



A BIG IMPOR- TANT ART BOOK

**NOW WITH
WOMEN!**

Profiles of Unstoppable Female Artists—and Projects to Help You Become One

DANIELLE KRYSA, FOUNDER OF THE JEALOUS CURATOR



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Running Press

Hachette Book Group

1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104

www.runningpress.com

@Running_Press

Printed in China.

First Edition: October 2018

Published by Running Press, an imprint of Perseus Books, LLC, a subsidiary of Hachette Book Group, Inc. The Running Press name and logo is a trademark of the Hachette Book Group.

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Back cover features artwork by Ann Carrington, Annie Kevans, Bobbie Burgers, Bunnie Reiss, Carolina Antich, Hagar Vardimon, Ilona Szalay, Kyeok Kim, Lola Donoghue, Natalie Baxter, Nathalie Lété, Nike Schroeder, Phyllis Bramson, Samantha Fields, Seonna Hong, and Severija Inčirauskaitė-Kriaunevičienė.

Additional image credits information can be found on page 308.

Print book cover and interior design by Ashley Todd.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018943838

ISBNs: 978-0-7624-6379-4 (hardcover), 978-0-7624-6380-0 (ebook)

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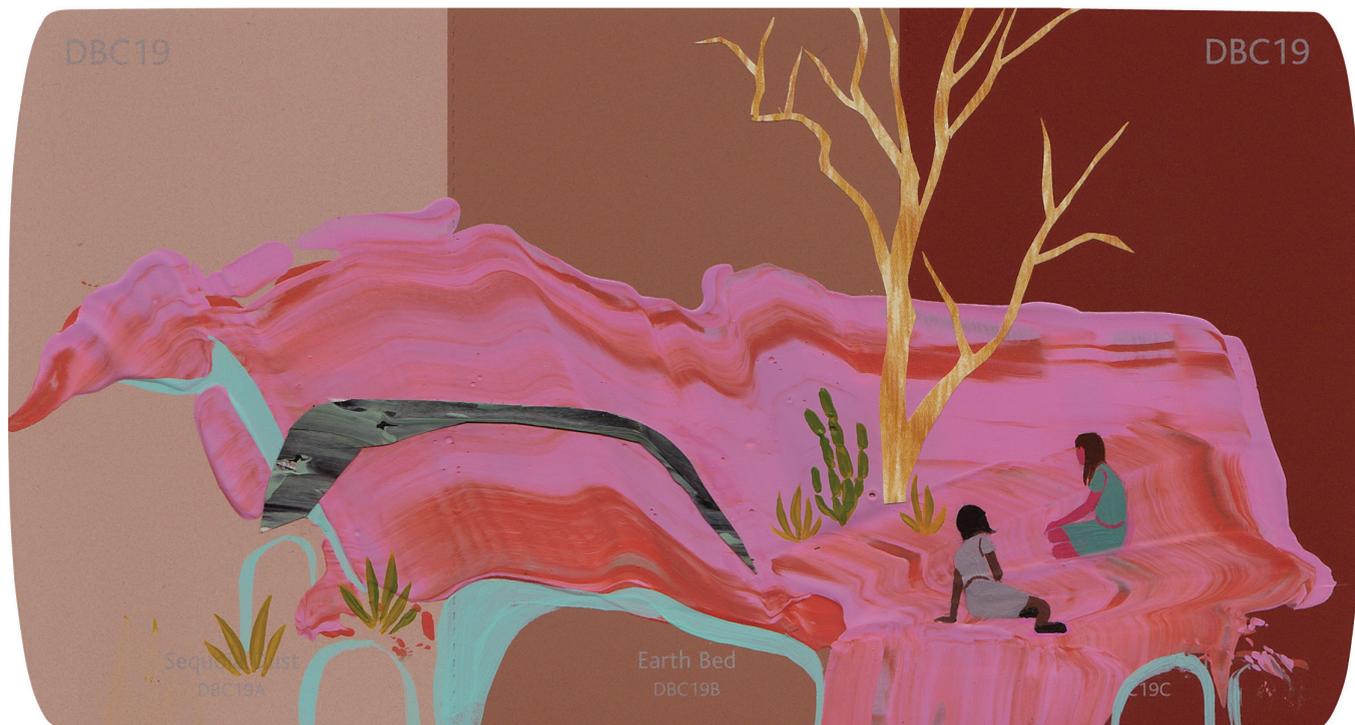
PROJECT

Every artist is a storyteller in some way. Bizarre, funny, dreamlike, or heart-wrenching—these narratives run the gamut. So, how do you get started?

