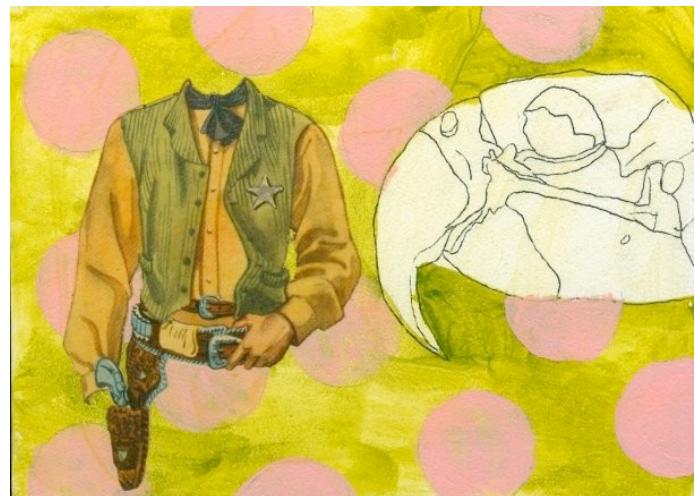




**Andrea Avery** is a visual artist living and working in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Avery received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting and printmaking, as well as her Bachelor of Science in Art Education degree, from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Avery completed her Master of Arts degree through the Peck School of the Arts, as well as receiving a Museum Studies Certification through Anthropology, in 2011 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM). Her active exhibition record includes shows in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, North Carolina, the United Kingdom, South Korea and Thailand. *Avery completed her Master of Fine Arts degree (2012) at the Peck School of the Arts, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is currently the Community Arts Coordinator at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center.*

My original inspiration comes from the small Mid-western town I grew up in, the women in my family, and the



way needlework was a tie that bound them throughout generations. I try to use art as a translation of experience and observation that derives inspiration from environment and memory. My work is based on actual events and exists on a thin line of transition between fun and torture, growth and death, ripe and rot and how this plays out in our everyday lives. Most of my work juxtaposes idealized beauty with a seemingly non-aggressive symbol on a domestically associated pattern. The placement and interaction of the images creates a tension and conflict. Through the construction of multiple layers I create both spatial and narrative depth.

*Image above: "My Hero, My Heart" 2012 Graphite, Acrylic, Mixed Media, 4"x6".*



#### *Curtail Sonnet*

Storytelling translates experience and observation into manageable conceptions of events, locations, and relationships. My work juxtaposes ideals of beauty and domesticity in a seemingly mundane context, while exploring the hidden aggression of narrative restructuring.

"A little birdy told me so", as well as, "to watch [someone] like a hawk" are both widely used idioms in the English language. The bird, as a symbol of surveillance, can be traced as far back as the Bible. "Do not revile the king even in your thoughts, or curse the rich in your bedroom, because a bird of the air may carry your words, and a bird on the wing may report what you say." (Ecclesiastes 10:20).

*Image above: Curtail Sonnet, Mixed Media Installation, 2012.*

Curtail Sonnet explores the existence of such a cultural symbol as evidence of a cultural yearning for



a medium of surveillance that stems from the human impulse to spy and eavesdrop. Parrots have been widely used as storytelling tropes in popular culture. They are often used to reveal an important secret about a character. This role of the parrot can be traced back to folktales from the Far East. In these tales, the talking parrot warns the deceived. In China, for example, the representation of a parrot was used as a symbolic warning to women to be faithful to their husbands.

In this installation's particular narrative, the woman is the protagonist. Her only representation is a single undergarment hung on the wall. On the adjacent wall the trophy heads of parrots adorn the space to symbolize the metaphorical life and death of a relationship with a past lover. All that remains are the lovers' whispers that come from the single cage. The cage is constructed of silk, a material that is both strong and fragile, transparent and enticing, that has captured and repeated the pillow talk whispers of the once licit lovers.

I use found and inherited objects to help emphasize the personal aspect of this narrative. Recycled elements, faded colors, and layered/collaged backgrounds all play a part in this process. The roles of the voices were provided by strangers and friends, old lovers, poets, writers, and musicians. The only commonality is that these whispers are intended to be something that were only meant for their lovers' ears.

## Terms

**Translation:** the process of moving something from one place to another.

**Juxtapose:** place or deal with close together for contrasting effect.

**Construction:** the building of something, typically a large structure.

**Spatial:** of or relating to space.

**Narrative:** a spoken or written account of connected events; a story.

**Conception:** the way in which something is perceived or regarded.

**Mundane:** lacking interest or excitement; dull.

**Restructure:** organize differently.

**Reveal:** make (previously unknown or secret information) known to others.

**Representation:** the description or portrayal of someone or something in a particular way or as being of a certain nature.

**Adjacent:** next to or adjoining something else.

**Entice:** attract or tempt by offering pleasure or advantage.

**Inherit:** receive (money, property, or a title) as an heir at the death of the previous holder.

**Commonality:** the state of sharing features or attributes.