

## MALIBU

November / December 2015

5

Stanya  
Kahn

Artist

Stanya Kahn is an interdisciplinary artist working primarily in video, with a practice that includes writing, drawing, performance and sound design. Humor, pathos and the uncanny emerge as central modes in a hybrid media practice that seeks to rework relationships between fiction and document, the real and the hyper-real, narrative time and the synchronic time of impulse. Recent solo exhibitions include shows at the New Museum in New York City, Pigna Project Space in Rome, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects and Cornerhouse in Manchester, United Kingdom. Kahn is a 2012 Guggenheim Fellow in film/video. Her recent feature-length experimental narrative film, *Don't Go Back to Sleep*, opened in a solo exhibition at Marlborough Chelsea in New York City in September. Kahn is currently adjunct faculty at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, UCLA and the San Francisco Art Institute.

glory but do the hands-on work of making change. **What cause do you most identify with?** The Palestinians' fight for an end to occupation and anti-colonialist struggles everywhere — including the ongoing fight against institutionalized racism here in the U.S. **Favorite ... Character from television:** Carol Burnett, Daffy Duck, and the entire first *Saturday Night Live* crew from Second City. **Curse word:** Fuck is perfect, but I'm also fond of chode. **Sound:** People talking in their sleep. **Recent innovation:** A cave walks into a bar and says, "Got a light?" **City:** Los Angeles. **Least Favorite... City:** Los Angeles in 25 years, which will be a hell furnace with no water. **Trend:** Looking at my phone. **Curse word:** Cunt, twat, pussy. We bring entire human beings into the world with these. Top that, dick! Hah! **Flavor:** "Flavor of the month" as an entire concept. **Generalization:** "We're all the same." **Smell:** Other people's perfume stuck on me after a hug because they used too much — and cat shit. **What is the greatest threat currently facing humanity?** Republicans. **How do you define love?** I don't. I like to be surprised.



▲ Photograph: Boru O'Brien O'Connell

**How would you define yourself in clinical terms?** I wouldn't. **When was the last time you were truly impressed?** This week I was impressed with: Benjamin Weissman's new drawings; a 13-year-old surfer named Caroline Mark; a brave Georgia high school student who held a one-kid protest against white supremacy after racist comments by a campus cop; my 10-year-old son, Lenny, for sentences like: "The first time I had spanakopita was at a dingy Greek place in a rundown mall on the outskirts of Las Vegas. It was delicious." **What is your greatest professional achievement?** Receiving a Guggenheim Fellowship for film/video. That was both validating and challenging because it basically said: We believe you can rise to this. **What do you do to relax or unwind?** Surf, read, draw, sex. Let bad grammar like that slide. **Who is the person you most admire, and why?** In addition to a long list of artists, writers, thinkers, athletes and revolutionaries, I'd say my son, Lenny, who is endlessly charming, funny, imaginative and wildly empathetic. And grassroots, frontline activists who get very little fame or