

Sheets of papers and small notes that have been cut are now hanging on the wall, ancient books about mythology, religion, medicine and anatomy; difuminos, pencils of different hardnesses and sizes, well-lit space, some trees and nature on the other side of the window...

That's how Langdon Graves creates in the welcoming atmosphere of her studio at home. The place where she even draws with a magnifying glass to achieve the highest perfection, that's where you can find an insect alive or stuffed as a model to draw. And all this, under the watchful eye and company of Toast. She's her black kitten which practises as a perfect 'art studio assistant' besides sleeping, purring and walking among some of her sculptures and materials stored on site.

Certainly, the studio of this artist from Virginia who is currently residing in Brooklyn, is enviable. Not only thinking in of how she has built her particular creative space, but also taking into account the artistic and social context that The Big Apple offers her. To begin with, there are a great amount of artist studios in her neighborhood, which is called Greenpoint. Regarding artistic training, we must mention the prestigious private school of art and design *Parsons*, where she studied her Master of Fine Arts (MFA). In addition to this, in New York there are the major museums and galleries worldwide.

Fortunately, the spark that motivates us can arise anywhere, it isn't necessary to live in the main cities where the latest contemporary art trends are showed. For example, Langdon really likes having a good time reading books and listening to music while she is working on her pieces. She even puts on background audiobooks and podcasts sometimes. Or what is more unusual, she listens to programmes that talk about scientific topics as Radiolab and To the Best of Our Knowledge, and series of lectures about the history and philosophy of Oxford and New York University (NYU). Anyway, what inspires her the most and pushes her into creating are the closest things of every day life and the self-study, the human being. What is beneath the surface of our skin?

Langdon's drawings have a very carefully and clean finish, so that they make us doubt, since they almost seem to be photographs. However, these ones are completely handmade. She manages to create very fine lines and very soft textures using propelling pencils and paintbrushes with powdered pigments. In general, the papers she usually uses to draw have a small size.

White backgrounds, pallor and atmospheres to think. A disturbing delicate beauty in which religion and science come into play. The placebo effect is also one of her main research topics. In particular, she has been seduced by the fact that belief and faith are essential for the existence. So, she finds links between religion and scientific medicine that demolish the idea of opposition between them.

The titles of her pieces are very suggestive, sometimes they break with the images we are seeing and it can be disconcerting. Nothing is innocent... This way of titling each drawing denotes a strong interest in etymology and the origin of the language and poetry.

Langdon Graves enjoys taking pleasure in the little details, and she feels very comfortable revealing some subliminal messages through the use of the seam. Precisely sewing is how her sculptures take shape-like medical devices. These are everyday objects, hair and pieces of imitation leather that look like skin which allude to the human body. Being larger format pieces, although they have metal structures with a fragile appearance, they make the studio of her house become small. That's when she goes to the studio she shares with the sculptor Nick Van Woert in these cases, in an abandoned industrial unit that is found in the same street where she lives.

Being an artist, the pieces live in more than one place, in more than a studio. Some of them are stored and forgotten, others never will be exhibited in public, and there are those we lose sight after selling them... Sometimes losing the control of what we create hurts us, but they will be alive as long as a spectator will exist on the other side. Langdon Graves not only has exhibited in the United States, but also in the Netherlands, Italy and Australia. This fall / winter she will be inaugurating an individual project at ADA Gallery in Richmond, Virginia.