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A

# Kate Kretz

Kate Kretz is a Fulbright specialist, an associate professor and former BFA director with 30 years of teaching experience.

**What do you see as the biggest threat to the 'arts'?**

The corporatization of both higher education and fine arts professions have sucked the soul out of art.

**You are having a dinner party and you have to invite one thinker, one musician, one artist and one contemporary celebrity, who would be on the guest list?** Noam Chomsky, Alanis Morissette, Kara Walker, Barack Obama.

**What is your favourite word?**

Impossible to choose just one. Ineffable, luminescent, wanderlust, flaneuse, oiseau.

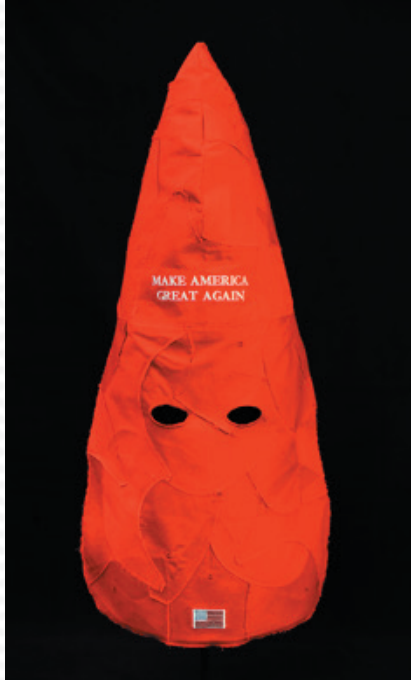
**Which book are you ashamed not to have read?** All of the hundreds of books in my giant 'to read' bookcase. The number grows every month, and the bookcase is opposite my bed, so I must confront my failure on a daily basis.

**Would you choose fame or anonymity?** Anonymity, because I have had brief moments of 'fame', and it is not all that fun. I think the ideal is to be known and respected by the people that you respect.

**Have you ever had a near-death experience?** No. But I have had an enraptured out-of-body experience.

**Describe yourself in three words.** Driven, sensitive, introspective.

**Do you have a favourite cuisine?** I lived in France for a few



Hate Hat,  
2019–21  
deconstructed  
MAGA hats

years, so for most of my life, my favorite has been traditional French food. My taste is now lighter, more Mediterranean. When I throw parties, I like to make tapas, and my signature dinner dish is seafood paella, served with copious amounts of colourful sangria on tap.

**What are you working on?** In the studio, I am making what I hope will be my capstone MAGA hat piece. I am also working on several potential book projects.

**What are you currently reading?** Get the Picture by Bianca Bosker. People have described it as a 'a take-down of the art world', and so I was curious if there would be any overlaps of her view as an outsider vs. my view as an insider.

**Why did you become an academic?** In my large family, intelligence, integrity and hard work were held in highest regard. Curiosity and learning were a way of life, and we had fantastic dinner conversations that drew friends to our house at mealtime. I also told one of my undergraduate professors I wanted to teach at the university level. He laughed, telling me 'I had no idea what it took.' Of course, I then had to do it.

**How did you first encounter Intellect?** I discovered you through Sharon Loudon's books of collected writings by artists (Living and Sustaining a Creative Life series ).

**Tell us something you love about working with Intellect.** I love that they took a chance on me as a first-time author. I also appreciated the fact that proposing my book was made less intimidating through Intellect's easily accessed and very thorough intake form. My concept was already all fleshed out, so both sides came through the proposal process with a good understanding of what was expected. •

