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The pull of tension, the agony of anxiety, the quiet whispers of strangers-all of these form a nomenclature of apprehension that is often the elephant-inthe-room of social norms. By harnessing the never-ending predicament of inward distress, I bring to light the common language of anxiety through form and process. By choosing bookmaking, letterpress, papermaking, and ceramics as mediums, I translate the elements of often-ignored mental health disorders into a common lexicon. Each of the processes I work with demands an incredible amount of time, effort, repetition, and attention both overwhelming and exceptionally deliberate. By tapping into my own agitation I seek to create a visual narrative through which one can better understand an array of widespread, common mental illnesses through alluring yet unnerving forms.





There are certain moments from my childhood that I remember, perhaps inaccurately that have contributed to my foundation and development as both an individual and an artist. Memory is an amusing thing because you rarely remember the whole of it, but rather that sweltering, momentous, disjointed detail that becomes ingrained in the back of your mind. My distorted childhood memories have resulted in disintegrated recollections. Through selective reinforcement I recount experiences with an altered narrative encouraging vivid detail of familiar episodes. For the most part these events are insignificant at the time they occur; yet they're loaded with personal narrative. These episodic accounts are the oddly shaped personal and cathartic experiences that remain in my mind and emerge in a hypnagogic state. These works embody reflective nostalgia, identifying fragmented dialogue of iconic individuals and events. As my work demonstrates, I am interested in the dialogue between the mind's splinter of an experience and its creation of a surrounding allegory to support



memorable narratives





I set out to make work of events that I have experienced or could imagine experiencing. I am interested in depicting issues of desire, obsession, and humor. Jokes are important to me and sometimes function as a departure point for paintings or drawings. As I set out to make a painting, I work intuitively, but I have a preliminary idea of the image's content. I work from memory and manipulate the composition as I react to what has happened from previous gestures. The finished product, whether set in an interior or exterior, is a scene occupied with elements from my everyday life.











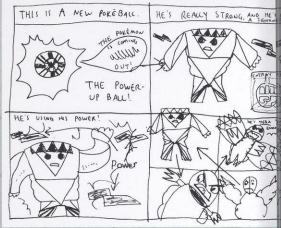
Eager to Please is a series of paintings and works on paper that explores the broader notions of female experiences, where appearances are deliberately curated, and self-awareness is both stigmatized and celebrated.

My pseudo-portraits celebrate moments that embody our worst anxieties: being watched when we do not want to be seen, or judged when we do. I construct awkward snapshots, fragments within a larger narrative defined by the rules of social expectation in contemporary culture. In conjunction with these thematic concerns, unapologetic girly signifiers elicit the melodrama commonly attributed to these issues. A loose approach to figuration permits me to achieve something stranger and more candid than traditional realism would allow.









Working with the UW Comics Club and the Madison Children's Museum has invigorated my cartooning practice and prompted several experimental series. In Notes on Art History, I use both spontaneous doodles and careful illustrations to wrestle with concepts discussed in seminars on art history and theory. When creating cartoons collaboratively with children, my focus has been on recording the way the child tells the story, including how s/he freely moves between drawing and performing. Each drawing for the series A Cartoonist a Day pays homage to the particular style of cartoonists I admire, including many of my fellow students. In my future studies, I hope to contribute to a conversation about the role of comics in the history of art and to develop a body of challenging comic work.











Untitled, 2016 14" x 20", serigraph Untitled, 2016 14" x 20", serigraph Untitled, 2016 14" x 20", serigraph

