brian alves

1

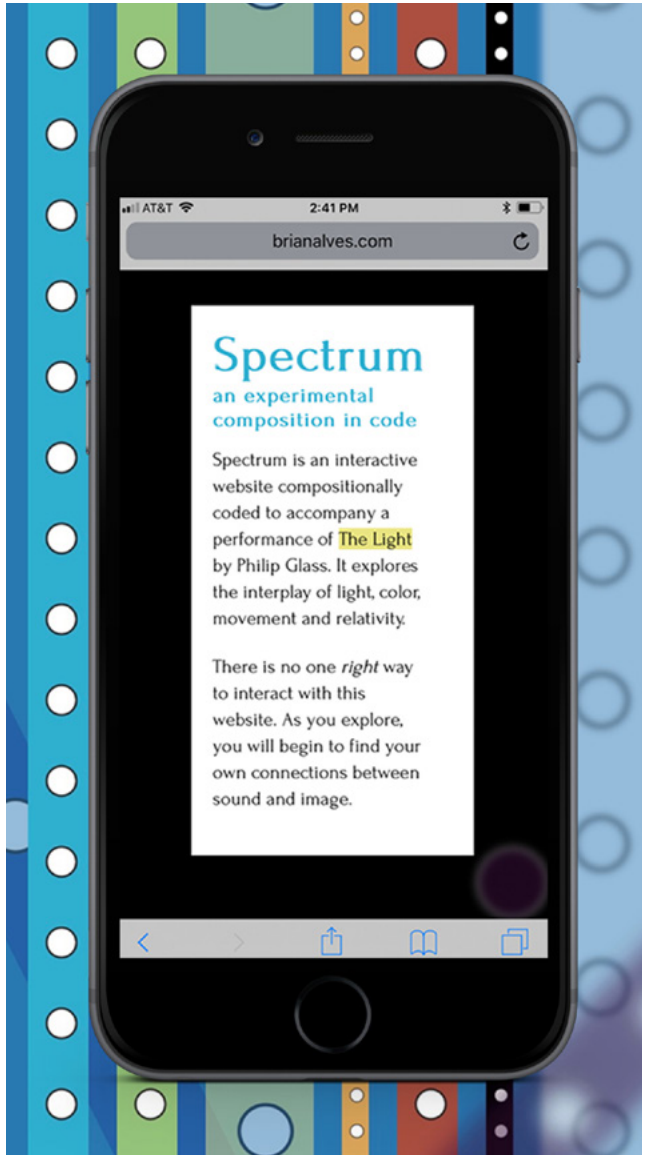
SPECTRUM

2017

Experimental Code Composition

Spectrum is an interactive website compositionally coded to accompany a performance of The Light by Philip Glass. It explores the interplay of light, color, movement and relativity. There is no one right way to interact with this website. When explored, the viewer finds their own connections between sound and image.

brianalves.com/spectrum




```
}

@keyframes spectrum-pulses {

0%  { background-color: rgba(255,255,255,1); }
11% { background-color: rgba(1,1,1,1); }
22% { background-color: rgba(60,15,63,1); }
33% { background-color: rgba(33,78,156,1); }
44% { background-color: rgba(48,176,209,1); }
55% { background-color: rgba(151,196,123,1); }
66% { background-color: rgba(235,230,131,1); }
77% { background-color:  rgba(219,166,90,1); }
88% { background-color: rgba(171,79,65,1); }
100%{ background-color: rgba(255,255,255,1); }

      }

@keyframes border-spectrum-pulses {

0%  { border-color: rgba(255,255,255,1); }
11% { border-color: rgba(1,1,1,1); }
22% { border-color: rgba(60,15,63,1); }
33% { border-color: rgba(33,78,156,1); }
44% { border-color: rgba(48,176,209,1); }
55% { border-color: rgba(151,196,123,1); }
66% { border-color: rgba(235,230,131,1); }
77% { border-color:  rgba(219,166,90,1); }
88% { border-color: rgba(171,79,65,1); }
100%{ border-color: rgba(255,255,255,1); }

      }

/*** TRIGGERS ***/

a.repeats-when-touched:focus,
a.repeats-when-touched:active {

    animation: rises 5s backwards;
    -webkit-animation: rises 5s backwards;
}

a.violet:hover, a.violet:focus

 {
   filter: blur(10px);
border-color: rgba(255,255,255,1);
border-width: 25px !important;

}

a.blue:hover,
a.blue:focus,
a.blue:active {

   border-color: rgba(0,0,0,1);
}


a.indigo:hover,
a.indigo:focus,
a.indigo:active {

    border-color:rgba(171,79,65,1);
```

