

## MORGAN JANSSEN

### ARTIST STATEMENT

---

My work examines tropical imagery and packaged paradises through analysis of artificial objects sold commercially. Exotic plants, animal busts, and bright color palettes are common sources of inspiration. By creating this faux tropical imagery, I examine the nuance of the *concept* of paradise through remnants of natural elements.

The plastics and rubbers used as my medium discuss outlasting the original along with looking at the construction of the 'natural other'. Dissecting paradise as a location or better place and reconstructing it elsewhere has usually been what the average individual thinks of as tropical – something that is not here. My work challenges the concept and core meaning of what it means to “exotize” a paradise to achieve that better sense of well-being.

Historically my art stems from landscape and still life paintings that plucked natural visual elements from existing exotic realms as replicated in oil on canvas placed in safe beautiful frames. This reductionism, well known in Western and Eastern art, is made contemporary through both technical and conceptual realizations in my sculpture.

### ARTIST BIO

---

Morgan received her MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art and is a former graduate of Ringling College of Art and Design. Common themes in her work deal with representations of nature using artificial materials and working with packaged paradises as advertisements. She has exhibited work in Miami Basel, Mercedes Benz Financial Services, and locally in Sarasota. Currently, Morgan remains connected within the Sarasota community as an artist and an instructor with Ringling College of Art and Design and State College of Florida.