able to ‘tune out,’ I can get into my creative zone where the clock stops and I notice nothing around me.”

Getting into the zone is a good thing for the artist, who is busy finishing a whimsical, lively mixed media commission for the pediatric wing of the Galveston Children’s Hospital, prepping for a solo exhibition and designing four small cow sculptures and three wall reliefs.

Attention deficit? Sounds more like a surplus to us. ■



The artist with her colorfully busy pieces.

CHANGE OF ART



DISHWARE

Gregory's bowls, glasses and espresso sets were released last spring, and show the artist's dizzying use of bright colors.



IPHONE CASES

The artist has found a successful niche creating iPad and iPhone cases, which come out each year.



COW PARADE ART

The president of Cow Parade selected one of Gregory's pieces to be part of a limited edition collection, out this fall.