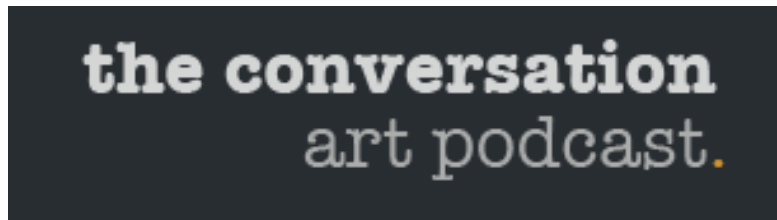


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Terrible Roman Emperor #7 - Caligula

Caligula, ooo he loved debauchery! He kept trading in wives and had 4 in total, but that didn't keep him from installing a brothel into the palace. Prostitutes were the best! They didn't mind if he was into kinky stuff. People could be such prudes!

He didn't sleep very well and would wander the palace at night, coming up with bizarre schemes and ways to punish his detractors. And detractors there were. Not only did the annoying Senate beg him to "tone it down" and "take the job seriously", they even suggested he was mentally unstable.

As he became increasingly erratic, those around him became increasingly nervous. Initially popular, by the end of his four year reign even the populace had had enough. He met a bloody end when he was stabbed to death by his own guards in a hidden tunnel.

See ya, Caligula!



MARCH 11

Ep. #181: Kysa Johnson, Los Angeles artist and activist, on resistance and being incited to action since Nov. 2016

Michael Shaw

In Part 1 of 2, Los Angeles artist and activist Kysa Johnson talks about:

Her roots in Mormonism, and how its very patriarchal structure led her to rebel, fighting with teachers and eventually, along with her mom and brother, leaving the church; the various platforms and outlets for her activism, and how donating money, signing petitions and watching protest-based movies gave way to attending the initial protest in L.A., the Women's March in Washington, a protest at LAX airport, artist political group meetings, phone calls to congress, and more; how her "being active" was a necessary reaction to the extreme change in the political landscape, and how protests – boots on the ground – matter because the visibility and solidarity of resistance is a key arm of resistance that lets those in power know that you're angry, and then that you're still angry ; the phone

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calls she makes as a constituent, which she scripts beforehand since she gets stage fright (and her stage fright in general, which causes her some lost sleep before artist talks, etc.); how after the election (presidential), for a few weeks in the studio everything felt 'ridiculous, pointless and inconsequential,' and so she pivoted to 'what can I do today' to address the new climate...and the research that she uses for her art translated to her research for political action; her top picks for movies about protest, most notably Selma, Gandhi, and Trumbo, the latter of which is especially appropriate because it's about artists/cultural figures being resisters; her series of 'Terrible Roman Emperors' paintings, echoing the fact that there are certain characteristics of a terrible leader that repeat throughout history; how she feels that visual artists have a niche and a platform to visually communicate information that is digestible in such a way (to the opposition) in order to create a shift; Kysa defines the difference between art that is beautiful (dark, sublime, etc.) and pretty (only for the eyes), and how one of her favorite movies, Amadeus, represents that dichotomy; how one is best served in their activism/actions by picking the thing that they're most interested in addressing, because everyone is wanting to do something different.

Link to podcast: <http://www.theconversationpod.com/ep-181-kysa-johnson-part1-los-angeles-artist-and-activist/>