

Jimena Marin

I have been vegan for the last 18 months. I passionately research online about people that share vegan recipes and experiences they have related to this lifestyle. I had the idea of using this information in order to create visual recipes that I can share with friends, family and the community.

These drawings illustrate how easy and beautiful vegan dishes are. My plan is to keep creating as many as possible and eventually to publish a book with these drawings/recipes. I want this information to be visually available. The function of this group of drawings is for people to have them at their home so they can visually follow the instructions on how to cook a vegan meal.

Education

Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) with primary emphasis in Painting and secondary emphasis in Sculpture, The School of Art, Texas Tech University (TTU), Lubbock, Texas.

Bachelors of Fine Arts (BFA) School of Visual Arts, Universidad de las Americas, Puebla (UDLA), Puebla, Mexico.

Rachael Bower

Rachael is originally from Youngstown, Ohio. She has completed two international artist residencies in Italy (La Macina di San Cresci in 2010 and Terra Vivente in 2015).

My artwork is inspired by home & memory, the lost & the found. Trained as a printmaker, repetition is central to my creative process and patterns appear in both technique and subject matter. Local plants and birds appear in my compositions, symbols of my south Texas home. Birds also represent the duality of adventure versus stability as they both migrate and nest. The subjects appear in pairs, trios or groups of five (a nod to my family unit), depending on the narrative. I have become increasingly aware of my geographic distance from my family and this has influenced my most recent paintings.

Education

MFA in Studio Art/Printmaking from Clemson University

BFA in Studio Art/Printmaking from Ohio University

Certificate of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies from Ohio University

Katie Pell

Katie Pell tells stories she has made up; about people she knows, sees or imagines. She is inspired by narrative operatic rock, naturalistic observation and memory. Her work explores rites of passage, dynamics of hierarchy and subculture with humor and occasional sarcasm.

Education

MFA from University of Texas-San Antonio

BFA in Painting from Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, Rhode Island

Lea Keith

I am a self-taught artist who has experimented with many forms over my lifetime. In the 1980's I worked in fiber – textile surface design – to create textural wall hangings. In 2012, I transitioned to three-dimensional forms, making small wooden boxes, painted and embellished with mixed media and found objects. In 2016, I melded the idea of small containers with textiles, using yarn, thread and twine on wooden frames to create these baskets. I am not really trying to create a “statement” with my art. I just work with media and forms that appeal to me. My goal is to create objects that are aesthetically pleasing. I am satisfied that these baskets are good representations of that goal.

Education

Masters Degree, Humanities from California State University @ Dominguez Hills in May 2013.

undergraduate degree, Nursing, from the Medical College of Georgia (now renamed Augusta University).

William Keith

Mr. Keith was born in Jackson, Mississippi in 1954. He has been teaching at Northwest Vista College since 2002

In my study of art I know the elements of art and the principles of design can be combined to influence a general aesthetic. I like using my understanding of these foundations and philosophies to achieve that end. I enjoy testing my knowledge with each piece I make.

However, true beauty is my greatest inspiration and influence. I would like for my work to be an example of how God's will manifests the sublime through my hand.

Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Memphis College of Art in 1976

Masters of Fine Art degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 1990.

Sara Corley Martinez

I've always been fascinated with the body. Always interested in what we see versus what goes on under the surface. I'm exploring what we can understand and what can never be understood in the pain of another's experience. I am interested in interpreting my model's medical histories into my own understanding of their experience. I create new visual forms which one can only guess at and suppose as what's going on under the surface.

I think a lot about Chaos and Gravity. Your body is a perfect example of order and chaos. A delicate balance of things science can control and what you must submit to as a being existing in nature. I'm thinking about the space in your body and the voids filled with things on the micro level, playing with scale of importance and hierarchy in things seen and unseen. I am interested in layering and a visible artist's hand. Gravity is interesting to me in terms of not knowing what's at the core of yourself. All of these objects compacted

around the unknown; a spirit, organs, and all of these parts of you just waiting to burst at the seams. Independent they are nothing, but together they make what we need for our existence.

