

Miyoshi Barosh is a conceptual artist who works in diverse media with an interest in the socio-political underpinnings of American culture. Her work is centered on ideas concerned with cultural and individual failure (the failure to make life better), Utopia, and ruins. Materials such as fabric, glass, steel, Plexiglas, foam, fiberglass, paint, and found objects together with fabrics and yarn are used with both comic irony and heartfelt sincerity pointing to both material and emotional excess. The uses of vernacular craft processes and folk traditions in combination with digital technologies contradict ideas about progress and technological determinism. While socio-economic questions are raised around ideas about authenticity, labor, and value in the use of craftwork, “value” is also seen as a projection of ourselves onto things, like cute animals on the Internet, mythic American landscapes, and the built environment.

Barosh’s work has increasingly pointed to the current political and societal shift in responsibility to create and sustain meaningful lives from society to the individual. The work points to how this cultural failure along with the speed of new technologies and the borderless world of social media becomes internalized within the individual who in turn experiences “adjustment disorders”: depression, anxiety, burn-out. Relief is sought in self-help literature, mindfulness, various therapies, prescription and non-prescription pharmacology. With material, process, and text, her work becomes a manifestation of competing and ever-escalating emotions around cultural and social psychopathologies through a handmade carnivalesque, a mischievous confrontation between internal and external realities.

Miyoshi Barosh is a Los Angeles-based artist. Her work has been exhibited in Los Angeles and New York, most recently in the COLA (City of Los Angeles) Individual Artist Fellowship Show at the Los Angeles Municipal Gallery, in *Body Conscious: Southern California Fiber* at the Craft in America Center, and in her last solo show, *Feel Better*, at Luis De Jesus Los Angeles. She is a recipient of a 2015 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and, in May 2014, she was an Artist-in-Residence at the Pilchuck Glass School. As an editor and publisher, she has worked on book-length interviews with artists such as Vija Celmins, Mike Kelley, and Felix Gonzalez-Torres as well as with poet David Rattray and cultural philosopher Sylvère Lotringer.