2

THIS IS NOT A CHAIR

2018

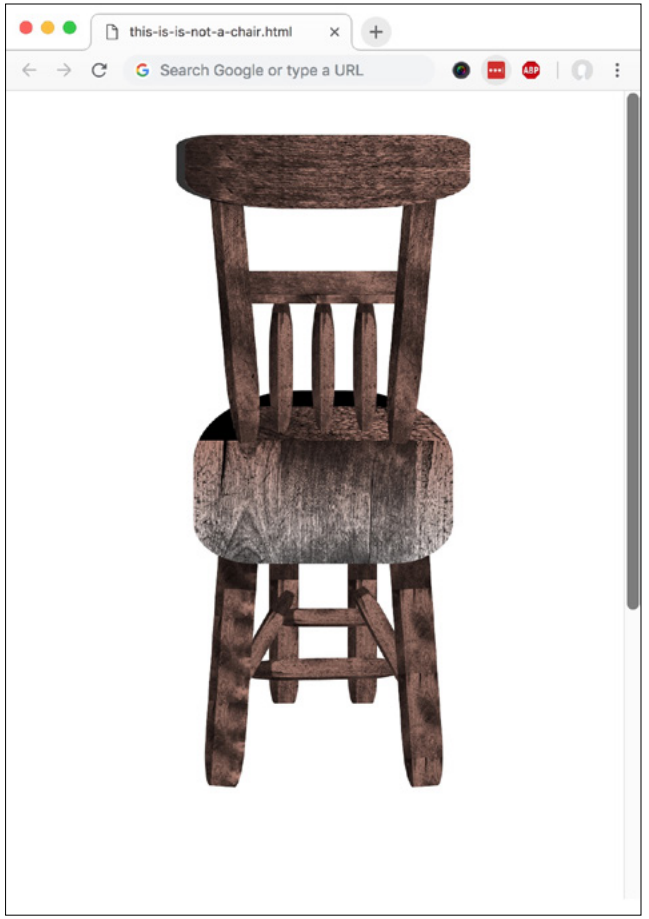
Installation with chair,
code and laser prints

I became enamored with a particular chair and determined to code it. My interest was as much about this chair's form as it was in its semantic nature. After coding just two boards, I proceeded to code the remaining components that together define a chair. I consider this a work of furniture making.

brianalves.com/this-is-not-a-chair.shtml

This is/is not a Chair.
(Proposed Installation)
2018
Code, Laser Prints , Chair

```
<!DOCTYPE html>

<!-- Title: This is/is not a Chair, August 2018 -->
<!-- Author: Brian Alves -->

<html>

<head>
<style>

/* LUMBER */

    .horizontal-boards {

        height: 4vmax;
        width: 100vmax;
        background-image: url(images/wood-texture-horizontal-grain.jpg);
        background-size: cover;

}

    .vertical-boards {

        height: 100vmax;
        width: 4vmax;
        background-image: url(images/wood-texture-vertical-grain.jpg);
        background-size: cover;

}

    #the-whole-chair {

        height: 100vmax;
        width: 50vmax;

        margin: 0 auto;

}

    #top-rail {

        width: 69%;
        height: 9%;
        overflow: hidden;

        border-left: 1vmax solid rgba(0,0,0,.8);
        border-radius: 15% 15% 40% 40%;

        position: relative;
        top: 5%;
        z-index: 1000;
        margin: auto;

}

    #top-rail .horizontal-boards {

        background-size: 80%;
        background-blend-mode: multiply;
        background-color: rgba(184,136,120,1);

}

    #back {

        height: 30%;
        width: 50%;
```



