

Relative Dimensions

Sept 18, 2015 - Jan 6, 2016, Tempe Public Library/Youth Library



distribution (detail), by Angela Cazel-Jahn

Angela Cazel-Jahn, Phoenix

Cazel-Jahn lives, works, plays and reads science magazines in her sunlit studio off the side of an old house in downtown Phoenix. She makes paintings, sculptures and spaces for people to play in and think about. She uses paint but also works with common old construction materials and found objects. Her work has been shown locally and in cities across the country. Currently, Cazel-Jahn is a graduate student and faculty associate in the School of Sustainability at ASU.

Of her own work, Cazel-Jahn says, *“My work includes community projects, interactive sculptures, murals, paintings and collage. Each medium serves as inspiration for the others. It’s all common materials: drywall and plywood, found objects, light, little parts that*

move, things that sparkle, clay, technological and mechanical leftovers and things that other people have obviously touched. The pictures focus on figures, letters, codes, text, diagrams and metaphors that can be tangled together to make cryptic stories. Several themes run through my work: Among them are chaos, fragility, order and overwhelmedness. Another strong theme is childhood and play.”

Of the comparison of her work with Lopez’s, Cazel-Jahn says *“There is a common emphasis in Annie’s and my work on domesticity, everyday lives of families and children. A big difference between our artwork- at least in these particular pieces- is that Annie’s are focused more purely on the figures themselves, while I was preoccupied with technology/cell phones when making these images.”*

www.cazeljahn.net

Annie Lopez, Phoenix

Lopez was born and raised in Phoenix and her family roots in the region go back more than 120 years. At the age of 13, she received her first film camera. As the middle child of five siblings, she often found herself seeking alone time, photographing the world outside her noisy home. These early experiences led her to explore themes including family, heritage, memory and what it is to be a Mexican American woman. Much of Lopez’s artwork is biographical and sometimes includes an underlining dark humor that reflects family history and the stereotypes and biases she has encountered in and around Arizona. Lopez uses old photographs or other vintage images to create cyanotypes, a photographic printing process that produces a cyan-blue print that develops with exposure to sunlight. She then incorporates stories, word play and excerpts from personal letters.

Lopez says of her work: *“Learning about my ancestors has been my mission since I was a child. I once found a photograph in a family album. The person in the photograph looked like me, but it was my grandmother who died nearly 30 years before I was born. My quest for family history has taken me to cemeteries, libraries, state archives and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. I often include my own history, especially the embarrassing experiences that most people would rather forget.”*

Of the comparison of Cazel-Jahn’s work with her own, Lopez says, *“There are clear differences in mine and Angela’s work: my work is photographic while Angela works in mixed media. My people are posing, Angela’s are active. But I see narratives in both our work and I think that is why we were paired. There is a story going on that is left to the audience. I also see history in our work- my pieces are from photographs that are 60+ years old and Angela has collage elements that contain community history. Both of our work has family and children as well.”*



Siblings, by Annie Lopez



Tempe Galleries

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