

BUNNY BURSON: Consequences

May 25 – June 30, 2007

Consequences

Bunny Burson's goals are to educate, advocate and elucidate. Her prior works of chad storms sought to highlight the protagonists and antagonists of the 2000 election and the turbulence that characterized the Florida recount. In this show she continues to comment on the 2000 results but then moves on to focus on the consequences.

In "Stains" the election outcome is referenced in the vote of the Supreme Court to halt the Florida recount. The artist uses graceful lace ascots, mimicking those worn by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The blush red stain on each disturbs the otherwise pristine image and casts her partisan vote in Bush v. Gore as a blot on her acclaimed legacy. The bits of chad inject a touch of humor into the work and provide historical context.

"537" continues to reference the 2000 results with 537 fingers which reflect the number of votes by which George W. Bush was certified

the winner. However, this work moves beyond results and assaults the viewer with consequences--the chaos, death and toppled hopes of Iraq. When Iraqis, under the watchful eyes of their occupiers, voted to adopt their new constitution, the index finger of each Iraqi who voted was tinged with a purple dye to reflect their vote. It was photographed and published worldwide as the symbol of Iraqis establishing a democracy from the ashes of war. The artist turns this symbol of hope into an entirely different statement. By painting the tips of the fingers with her own blood and through their rubble like configuration, she mocks this failed effort and its sad consequences.

The election of 2000 will always stand as a painful reminder that elections matter.

-Bunny Burson