3

AUGUST

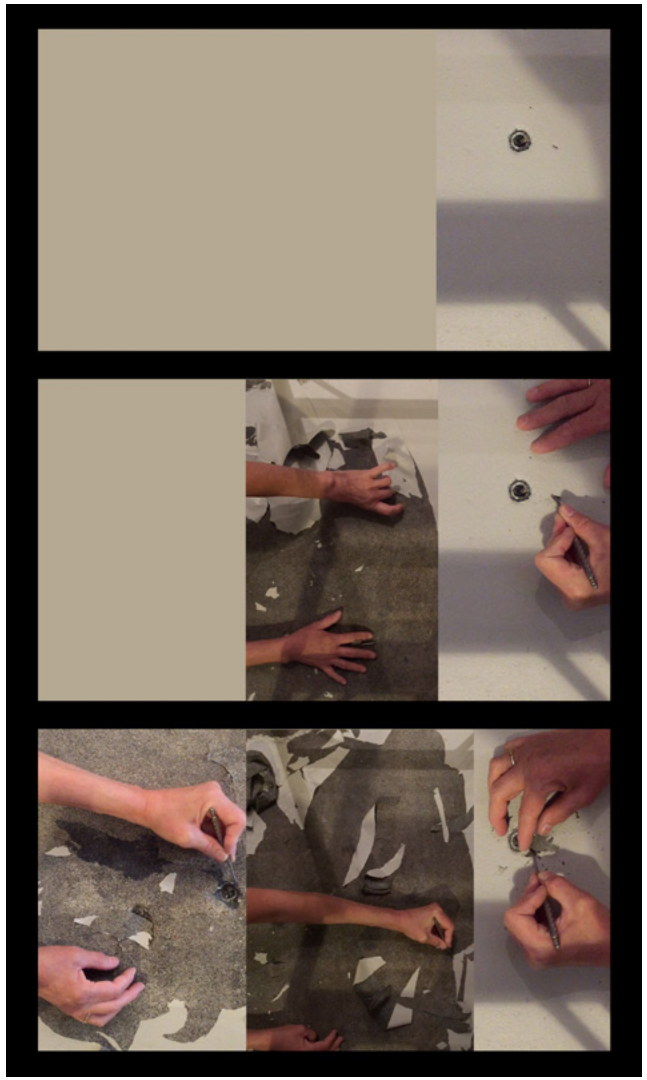
2017

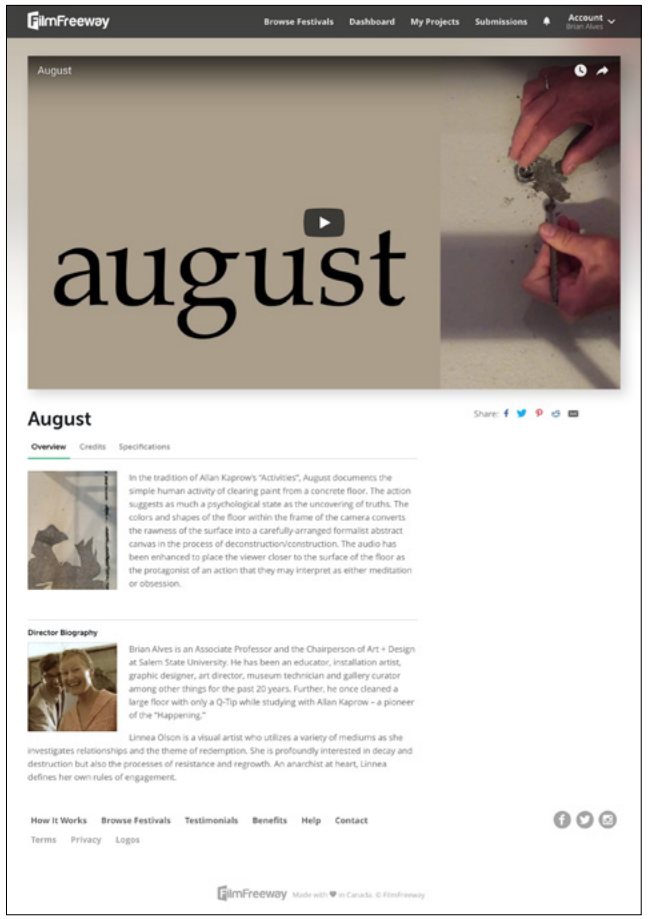
Experimental Performance Video

In the tradition of Allan Kaprow's "Activities", August documents the simple human activity of clearing paint from a concrete floor. The action suggests as much a psychological state as the uncovering of truths. The colors and shapes of the floor within the frame of the camera converts the rawness of the surface into a carefully-arranged formalist abstract canvas in the process of deconstruction or reconstruction. The audio has been enhanced to place the viewer closer to the surface of the floor as the protagonist of an action that they may interpret as either meditation or obsession.

August is a collaboration with artist Linnea Olson who utilizes a variety of mediums as she investigates relationships and the theme of redemption. She is profoundly interested in decay and destruction but also the processes of resistance and regrowth. An anarchist at heart, Linnea defines her own rules of engagement.

filmfreeway.com/august





4

COMFORT

2019

Installation with chalkboard paint, rocking chair, pickaxe, rope and theatrical lighting

The inspiration for Comfort arises from a childhood rocking chair that I remember as a soothing place for reading, quiet contemplation and deep sleep.

The installation intends to provoke a theatrical dreamscape whose meaning is vague but emotional. Multiple interpretations are possible but a sense of foreboding informs each.