Anyone who has had health concerns knows how easily perception and emotion can spiral out of control. Especially when realizing that this body you think is sound and strong is actually not what it seems.

I am interested in telling these stories. Currently I am working with pregnancy and changes that occur in your body at that time. I am working on a new animation about pregnancy in a similar style to the one included on the disc. I am influenced by mundane medical illustration, Japanese print, anime, realism, and fantasy. I am trying to create my own language of the body to convey the quest to control our bodies. Bodies which are constantly changing, deteriorating, regenerating, and slipping away.

Education

BFA Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland

MFA University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio

Deborah Keller-Rihn

Deborah Keller-Rihn is an artist, teacher and arts organizer who sees art as a spiritual practice and values creativity as a powerful tool for personal and cultural transformation. Her interest in women's issues and Eastern spirituality led her to go India in 2012 and 2016. She will be going to India this summer to begin a doctoral program in Sri Aurobindo Studies in Pondicherry. The artist has a studio/gallery in the Blue Star Arts Complex where she has been for twenty years. She enjoys mentoring young people and teaches photography and Humanities here at Northwest Vista College.

Keller-Rihn has been working for over thirty years as an artist, teacher, arts organizer and curator and has helped shape the cultural landscape of San Antonio through her work as assistant education curator at the San Antonio Museum of Art, program director at Bihl Haus Arts, arts program manager at Centro Cultural Aztlan and as an independent curator and organizer. She has initiated cultural events such as the Noche de Recuerdo at the Woodlawn Casting Pool with Proyecto Locos and she has been involved in Fotoseptiembre every year since its inception. She has won grants from the San Antonio Department of Culture and Creative Development for the Mandala Healing Arts Project in 2015 and Lighten Up, a festival celebrating conscious living in 2016. Keller-Rihn maintains an active exhibition schedule and her work is in the permanent collections of UTSA and the San Antonio Blood and Tissue Center.

Education

BA in Humanities, magna cum laude with honors, teaching credentials in All-Level Art and Reading from UT Austin

Master's Degree in Art from Texas A & M~Kingsville.

Diana Kersey

Much of my art practice is about making decisions.

For example, when I am throwing a vessel on the potter's wheel, I decide how wide the lip should be in relation to the foot. I decide how full the belly is in comparison to the neck. When the pot is leatherhard the decisions are about where to make the first mark. How can I best divide up the space for that particular form? Using “draw” tools I make decisions about where to put lines on the pot in relation to the form. When I am carving the vessel, decisions are made about where to make marks. Where do I want the glaze to pool and darken? Where do I want raised areas so the glaze is lighter? I decide what sprig molds to use to add embellishments and help tell a narrative important to express my ideas. When the pot is dry the decisions are about where to paint colored slips or underglaze in relation to all the previous decisions. Finally, once the vessel comes out of the bisque fire the decision is about how and what glaze to apply. Where? And how thick or thin? All of my artworks are about making a decision, not always correcting a bad decision, but working with it and constantly moving forward.

As a result of my pottery practice, I have learned that there are many solutions to any one problem, and that a bad decision can lead to a previously unimagined genius solution! I have also learned that if a pot does not make it through the process, the next one could be even better as a result of what I learned from failure. Working in clay has given me resilience, hope, and a constant feeling that the best is yet to come.

Education

BFA in drawing from Texas Tech

MFA in ceramics from Washington State.

Tim Jones

Associate Professor of Art, Chair of Fine and Performing Arts and Kinesiology

Although formally trained as a painter, an idea, rather than a specific style or media, most often drives my work. Informed by the study of critical theory, my own writing, and the study of Art History, I have worked in a multitude of media, and my materials are rarely found in an art store. Instead, I have created large-scale installations including sculptural elements with digital media, sound, and video, as well as billboard-sized drawings, paintings, and murals – always conceived first through an idea and developed through small sketches. I have exhibited these works in Texas and on the East Coast, primarily, but such an approach to art leaves one without a recognizable style.

That said, one of the continuous threads of interest I have pursued over the decades is *landscape*. I am most at peace in nature, and interacting with it as a painter is a formal exercise, for the most part. I enjoy painting *en plein aire*, when I can.

