

Nostalgic Confessions DRAWING

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Images of the 1940s have long played a subtle but important role in my artwork. My father was a World War II veteran, along with most of the other fathers I knew, and the era infused my life as a child of the 1950s and 1960s. My friends and I acted out big “combat” battles in our street games; I wanted to be an army nurse when I grew up.

For many years I have collected and worked with images from issues of Life Magazine, produced during the 1940s. From advertisements urging support of the war effort, to articles, drawings, recipes, and photos expressive of ideals of family, motherhood, neighborhood, and success, I have been fascinated by the world portrayed in Life Magazine. Both the optimism and the anxiety seem light years away, yet strangely familiar to 2008. Recently I have begun to use these images in collages about family, nation, relationships, and childhood.



Table for Two, 2008, Collage, graphite, paint, oil stick, 12 x 9 in

Over the years my work has dealt with interpersonal dynamics, set within their larger social context: one-on-one relationships, family groupings, schoolyard politics—the intimacy, the loneliness, the humor, the outright oddity of various combinations of people, large and small. All of my pieces share this thematic thread. The dramas that make up my work are individual, yet societal. Gender, relationships, and broader social dynamics and history are all intertwined. The personal is the political.

Each work is a fragment of a story rather than its full text. I never “write” the endings; each viewer finishes the script, bringing his or her own history, memories, and feelings to complete the piece.