A formal structure is also present with repeating parallel vertical lines dominate but the perpendicular shapes of the metal pickaxe and rockers base reflect each other.

5

DIVERSITY

2015

Gesso and Ink on Book
Pages on Clipboards

Sketches of children on dictionary pages are modeled after photographs found in the pages of National Geographic Magazine. They intend to both celebrate and confuse.

These sketches represent the equality of diversity. However, they are also detached from the stories they represent. The viewer will never know the content, context and purpose of the original images.

The words found at the top of each dictionary page - such as stick, squall, crudity, staffier - further obscure and alter the meaning of the sketches.

The question of the "purpose" of these sketches is solidified through their mounting on clipboards - a projection of clinical and neutral objectivity.

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6

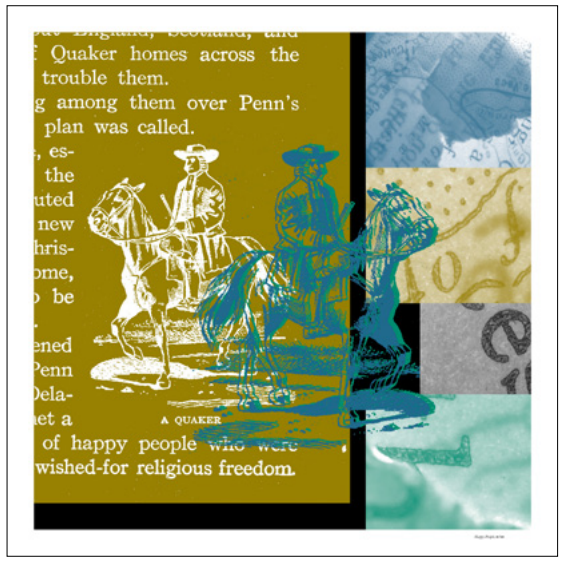
HISTORICAL REVISIONS

2007

PRINTS (24" square)
Achivial inkjet prints on
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

PAINTING (24" square)
Acrylic and textbook
pages on board

A series of paintings and prints that subvert the authority of textbooks by creating visual parodies that "reveal" details about American history though unusual juxtapositions.



