

## **Red Guns**

Kadie Salfi

Willard Straight Hall Gallery, Cornell University

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### **SNAFU (Situation Normal all Fucked up)**

This work is part of an ongoing series I am making about America's gun culture.

December 14, 2012 I heard a story on the radio about a mother who lost her child at the Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting. She said that when she found out about the shooting she ran home and went to her child's bed and the sheets were still warm. I wept for this mom and all the parents, families and children that were affected by the shooting. I wept for the world of guns that we find ourselves living in daily - the everlasting impact that guns have on so many lives.

I was compelled to make art after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook. I was already making work about America's gun culture and Sandy Hook called my attention to school shootings, which are unfortunately, a growing issue. Mass shootings occur in the United States almost every day and upwards of 30,000 people were killed in America by guns in 2015.

These pieces are intentionally simple: life-size acrylic painting on plywood of the gun used in a mass school shooting. The gun is always painted in red with the make and model beside it, in white colored pencil. The number of killings is in blue colored pencil.

I hope this work inspires sensitive and delicate thoughts and discussions about America's gun culture.

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Kadie Salfi