For the faculty exhibit, I selected three landscapes that are personally meaningful, for me.

For our students, I leave a quote from a master of the Hudson River School:

I refer you to Nature early, that you may receive your first impression of beauty and sublimity, unmingled with the superstitions of Art—for Art has its superstitions as well as religion—that you may learn to paint with

intelligence and sincerity—that your works shall address themselves to intelligent and sympathetic minds, and spare you the mortification of ever seeing them allotted to swell the lumber of the garret and the auction room.

- Asher B. Durand

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Education

The University of Texas at Austin, BA in English

Rhode Island School of Design, BFA in Painting

Maine College of Art, MFA in Studio Art and Critical Theory

Raquel Beechner

Raquel Beechner is a local San Antonio artist, born in Mexico City, Mexico and raised throughout Central and South America.

As global citizens we find ourselves in a constant state of change with new and complex choices. For the human condition to thrive it is imperative to strive to return to basics and form strong social bonds with our family. Technology can join and alienate us; somehow we all know this...

I have chosen to create a family unit using Mayan characters and adapted glyphs to return to the roots of my own culture. In this way the family, devoid of technological devices, can be seen in its most pure form.

Can you remember a special family celebration or outing that is at the heart of your personal growth and evolution?

For me it was visiting the Pyramid of the Sun in Chichen Itza, Mexico.

Education

Bachelor of Arts Degree from Our Lady of the Lake University

Bachelor of Fine Arts and Masters of Education Degree from the University of Texas in San Antonio.

Paul Northway

Paul Northway has participated in many national and international artist in resident programs including the International ceramic Studio in Kecskemet, Hungary and the SIM House in Reykjavik, Iceland. In 2014 he was awarded the Jentel Critic Fellowship and published several essays during his time at the Archie Bray Foundation.

I utilize humor, satire and irony, to examine human migration and the social and environmental impact of climate change.

Education

BFA from Montana State University and his MFA from the University of Montana

Jack Robbins (sculpture located outside)

Title: Couple 21 (harvester) material: steel

A two component sculpture consisting of a primary base unit and companion.

Work is based on contiguous forms derived from agricultural management/ harvesting equipment, synthesis of shapes and industrial technology.

A large shape

The fast ramp

A bridge

Education

MFA University of Texas at San Antonio

Jen Frost Smith

Jen Frost Smith grew up in central Texas and attended college at the University of Texas at Austin where she studied Trans-Media and Sculpture. After completing her BFA she moved to Baltimore, MD to study at the Maryland Institute College of Art and completed her MFA in Photographic and Electronic Media. She has exhibited work nationally including: Austin Museum of Digital Art, Co-Lab, Transmodern Festival, Museum of Human Achievement, Freight Gallery, Current Gallery, Pink Box Collective, Clamp Light, and is part of a group exhibit in May 2017 at the Plaza de Armas in San Antonio. She currently lives and works in San Antonio, TX, and is Co-Director and Resident Artist at Clamp Light Studios & Gallery.

My work is about color, texture, rhythm and emotion. I'm impulsive and create impulsively using my formal facilities to compose compositions infused with a feeling that can be felt before the viewer may intellectualize it. Often the content of my work is a play of tension between darker subjects and humor. My paintings explore the systems we impose on our creativity processes. I enjoy to work fast and use everyday materials in my installations recontextualizing mundane object & fashioning uncomfortable pairings. I imagine each artwork as a character or expression of a moment in time that interacts with other artworks to create a narrative through the viewer's engagement.

Exhibition Statement

Featured in the gallery & courtyard is the artwork of the Fine Arts Faculty at Northwest Vista College.

The exhibition highlights their varying conceptual approaches & technical practices.

Featured Faculty

Raquel Beechner	William Keith
Rachael M Bower	Deborah Keller-Rihn
Sara Corley Martinez	Diana Kersey
Mimi Duvall	Jimena Marin
Jen Frost	Paul Northway
Tim Jones	Katie Pell
Lea Keith	