



ELLIE MURPHY

BORN

Urbana, Illinois

WORKS

Queens, New York

EDUCATION

MFA, Yale University School of Art

BFA, Washington University
School of Fine Art, St. Louis

MATERIALS

Acrylic yarn, found materials,
paper, encaustic

SUBJECT MATTER

The form and pattern of natural
and man-made objects, like hair
or fur, waterfalls and subway maps

INSPIRATION

She is inspired by the nostalgia,
narrative and history contained
in the materials and the idea of
elevating the ordinary to art. She
wants to celebrate the anonymous
and domestic and to attempt to
make it exceptional and heroic.

For more information:

ellie-murphy.com
www.stac.edu/amag

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Murphy has also worked as a lifeguard and swimming instructor, a maker of wallpaper, a waitress, a teacher, a graphic designer, a renovator of homes and a mother. How do these different experiences and skills inform her work?

TO TAKE AWAY

To make the fiber pieces, Murphy begins with two large wooden poles attached to the floor and ceiling of her studio, then she unwinds the yarn by walking around and around the poles. After cutting or removing the fiber from the poles, it is ready to braid or arrange. Think about how that simple action, on a large scale, is evident in the final sculptures. Murphy says, "the grandest accomplishments of life arise from ordinary daily actions."

HOW COULD THIS RELATE?

MATHEMATICS

Pattern is used frequently in Murphy's work, both in the yarn sculptures and the encaustic paintings. Because of this, she made some pieces based on the Mandelbrot set and the patterns of fractals.

RELIGION AND SCIENCE

Sometimes she turns to religious or philosophical subject matter. She once made a piece that combined her interest in science and religion by making "1"s and "0"s out of clay and spelling out the first verse from the Gospel of John in digital code.

HISTORY

Murphy is interested in history and has based artworks about the presidents and first ladies of the United States.

She has also looked to garments such as the burka and serape for inspiration.



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