

malloryryankimmel.com

# Mallory Kimmel

Kimmel is a Washington DC-based artist, curator, educator, and writer who makes conceptual furniture to address exclusionary design practices. She focuses on disrupting loopholes used to deny human rights. Placing the focus on object-centric forms of possession, exclusion, objectification, and consumption helps to unravel the exploitation of objects to address the same forms of abuse applied to people.

Kimmel believes if you liberate objects, you liberate people. Working in the context of Post-Continental Philosophy, Kimmel looks to objects and people as co-facilitators to democratise comfort-based privilege. Shifting hierarchical presentations in space to a communal-based comfort will reshape public institutions such as schools, public transportation, work, and art museums in both form and practice. ►

Mallory Kimmel, *Cocoon (Activated)*, ceramic, 66 x 54.6 x 63.5 cm





Mallory Kimmel, *The Man I Want (Activated)*, upholstery foam, wood, paint and fabric fibres, 99 x 135 x 81 cm

She says: “The compulsion to seek comfort with objects brought me to make conceptual furniture large enough to hold the human body. The materials used are rooted in traditional-craft arts and furniture making. The objects themselves are durable in the sense that they can weather public interaction, though the upholstery foam can rip and ceramics may break if not handled with care. The implication of potential ruin

and invitation to interact with these objects facilitates the opportunity for the viewer to rewrite the human and object relationship to one of enacting companionship. My performances serve as a demonstration of potential gestures to elicit a new bond with objects and extend a democratised entry point for viewers to experience the work for themselves. The interactions and performances are a collective act to dismantle

**“My developing series of objects will show personified expressions that evoke the notion of furniture on strike”**



Mallory Kimmel, *Rake*, wood and steel, 35.5 x 68.5 x 33 cm

a system of use and abuse where humans and objects can be liberated from being expendable. I believe if we liberate objects, we liberate people. My previous work is in the chair vernacular, exploring postures and positions for phenomenological experiences. My developing series of objects will show personified expressions that evoke the notion of furniture on strike to illustrate the object’s exhaustion and denial of subordination to serve humans without end.”

Formally trained in the arts, Kimmel received her MFA in Fine Art from California College of the Arts, and degrees in Studio Art and Ecology from Susquehanna University, Pennsylvania. She co-founded the Black X Collective, a grassroots organisation dedicated to supporting Black filmmakers and Black musicians. Kimmel served the organisation as the Chief of Art Relations, securing in-person venues for the annual three-day film festival which most recently aired at the Phillips Collection and THEARC in Washington DC.

As an artist, Kimmel has shown her work at Sandy Spring Museum, Maryland, Minnesota Street Projects and Embark Gallery, San Francisco, and at the PLAYSPACE Gallery, California College of the Arts. She was named



Mallory Kimmel, *Quiet Companion*, steel, leather, glass, soil, palm tree, 114 x 176.5 x 297 cm

MFA Now 2019 “Artist to watch in Bay Area” by Root Division, and was selected as the Curatorial Fellow at Aggregate Space Gallery, Oakland, California. Completed artist residencies include the Social Studies Residency in Northern California, and the Outreach Artist Residency in the Arctic Circle, funded by the National Science Foundation and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, aboard a scientific research icebreaker ship. 