

I have been worried over the proliferation of guns and the longing for gasoline and oil in our country. I wanted to do and say something addressing these grave issues. There are 270 million guns in this country! That is, 50 million more guns than every man woman and child! ? With this statistic we should be the safest country on earth!

A profusion of guns has not made us safer, or more civil. It has not strengthened our institutions but is destroying them. We are one of the most violent countries on the planet. I think a dialogue needs to ensue over this. Whatever happened to civil discourse? When will we decide to take the moral and rationale stance?

An artist's job is to visualize what is happening in society. These pieces are an open invitation for a conversation about this very loaded topic. The country that I want is not the country that I have.

When I made "44 Magnum Mandala" I thought, my god, we have begun a meditation on guns, we worship the gun.

The art critic, Tanya Hartman, said of this piece: "I Don't Want a Bullet to Kiss your Heart," "It is an arc, a majestic portal, evocative of the architecture of tyranny, like a triumphal Arch. How are tyrants raised up? Through fear, supported by violence. It is an arch and if we pass under it we enter chaos. It is a doorway leading to anarchy and tyranny. Do we want to go through it?"

There have been more than 239 School Shootings since Sandy Hook instead of protecting the sanctity of the classroom, public officials in 30 states introduced bills permitting the arming of teachers. Much of this legislation has been written by gun lobbyists.

Why has the US refused to act in a responsible way? May have to do with the gun lobby which is very strong in our country. After a mass shooting with an automatic weapon in Australia, the Australian government promptly put in a ban on automatic weapons and reduced their murder rate with guns down to 2.1%. America's is over 16% per 100,000.

Education and Civil Discourse is the backbone of our democracy. Democracy demands civics, civility which leads to civil discourse. This is how we have civilization.

The fire arms industry is a billion dollar industry. Big money, involved in the manufacture and sale of guns and ammunition, is corrupting our democratic institutions.

Oil is intermingled with finances and the violence problem in the world today. Almost all (90%) gun violence in Canada and Mexico is with guns purchased illegally from the United States.

I would like to see more safety regulations and education around guns. A felon can buy a gun within an hour of getting out of prison in many states, since the laws on guns have been given to states.

Firearm deaths in the US in 1995 was 14 per 100,000, in Europe the number is 3, in Canada a country with as many guns the number is 4 and in Australia, a country with a similar wild west swagger the number is 2.5. Firearm deaths for children under the age of 15 is 10 times higher in the US than in any other nation in the Western world. If you own a gun you are 10 times more likely to be involved in a homicide.

There is a fearsome idea that we all must be armed to protect ourselves from our fellow citizens. Being armed makes it 10 times more likely that an accident with a gun will happen. The statistics show us that more handguns do not make us safer. Handguns are for killing people I personally do not want the responsibility of killing someone. Really, I do not want your heart to kiss a bullet!

I am interested in how guns are viewed in our culture. My work has always addressed questions of power, gender, and desire, which are integral aspects of gun violence. In this series, I hope I've captured the repellent and seductive nature of violence. I question these ethics and morals. Testosterone is a driving force here. Are we actually protecting ourselves with firearms? This work is a plea to think with your heart and your brain and not with a lethal weapon.

I search for the justifiable change, embrace it and know it is imperative. Believing in mankind, I hope to nudge the change for a more positive future