



I have a secret wish...



Pink Diamonds

Oil on canvas

60" x 48"

2011

Courtesy of the artist



The work of figurative painter **Karen Ann Myers** explicitly and unabashedly explores the ways in which women are affected by the hyper-sexualized and beauty-obsessed culture that colors our everyday experiences. With an educational background in both fine art and women's studies, Myers wishes to convey the complex situation for women in today's society. Her figures show a mix of emotions. Some are strong, empowered by and in control of their own sexuality, while the vulnerability and confusion of others is betrayed in their expressions or poses. This juxtaposition of confident/confused and sexual/victimized is further reinforced by the stylistic combination of flattened, patterned spaces and three-dimensional, fleshy female forms. The portrait-like quality of Myers's work is no coincidence and the artist has openly admitted that her paintings are imbued with features of her own personality and likeness "Each one is a reflection of feelings and experiences that I myself have gone through, and each is a projection of the progression of my moods and emotions while painting them. Through this projection and reflection of myself in my paintings, each work has a strong link with self-portraiture." Myers's handling of the female form through the medium of oil on canvas is traditional, but the issues of sexuality, female empowerment, and the seductive appeal of contemporary culture are very pertinent to conversations today.