

## ARTIST STATEMENT

Marilyn Lowey creates installations that investigate sculptural geometric light forms. By using the conventions of lighting she generates three dimensional forms on two dimensional surfaces. A viewer's perception is thus confounded. Do the eyes tell the brain what it sees, or does the brain instruct the eyes?

Lowey also explores working with LED linear tubes that function like a TV screen. The study of ambiguous images and illusions has revealed that the brain's perceptual network actively attempts to make sense of its input. This work focuses on conflating the order in which we absorb visual information. The image maneuvers figurative against abstraction, and light against shadow.

Lowey created a study using the iconic painting *The Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci. The viewer walks into a room with a rectangular area that is illuminated. The title card on the wall states Lowey reproduced the lighting design from the painting. My first goal was to assess if the viewer would visualize the painting's image in their mind? Would the viewer construct new meaning from the work with the light as a guiding force? Lowey's study posed many questions that required answers.

Another installation of Lowey's is *Illuminating the Illuminati*. In *Illuminating the Illuminati*, a re-creation of the lighting for Pope Benedict which Lowey had personally designed in NYC 2008, invites the viewer to bathe in the spiritual light and access what is otherwise invisible and typically inaccessible. The work is both an investigation of the connections between light and illusion, and offers an environment in which the viewer can access something typically off limits to them, and only accessible to those with "godly powers".

Lowey's first solo show, "The Dark Side of Her Broom" weaves a heart felt, tongue and cheek narrative to the artist's mother. The show explored self, illusion and abstraction to understand what can occur in a grieving state, when religion plays a sublime role for a parent's loss. Lowey draws from her experience of working with Siegfried & Roy the Illusionists to enhance some "Mise en Scene", theatrical visuals in the show.

Since Lowey started working with glass she felt an affinity which prodded her into further exploration. Over the next two-years she developed a process of breaking tempered glass and freezing it in epoxy. She experimented with many formulas before finalizing the one that allowed her to successfully print on the glass with a UV flat-bed printer. With that process she was able to create her own narratives; Something very different for Lowey and transitioned from her light work to two dimensional surfaces.

I find that being an artist is a solo sport. I engage in my artistic practice as I ran my lighting design business. I am totally disciplined but I do miss artistic exchanges. I do also have many skills to offer ranging from a high EQ to the technical ability to fabricating a light bulb. In case someone requires help with their bulb!