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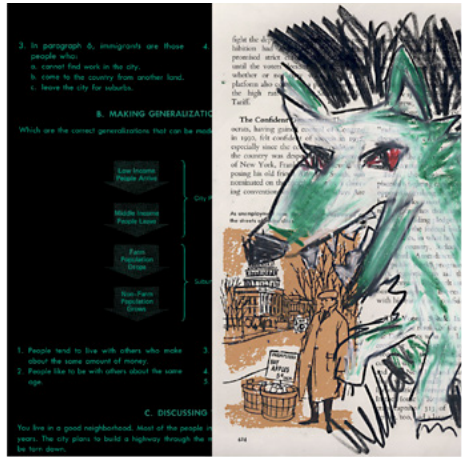
7

IMMIGRANT FEARS

2007, 2016+

Oil Pastel on History Textbook Pages & Archival Digital Prints
Hahnemuhle photo rag paper

An ongoing series - originated in 2007 and revived in 2016 - juxtaposing the pages of American History textbook depictions of immigrants with exaggerated supernatural creatures. Xenophobia is learned.



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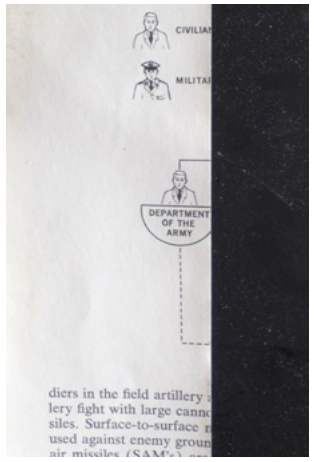
8

PTSD

2015

Mixed Media Assemblage

PTSD is an unusual collusion of chalkboards, textbook cutting, electrical outlet and well-used marine trench coat. Together these items illuminate - not a history of war - but rather a personal metaphor that reflects habits of mind.



9

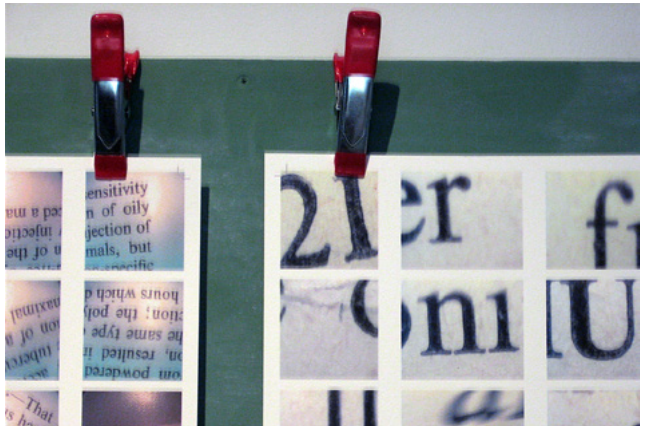
MANUAL OF CLINICAL MYCOLOGY

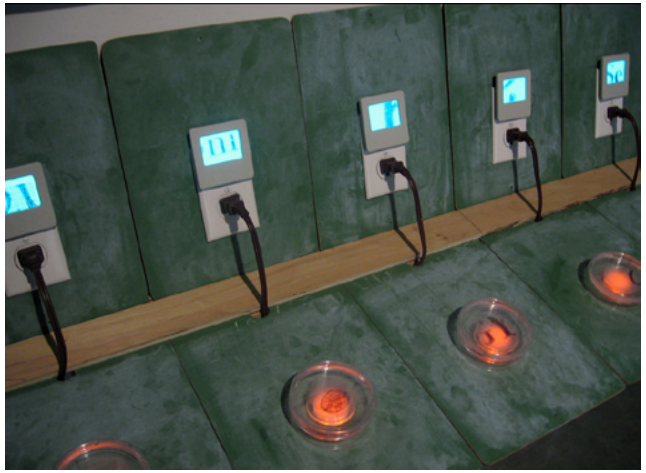
2005

Installation with Digital Microscopy Prints

If the printed word were a fungus, how would we study its effects on the mind?

