

Kelly Sears was born in 1978 in Massachusetts. She got her B.A. in film and video from Hampshire college and later got her MFA in film, video and animation from UC San Diego.

Sears often explores contemporary political narratives of power that include expansionist doctrines, technology, occupation, and surveillance, as well as, gender roles and social expectations.

Sears often uses collaged appropriated images that come from old magazines and other efemera to recreate American histories that oscillate between the official and the uncanny, creating strange new narratives from seemingly normal images.

An example of this is in her piece *Body Besieged* (2009) in which she takes images of women doing yoga, animating them so that they look almost possessed, and pairs them with unsettling sounds in order to get at darker associations with getting in shape and fitness obsession.

<https://vimeo.com/17274116>

<https://vimeo.com/17273237>

I think what makes this piece sustaining is mainly its narrative, but she does introduce surprising visual elements like the astronauts disappearing and the people floating in the air.

I think the piece is resolved in a way that makes sense, in that it isn't really resolved because the issues of expansionism, competition and nationalism are still issues that effect America.

Erica Littlejohn