

## **Artist Statement - Kristen Baumliier-Faber**

I believe that art can go beyond being a visual object by communicating ideas that call people to action. Community art and involving an audience in a work can be a force for social change. Art can be a powerful tool to deepening ones' views of ourselves and the world around us by provoking thought about social, political, and cultural issues.

As an interdisciplinary artist, I use still and moving images; audience interaction and technology in whimsical, non-traditional ways to provide multiple access points to ideas. I see making art as a process of research, discovery, creative activity, and engagement with others. My work seeks to develop an experience for the audience to enter into ideas, information, and dialogue.

My work is socially engaging, interdisciplinary projects with social interventions or participatory components. The final piece is less about a product and more about creating surprising, interactive, real world situations that encourage audience members to participate. Audience members become part of making the work, and I as the artist become a facilitator and collaborator.

My current body of work called Bliss: Salt, Sugar and Fat and is a visual installation experience comprised of various components including photography, mixed media, and food. The work provides a unique view of some of the foods that make our brains feel bliss due to the salt, sugar, and fat combinations they are made of. Viewers will be presented with a unique view of some of the foods that light up our brain and make us want to eat more. The food industry manipulates what and how much we eat in many ways and we are largely unaware of it. We do not often think of food as being designed. I want to share this idea with people through art and experience.