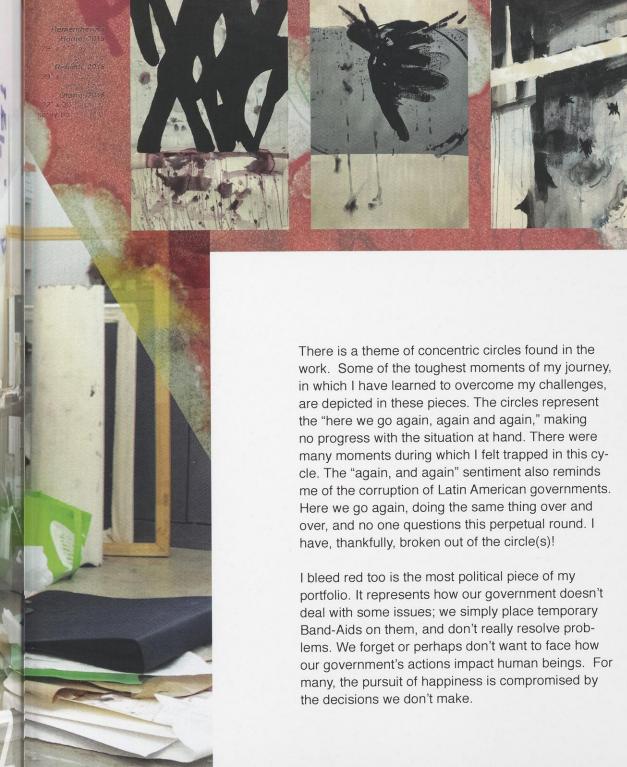
My work documents the ever-changing cultural landscape of my home of Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico. My Tewa cultural ceremonies, traditions, and stories, as well as twenty-first-century popular culture, comic books, and technology influence my art.

Using traditional materials and traditional Pueblo pottery techniques, along with various printmaking techniques, including lithography, serigraphy, and intaglio etching, I seek to keep alive the ceramic traditions that have been passed down to me since time immemorial. I feel that these materials and techniques connect me to my ancestral past and landscape, but also connect me and future generations to our Tewa cultural traditions. The printmaking media is another way of creating and teaching these stories and traditions to a wider audience.







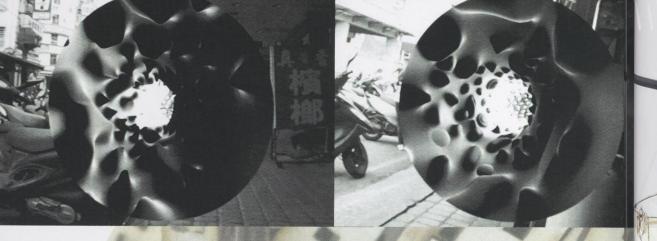




I am interested in appetites. You can have an appetite—a craving, a certain taste—for anything. I'm especially interested in why we like the things we like, and why we do the things we do. Is it a matter of nature or nurture? On what level are we attracted to or seduced by certain things? I am curious about where our instincts and cultural constructions originate, and where they sometimes collide or blur. My work is most inspired by the sensual appetite. I seek to evoke some type of sensation or memory through my imagery, revealing the associations that our brains formulate.

