

Artist Statement  
**Betz Bernhard**  
Broken Rules  
ZINC contemporary  
February 1 - March 10, 2017

When I was a kid and stood at the edge of the pool.. it was so easy to jump into that frigid water. I didn't think about how cold it was.. I just took the plunge.

Sometimes the freedom I feel in my studio is intolerable. A rush of anxiety ..where to start. Piles of colorful fabric everywhere. Endless possibility. My three dogs settle themselves under the tables. I am not calm. I am overwhelmed.

I reach into a heaping pile of fabric scraps, and gather a few pieces that speak to me. I start to play with them. Is there an idea here? The scraps of vintage Japanese kimonos I have collected and shredded are beautiful and suggestive with their lovely patterns. I cut into them with determination feeling a little reckless and destructive. Should I splatter some paint on this luscious silk?

It's only 8:30 in the morning and my indecision is driving me towards the chocolate box. My big dog Amos has discovered a large piece of yellow silk on the floor and he's in the process of pulverizing it. I grab it from his mouth and notice the lovely organic shape it has morphed into with a little help from my dog. This is the beginning of my piece today.