STEP ONE: GATHER STORIES.

(From where? Oh, I'm so glad you asked.)

- 1.** Put a small notebook beside your bed, and the moment you wake up from a dream, write it down in glorious detail. The same goes for nightmares (although in that case you may need to buy more black paint...).
- 2.** If dreams don't stick around for you, dig into your personal memory bank. What was the story your crazy uncle told at every family gathering—over, and over, and over again? You know, the tale that got a little taller with each telling? Write it down, exaggerated minutiae and all. Be sure to describe colors, characters, and locations as well as your memory allows. Feel free to take artistic license—clearly that kind of thing runs in the family!
- 3.** Are there no eccentric storytellers in your family? No problem. Think of the clearest memory from your past. Where were you, who else was there, what time of year was it, what did it smell like? Again, write all of this in a notebook so that it's captured somewhere for you to refer to later if necessary.



STEP TWO:
MAKE SOMETHING.

Tell this story using paint, pencil, collage, photographs, sculpture—anything you like. Use text, or don't. Perhaps the title reveals the story, or just go with the always popular, "Untitled." The key here is to simply share the narrative you captured in

your notebook visually. Granted, once your work is complete, you might be the only one who knows or actually understands that narrative. This is perfectly fine—you've created a mystery the viewer will be dying to solve.

The artists featured in this chapter are all expert visual storytellers, so of course, I asked them why, when, and how they come

up with their colorful anecdotes. Some of the pieces highlighted here are simple, while others are filled to the brim with peculiar detail. Decide what kind of a storyteller you want to be, gather your stories, and get to work.

ABOVE Seonna Hong, *Earth Bed*, 2016. From the series "In Our Nature." Acrylic on paint chip, 10.1 x 19 cm.



PROJECT

Craft is a very interesting, and sometimes confusing, word in the world of fine art. Is a work *craft* because of the materials used to make it? Is it *art* because of the content? Ah yes, here we are at the fine line in between. This discussion could be an entire book, and if I'm being totally honest, it hurts my head a little bit because of the inherent biases that tend to show up. When an artist makes a deliberate creative choice to use, for example, yarn instead of oil paint, could her work potentially be overlooked in the world of white-walled galleries? And there tends to be a "woman's work" skew to the way we evaluate all things sewn, stitched, and woven. Does that take away from the validity of the work, or do those traditional techniques help the artist make her point? Ouch, there's that headache again. Luckily, this chapter features the biographies and artwork of a few very talented artists who do in fact weave, stitch, and crochet beautiful, impactful pieces. They are the inspiration behind project no. 6.

- ✦ Which painting, drawing, or photograph do you love the most—preferably a piece that you've created, but if not, perhaps something from art history. This inspiring piece of art is going to be your starting place.
- ✦ Recreate the work in front of you using a craft medium—embroidery thread to be exact. This might mean taking a photo of your original, printing it out, and then use this as your guide—or free-form it! It's totally up to you.
- ✦ Once you've finished, step back and have a good look. Does the medium change the meaning or narrative of the work? It may or it may not, but by adding thread to your art arsenal, you now have one more tool in your back pocket. I've talked to several artists who work this way, and all of them have described their process as "painting with thread." They're simply trading brushstrokes for stitches.



PROJECT

Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and think back to being a kid. Now grab a pen and fill in the blanks:

- + My favorite toy was
- + My favorite game to play was
- + My favorite holiday was
because
- + My bedroom looked like
- + I would've eaten every day if I was allowed.
- + My best friend's name was
- + I loved watching (TV show, movie)
- + My favorite piece of clothing was
- + I had (wished I had) a pet
named

Create a small series based on being, yes, small. Cut pieces of paper into five-by-five-inch squares—or use post-it notes—and make one drawing, collage, or painting for each of the answers above. Once finished, hang them in a little three-by-three-inch grid or in a gallery cluster. Voilà, childhood captured!