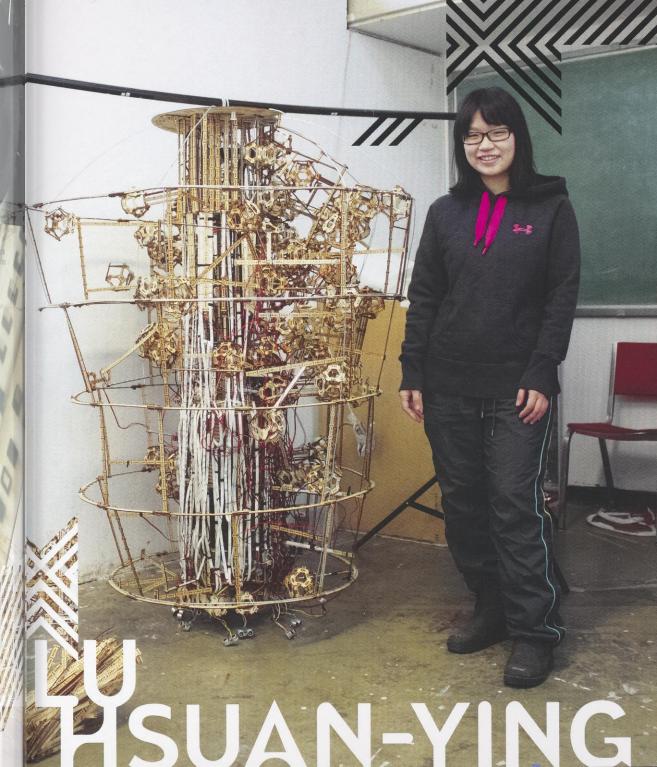






The recent conceptual points of my artwork most directly relate to personal cross-cultural experiences and self-awareness observation. In our society, there are lots of elements, which may become barriers. They are always between communicators and receivers. Those barriers could be cultural experiences, people's backgrounds, language systems, knowledge, or even people themselves—that is, their physical bodies, which affect their lives every day as they strive to establish personal identities. create relationships with others, and understand unknown worlds. However, people's desire or curiosity can inspire them to surmount those barriers and find their own answers. Barriers can thus turn into filters that refine, transform, and divide original information and ideas into fragments and meaningless materials. Thus, people might redefine those materials into completely different compositions or into a simple abstraction.









objects, along with my own contemporary photographs, which use alternative processes. I began this work by mining family photo albums from the late nineteenth century. They revealed images of my great-grandparents and other relatives, whose lives in south central Wisconsin were so different from my own.



hope the rainbow will always be enuf

I create installations that explore my interest in collective trauma and the dehumanization of Black folks in the United States using the vehicles of science fiction, dystopic/utopic narratives, and Black joy. I use PhantomNegro, a shape shifting, gender shifting, time-traveling being, as a tool to explore Black subjectivity, or the Black narrative. Phantom-Negro floats through the past, present, and future, placing itself at scenes of injustices. PhantomNegro is an omnipresent being who rewrites the dominant narrative of current and past events involving the dehumanization of Black people. This rewritten narrative is not utopic, but rather a method of filling in the gaps in these stories of injustice, thereby allowing the artist the agency, or power, to understand and alter the past. PhantomNegro, and the artist, create a space in which collective trauma may be reclaimed

and restructured into a sense of belonging, thereby

carving out space for Black joy.













My work examines romanticized representations of feminine beauty, and how western history, art and popular culture dictate our perception of this venerated beauty. By considering the appealing and revolting aspects of vanity, I am questioning whether attempts to capture contemporary notions of physical attractiveness are futile, or whether masquerading is an important aspect of navigation in an ego-driven society. I am fascinated with how the pursuit of glamour-exploited by fashion, adornment, cosmetics, grooming, surgical modifications, and other alterations to the body-both reveals and masks character. We are mortal; changing and aging is certain. Life is fleeting and death's shadow is persistent. With the artwork in Voluptuous Vanitas, I am questioning what is important to legacy: modesty and humility, or glamour and opulence.

please be sad

I often think about our private spaces and the different ways we present ourselves depending on whom we interact with, including the raw emotion in the everyday routine that often gets overlooked or purposely hidden. My latest body of work has been about turning the viewership onto myself, and the emotions I now run through with recent experiences of loss and grief. Through sculpture and performance I am addressing universal experiences people share, even though my work is generated out of a very personal place. We are often conditioned to hide our emotions from others unless they are positive—and also to dismiss the experiences unless they are considered extraordinary. I prefer to meditate on the seemingly insignificant repetitions of everyday routines and to appreciate them for what they are, the truest experiences of our lives without premeditation for presentation.















More than anything, I am inspired by quality, the sensation that one gets when one handles something exquisitely made. In particular, I am captivated by the coach-built cars made during the 1920s and 1930s. I am fascinated by the idea of making an object that has a technical function but is completely dominated by the guest for perfection and the aesthetic concerns that accompany this quest. The method I have chosen to convey this is fountains. Humans seem to be innately drawn to moving water: there is something very primal about it. While my work is inspired by a bygone era, I try to be cognizant of contemporary culture. We live in a time when people expect to be able to interact with just about everything, and I try to incorporate interactivity as much as possible. There are many ways for artists to judge their success. For me, success equates to causing people to smile.







