

TATIANA GARMENDIA

The Veils of Ignorance installation debuted at the M. Rosetta Hunter Art Gallery on January 3rd. The sentinels occupy the center of the gallery and the prayer flags hang at the far end.

The Veils was made possible by funding from The Pollock-Krasner Foundation and the Seattle Arts Commission.

Look for part of the installation at the Wing Luke Museum in the exhibit, *Under My Skin*, May through November.

Dimensions variable, 2013



The Veils of Ignorance debuted January 2013

The strength and courage of survivors fuel the art

When I received the call from **The Pollock-Krasner Foundation** telling me that **The Veils of Ignorance** project would be funded, I breathed a great sigh of relief and gratitude. I had stepped out in faith and committed the work for exhibition, but had run out of monies to complete it. A **CityArtist Project Grant** from the Seattle Arts Commission had fronted seed money, but I was depending more and more on credit card debt to keep things going.

After a year long labor of love, in which I met with survivors of molestation, rape, and beatings and collected their stories, after a year long ritual of painstakingly burning every word onto delicate silk Unryu papers, after a year of heightened vulnerability and focus, I finally installed the piece at the M. Rosetta Hunter Gallery on January 3rd, 2013.

Two shows explore the Last Judgment series

Each space highlighted different aspects

The soaring ceilings of the Rose Center for the Arts gave the large selection of pieces from **The Last Judgement** series an elegiac quality. The spacious gallery, the dramatic lighting, and the sculptural seating invited introspection and slow contemplation of the work. I was particularly surprised at how quiet everyone was at the opening, whispering comments. One woman stayed long after the crowds had left. Although Scott and I had a long drive back to Seattle, and the weather was messy, we stayed. She seemed to be waiting for a private word, and so we waited too. When we finally spoke, her tears just flowed. We didn't really talk much because she was too emotional, but I understood that art truly does have the power to touch lives, to change minds, to transform hearts. The exhibit ran from November through December.

As we packed the more than 80 pieces from that show into a rented van, we rushed through heavy traffic from the Lower Columbia College loading dock back to West Seattle. We barely made it by the appointed time! As we pulled into the South Seattle Community College parking lot, I texted Tracy Cilona, the gallery director and curator to meet us. "We can take a short cut through here to get to the gallery," she directed. And we all hauled hand-carts stacked with gallery boxes through a series of hallways.

The intimate space is entirely manned by student interns who learn the stock and trade of exhibition management and curating from Cilona. I showed her budding curator photos of how I'd had the 60 **Lament/Preserve** drawings installed at the other gallery—two exacting rows of thirty, lined up like headstones at Arlington National Cemetery. We discussed different options for the much smaller space of this community college art gallery, and then gave the young woman *carte blanche*. "Be creative. How you hang work also creates meaning," I suggested.

When I next saw the series at the opening, a new, fresh sensibility had entered the work. Clustered salon style across the gallery walls, pieces entered into conversations with others in unforeseen ways. Cilona's eyes sparkled with pride, "Didn't she just do great?" Definitely! The Lament/Preserve exhibit opened January 12th and ran through Valentine's Day. A sweetheart of an experience to be sure.



"The essence of all beautiful art, all great art, is gratitude."

Friedrich Nietzsche

"Art hurts. Art urges voyages—and it is easier to stay at home."

Gwendolyn Brooks

"I cry out for order and find it only in art."

Helen Hayes

Partial view of Last Judgment at the art gallery in The Rose Center for the Arts, Lower Columbia College, Longview, WA



a drawing from one of my new hand-made books

A new studio breathes new life.

On Halloween 2012 Scott and I got the keys to our new place. We rolled out our sleeping bags, and nestled in, dreaming of the changes we would make to the run down property. We'd traded our centrally located but teeny condo in Capitol Hill for a neglected mid-century split level in Brier, so that our art practices could have room to grow.

We're still renovating!

But now that I have light and square footage, a new series is percolating in my mind. I have also started three new hand-made books.



Visions and Environments at WA Convention Center The Last Judgment and Veils at Wing Luke

This season, don't miss the chance to participate in two very exciting dialogs at **The Wing Luke Museum**. The exhibition, **Under My Skin**, opens on **Thursday, May 9th, 2013 from 7-8 pm**. The challenging program will include several pieces from **The Last Judgment** and **The Veils of Ignorance** series. The evening is free of charge. There is plenty of metered parking all around the museum, and some free street parking on King Street. The museum is well served by public transportation.

The exhibit is also holding an online forum for discussing race issues in the 21st century called **Talking Race**. Curators, artists, and community members can add their thoughts and take on the race issue and museum exhibit. I've already contributed one post and am committed to three more. Find it all at **beyondtalk2.wordpress.com**

On the horizon, and on the other side of the country, **The Common In The City** is holding its **2nd Annual Auction**. *The Last Judgment V. 6*, pictured above, is on the auction block. The print is a one of a kind monotype, all pulled by hand... this baby never saw a press! The event is on **May 22nd, from 6:30-8:30 pm** at the Arthur Carter Journalism Institute in New York City. Tickets are sure to sell out fast! Get them here: <https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/thecommon/donation.jsp?campaign=6>

Looking forward, keep your eyes peeled for the **Visions and Environments** group show at the WA State Convention Center. Curated by Blanca Santander, the exhibit will run from July through September and is sure to bring some gorgeous art into your summer.