

## Clare Crespo

Clare Crespo is a fantasist. What one sees as a simple plate of fried chicken, Clare sees as an icon of our cultural identity. Her work gives voice to objects that can't speak - food, mandalas, dioramas, lovebirds made of intricate suede, crocheted shrimp cocktails, king cakes and oysters, there is nothing spared from her commitment to creating fantasy out of the familiar, beauty out of the ordinary. It's this unique take on what the artifacts of our culture mean to us, the pleasure they bring us, filtered through an anamorphic lens, that are served up with such emotional resonance and humor.

There is a clear logic and a consistent aesthetic style that is evident in all of Clare's work – it can be fun, twisted, dark, delicious, richly functional, and sometimes nostalgic. The use of food in her work celebrates and explores creativity and invention and community, and underscores the comfort they bring and the world that they come from. Her work shows a serious commitment to subverting the limitations of the false normality that tries to rule us all. Her work is found outside the trappings of high art, and art world systems, instead playing in the worlds of cookbooks, cooking shows, crocheted food sculpture, illustrated calendars of food mandalas, sandwich stationary, and intricate dioramas that contain feral creatures and magnificent handmade birds and foliage.

Clare's work speaks for the inanimate things in our culture, and she fabricates their story by creating a magical world for them to exist. Food is the spine of a lot of Clare's work, the vehicle she uses to explore the delicious facets of our everyday lives. But more than that, Clare's art resides in that fantastical place of fleeting belief that inanimate things do speak to us. That zone of faith that we lose as we age. That sublime place where cherished objects do have character and emotion and soul. Her art rests in the belief that what we choose to collect and make in life has a mutual plan.

### Books and Media

*The Secret Life of Food* (2002 Hyperion Books)  
Hardcover and paperback editions.

*Hey There, Cupcake!* (2004 Melcher Media Books)  
Multiple hardcover editions.

Both books received enthusiastically positive reviews in magazines such as *Vanity Fair*, *Food and Wine*, *Elle*, *Rolling Stone*, *Newsweek*, *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *The New York Times*, and *Bon Appetit*, amongst many others.

The Yummyfun Kooking Series (Season 1)

Clare's three episode hyper-creative and original kids cooking show that was produced in her garage with animation, puppets, and original music.

Enjoyed by many and sold at New Museum of Contemporary Art, The Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, The Little Marc Jacobs Store, The Whitney Museum in New York City and "on demand" at The Ace Hotels in New York, Palm Springs, and Portland.

The Yummyfun Kooking Series (Season 2)

Fremantle Media produced set of 13 mini-episodes of Clare's concept starring Clare, John C. Reilly and others.

### **Selected Permanent Installation and Design**

Desert Diorama at Ace Hotel Palm Springs, CA Lobby

Permanent installation commissioned by Commune Design and The Ace. Elements from piece used in graphics for merchandise and brand identity as well as being tattooed on fan's bodies.

Irene Neuwirth Jewelry Diorama and Displays in Los Angeles, CA

Permanent "couture" large diorama with relatable smaller dioramas commissioned by Commune Design/Pamela Shamshiri and Irene Neuwirth Jewelry. Featured in Vogue and Elle Décor.

Beachwood Cafe Dioramas in Hollywood, CA

Two site specific fantasy dioramas in dining room commissioned by Barbara Bestor Architecture and The Beachwood Cafe.

### **Selected Fine Art**

Sculpture and Installation one-person show at Aaron Rose's Annex Gallery in Los Angeles in 2002. Featured in book "Beautiful Losers".

Sculpture for Kartell/Vogue Italia group show in Milan in 2003. Published catalogue.

"Laissez Les Bon Temps Crochet" one-person show at Heath Ceramics Studio in Los Angeles in 2010. Featured in Los Angeles Times.

Installation and video work as part of "Palate" group show at Scion Installation space in Culver City, CA in 2011.

Installation as part of Pelican Bomb's "Foodways" group show in the Prospect Three Arts Festival in New Orleans, LA in 2014.

Concept, drawing, installation, and curation for The Mini Show at The Lodge Gallery in Hollywood in 2016. Featured in New York Times T Magazine. Other artists involved included Ed Ruscha, Miranda July, Robert Reynolds, and Geoff McFetridge.

### **Selected Illustration and Drawings**

Hurray Today Calendar 2014, 2015, and 2016

Super-sized hand-drawn food-centric calendar sold online and in many stores such as MOCA, The Hammer Museum, Clare V., The Ogden Museum, etc. Featured in Paper Magazine and Goop.

Deli Post Stationery

Die-cut paper sandwich stationery set with pickle stickers. Wrapped up like a sandwich and sold out of a deli case. Also food mandala card sets, notebooks, and journals. Featured in Paper Magazine and T Magazine.

#### Infoshop Posters

Series of hand-drawn posters about change and hope printed by Paper Chase Press and distributed from the Infoshop Table at The Los Angeles Art Book Fair.

### **Brands and Appearances**

Clare has worked with many brands as a spokesperson as well as developing ideas that will rejuvenate and call attention to the brand's product and identity. Brands include Betty Crocker, Hostess, La Brea Bread, Country Crock, Crew Cuts, and Duncan Hines.

She has appeared on The Today Show, Good Morning America, CBS Sunday Morning, The Food Network's "Extreme Cuisine", "Throwdown with Bobby Flay", "Sugar Rush", "Top 5 After School Snacks", "Top 5 Ways to Cure a Picky Eater", "Unwrapped", HGTV's "Smart Solutions" (multiple episodes), "Access Hollywood" (multiple episodes), "The Montel Williams Show", DIY Channel's "Craft Lab", Style Network's "You're Invited" (multiple episodes), "Soap Talk", "Better TV", or "On the Road with Al Roker". You also might have heard Clare on various NPR programs (like Weekend Edition) where she is a regular guest.