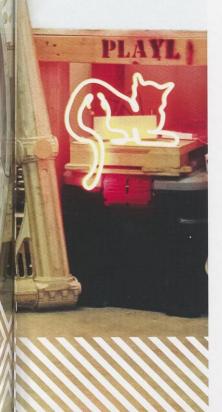






Spin, 2015 18 x 48 x 60", cast aluminum, wood, steel, aluminum extrusion, folding chair, gear motor, extension cord Not a Step. 2014 36 x 24 x 60", neon, glass, steel Contraption XIII: In Which Motor Fights Operator for its Electrical Sustenance, 2014 7'x7'x8', wood, cast iron, steel, exten-

sion cord, motor



Inventing machines is the quintessential human activity. Humans aren't particularly well adapted to survive on our own; it is only by creating devices to solve problems and adapt to environmental pressures that we, as a species, have survived. Each machine, then, has two pieces of information encoded within its design: the problem it was designed to solve, and the ideal world that will be created by solving the aforementioned problem. Machines reflect a civilization's collective worldview. I use machines as a lens through which to critique our civilization. I examine the hidden beliefs embedded within our technology by creating original machines that solve these same problems in new, absurd ways. Alternatively, I create new machines predicated on new problems and hopes for the world. In this way, I subvert technology's ability to encode a civilization's beliefs by suggesting new beliefs, creating machines that try to change civilization itself.





more within them.

es to art making, something between abstraction and representation, in order to uncover something



Despite a recent and rather significant material shift to acrylic yarn and late nineteenth-century craft techniques, I remain focused on the primary aspects of my work that have developed over the past three years. First among these is an emphasis on the formal qualities of abstraction. My interest lies predominantly in color, shape, line, space, and (most recently) texture. These formal components are not only valuable subjects to explore individually; they also constitute the vernacular I use to investigate abstraction as a whole.

Second among these is a general fascination with the metaphorical space between abstraction and reality. Whether that takes the form of specific objects/images that are deconstructed to the point just before they slip into pure abstraction, or formal abstractions that have a certain physical logic enforced on them, I value the tension between these concepts more than the individual concepts themselves.







Las Azulitas, 2016 36° × 24", hand thited lithograph Winter Woods, 2016

I am interested in boundaries, physical and psychological, between humans and the natural world. This work interprets electron-microscopic images of various species through the medium of lithography. In the electron micrographs, I see landscapes or figurative shapes. The images I perceive evoke memories of places or things and the emotions that accompany them. By altering the scientific images, I emphasize my interpretation of them as visual memories of a journey across an alien landscape. The landscape, though, is no more alien than we are.

There is a human need to domesticate and alter the wild world, to chain, confine and even genetically design life, to prove that we are separate and unique. The reality is that we share a common link with all matter, animate and inanimate. This body of work explores that link at the microscopic level, where its strange beauty is most clearly seen.







The video installation b-roll straddles the border between documentary and fictional visual storytelling. The narrative focuses on the absurd. The subjects seek something they have lost. They attempt to do the impossible and then do the improbable. This work highlights the tensions produced by polarities: humor and sadness, fantastical and everyday, and loss and gain. The story ends with a woman seated on porch steps. She whistles for her pet. She holds a red leash in her hands like a rosary. The middle part of the story involves a woman unpacking her purse. The purse contains an improbable amount of oversized objects, which proceed to engulf her. The narrative begins as a woman struggles with an orange juice container. The turning points between these vignettes involve a penny. The footage is shot on old, grainy 16mm film stock with an Arriflex SR II, and then transferred to digital.



For me, childhood and the teenage years were a time of stimulation, reckless abandon, and dreams of fleeing home. I have walked, run, skated and sped over dirt, gravel and tarry asphalt roads. All of these experiences were so blue-collar, America-centric, and rural. It is important that this everyday space be realized; this is the measure of all things, a common ground to critique and reminisce.

I set out to structure my work like a musical record. Every image, icon, and surface traces my steps. The spaces are set up through a series of speeds, colors, notes, and layers. Memory is the driving force behind the work and this so-called album. I begin recording an image, deconstruct everything in between, and finish at the end of the track(s). I hope to harvest moments of wonderment and endlessness, the blurry sensations experienced when driving on stretches of roads with no end in sight.











Julie Ables **Brian Bartlett** Tim Brenner Diana Cavallero Sarah Deppe Josh Duncan Jason Garcia Ada Gonzalez Rachael Griffin Lu Hsuan-Ying Angela Johnson Jay Katelansky Annie Kilborn Stephanie Lifshutz Jay Ludden Chris Maddox Jeffrey Mason Justin Playl Vikki Reed Cindy Tidler Jojin Van Winkle **Eric Wolever**



