

March 4 - April 8, 2022

My Birthday Party

Marilyn Lowey

Sponsored by the Aspen Art Museum

At the Carbondale Arts R2 Gallery
in The Launchpad (76 S 4th Street)
carbondalearts.com | 970-963-1680

Open weekdays 10am - 5pm & Saturdays 10am - 2pm

MARILYN LOWEY

Artist Statement & Biography

Marilyn Lowey makes assemblage sculptures with found objects which she chooses for their ability to interact with the protean properties of light. Often these works consist of two parts: a suspended sculptural form, and refracted light cast on a wall as it passes through the optics of the sculpture. The three-dimensional portion translates projected light into a two-dimensional play of color and form. This work exploits the extraordinary potential in common objects for creating stunning aesthetic environments.

Lowey invites the viewer to experience the play of illusion, abstraction, and the instability of meaning as the works' appearance shifts from moment to moment. Their ethereal nature suggests the transcendental or spiritual, which is typically enhanced by a dimmed gallery space, while their ephemerality introduces a temporal element, the unfolding of experience through time. Aspects of family and childhood history, sometimes difficult in nature, occasionally inform her choice of objects, and so bring to the pieces her own story alongside the more universal interpretations.

Lowey's skill in manipulating light and materials comes from a long career as a theatrical lighting designer for major concerts, stage productions, and television, work for which she earned an Emmy in 1986. Lowey continued in the industry until 2008, when she redirected herself to the making of fine art. She completed a MFA at the California Institute of the Arts in 2010, and now works full time as an artist in Aspen, Colorado. Lowey shows regularly in curated US and international exhibitions.

ABOUT "MY BIRTHDAY PARTY"

Within the second room of the R2 Gallery, Marilyn has created a tableau installation consisting of a period room of the 1950s, including furniture, recessed ceiling lights, and tile flooring. The room is decorated for a child's birthday party. Projected on the floor are silhouettes of chairs in a back-to-front formation as might be arranged for a game of musical chairs. A soundtrack of Chubby Checker's "The Twist" plays in the background, stopping and starting at various points in the song.

This piece concerns the power of a parent to alter a child's emotional state. A sour tone of voice, a sneering facial expression, or a threatening gesture can turn upside down the life of a child. Those memories retain the capacity to sting decades later. We can only bear to recall their emotional pain for a split second. It is that moment which I capture in the fleeting transformation of this room. This tableau stages a kind of memory play in which the lead character, the artist, enacts such an event from her own past.

Acknowledgements

The Aspen Art Museum is a non-collecting institution presenting the newest, most important evolutions in international contemporary art. Their innovative and timely exhibitions, education and public programs, immersive activities, and community happenings actively engage audiences in thought-provoking experiences of art, culture, and society. Learn more at aspenartmuseum.org.

Special thanks to Marilyn Lowey and her install team: Lyn Williams, Loren Wilder, and Eduar Rosales.

Know Your Artist, Know Your Art

Carbondale Arts believes in the power of art and we know you do, too. There is a deep connection that happens when you purchase a piece of art, and getting to know the artist makes that connection even deeper. Carbondale Arts hosts over 10 art exhibitions every year. Find some art you love and dive in.

We have launched a [“Know Your Artist, Know Your Art”](#) campaign, as Carbondale Arts works to build relationships between artists and patrons. Inspired by the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model of Investing in local food, this Community Supported Art movement promotes the investment of local artists making a living in and around the [Carbondale Creative District](#), where Carbondale Arts makes its home.

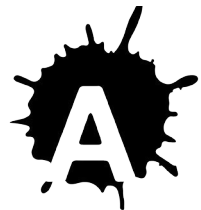
R2 Gallery Committee Members

Staff: Brian Colley, Staci Dickerson, Amy Kimberly

Board Liaisons: Leah Swan

Non-staff: Savanna LaBauve (chair), Vanessa Porras, Laura Stover, David Thickman, and Matt Vickers

Learn more about this exhibition and visit the space virtually at carbondalearts.com/exhibitions



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