



## Pink | Marla Goodman, September 2017

November 8, 2016 was the saddest and most terrifying day of my life. Yes, I've experienced the death of loved ones and I know that there is terrible suffering in the world. But to me, the election of Donald Trump signified the death of cherished American ideals, the imminent destruction of our planet, and possibly even the abrupt end of life on Earth as we know it.

I couldn't watch the election returns, on the off chance that this unthinkable thing might happen.

It did. The most despicable qualities of human nature—deceit, willful ignorance, unbridled greed, racism, faithism, sexism, xenophobia—were condoned, even glorified, by the election of a personality so ugly, so transparently self-serving and uncompassionate that it might have seemed comical if it weren't real.

On election night, my spouse and I huddled in our home. I felt like I had just seen a grisly accident.

How could any male or female vote for someone so openly misogynistic? How could anyone follow a "leader" who has no concept of ethics or morals, who is so clearly lying his head off to manipulate the lowest human instincts—fear and selfishness? How could any politician support such a dangerous person just to gain power?

On that night, I suddenly understood how it feels to be marginalized. If any good came out of this mess for me, that enlightenment is it.

Sure, as an atheist, I face religious discrimination daily. But this election, a dirty thumb in the eye of womanhood, the crushing sadness of which even our best-intentioned male

partners couldn't seem to fully grasp, demonstrated what it feels like to be disregarded and unheard. ...Now I get it.

So as an artist, or as anyone, what can you do when you encounter solid proof that knee-jerk stupidity prevails over thoughtful broad-mindedness? ...that greed prevails over generosity? That you are outnumbered by people who seem to want to end your way of life?

How do you take action when a twisted group cheats its way to the top and conspires to destroy everything and anyone that stands in the way of its greed for money and power?

Obviously, while you still have the right, you stand up and say, THIS IS NOT OK. We're here too. We deserve to be.

You march in the streets, you confront your congressional representatives, you try to stand in the way of the oncoming train. And ultimately, you hope that we'll live to see a demographic shift, reforms, justice, an election.

For me, creating art during this time has been a struggle.

Early in the year, I fumbled, trying to express myself, ending up with work that seemed awkward and over-burdened.

Later in the year, I found some comfort in exploring images of female solidarity and embracing traditionally feminine arts as statements of quiet but unyielding protest. These may not be the best paintings I've ever done, but they are a little voice in the outcry against the sexism, racism, homophobia, faithism, greed, lies, discrimination, destructiveness and willful ignorance that our "leader" seems to stand for.

The Women's March isn't over yet.

To purchase works, please visit [etsy.com/shop/Kitschatorium](https://etsy.com/shop/Kitschatorium) or contact Marla Goodman: [marla@davmar.org](mailto:marla@davmar.org)  
Paintings and prints can be picked up from my Bozeman studio in the first week of October, 2017 or by arrangement if needed sooner.