

# Take a Moment

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**How do we make sense of the busy world around us?** For two Phoenix area artists, it means making art that requires people to stop, look and think. Paige Reesor's tiny paintings of local buildings and popular landscapes make familiar sites seem newly discovered again. She creates these images with hopes that people will revisit these popular locations in their minds. Gina DeGideo's work is also about pausing to observe and appreciate the things she sees and experiences. She purposely takes time during her day to take photographs. The process helps her to slow down, and really think. This exhibition explores how two artists use artmaking to center themselves amid the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Both artists share their work in hopes that viewers will also be drawn in and take a moment to enjoy.

## **Gina DeGideo, Phoenix**

DeGideo earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in photography from Arizona State University and works as an arts advocate and professional artist in the local community. She is the co-founder of Art for Life, a non-profit organization that promotes youth engagement in the arts and is an instructor at Art Intersection, a gallery and studio space in Gilbert. She is currently co-president of Eye Lounge gallery in Phoenix.

DeGideo started the series *Along the Way*, in order to remind herself to take the time to make art even though she is a busy mom and working professional. She takes her camera everywhere and is always on the lookout for an opportunity to catch a good shot wherever she might be located. Because she shoots with film, DeGideo doesn't always know exactly how the images will turn out until she develops them. She tries to embrace this loss of control as another reminder to appreciate every little moment and every good image. DeGideo says the series *"has become a visual journey of the still, peaceful, surreal seconds that exist between the disarray, the grind and the busyness."*

[www.ginadegideo.com](http://www.ginadegideo.com)

## **Paige Reesor, Tempe**

Originally from Michigan, Reesor earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in art education with an emphasis on painting from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo before moving to the Valley. Her desire to pursue an art career started a very young age and she says she cannot remember a time when art wasn't the focus of her life. Because the arts and giving back to the community are so important to Reesor, it's not surprising that she became a teacher. Today she is the visual arts teacher at Gililand Middle School in the Tempe Elementary District.

Reesor refers to her small acrylic paintings as a "mini collection." She says, *"Many believe that the bigger the scale, the better [the artwork], but there is something captivating about tiny works of art."* The artmaking process is delightful for Reesor. She enjoys scouting locations, creating the delicate little paintings onsite (plein-air) and then photographing herself holding them in front of those same sites. Because she lives and works in Tempe, many of the scenes are local landmarks. She says: *"I really love Tempe, and I want art to be a part of our community!"*