Microscopic images from a single page of the classic military textbook *Manual of Clinical Mycology*, ©1944 were displayed in an attempt to demonstrate alternative methods of processing information into knowledge.





10

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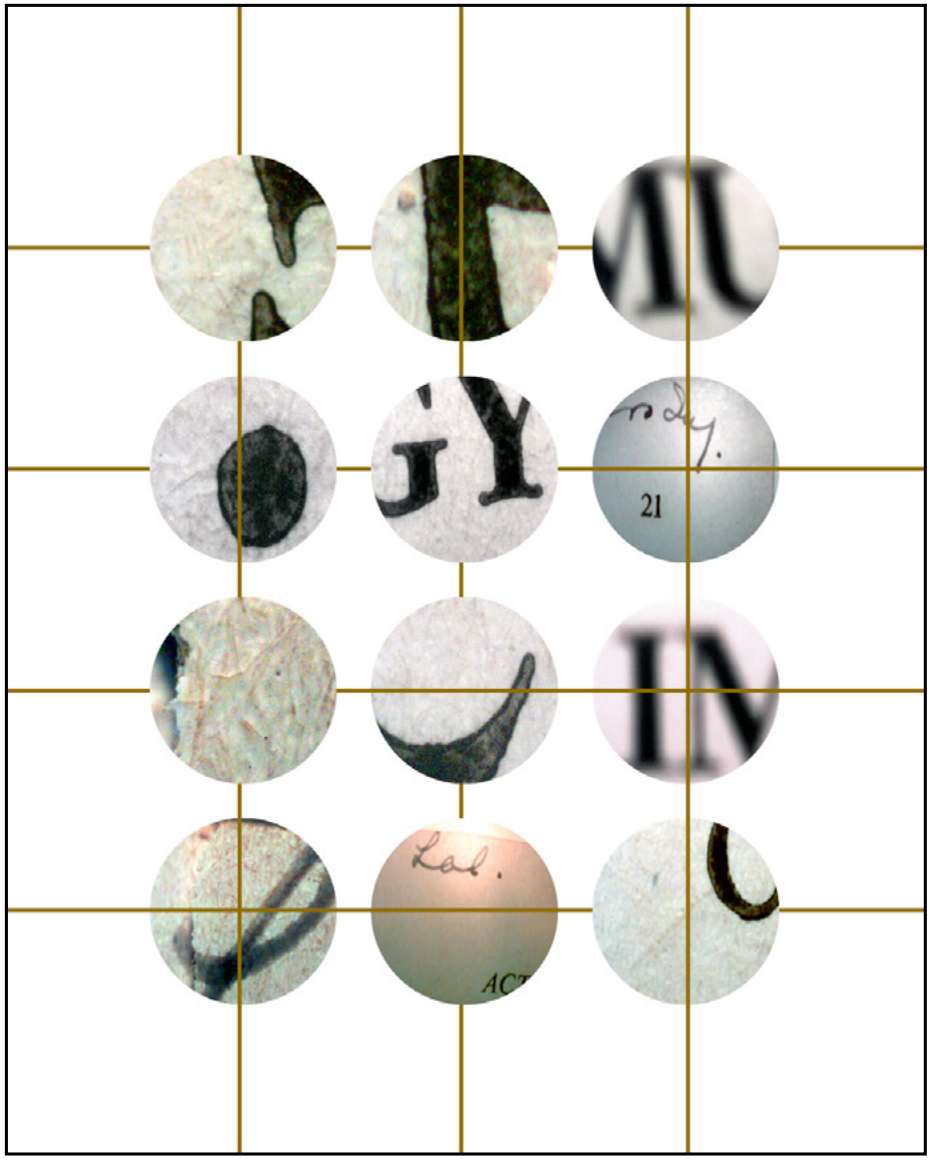


11

TEDX SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

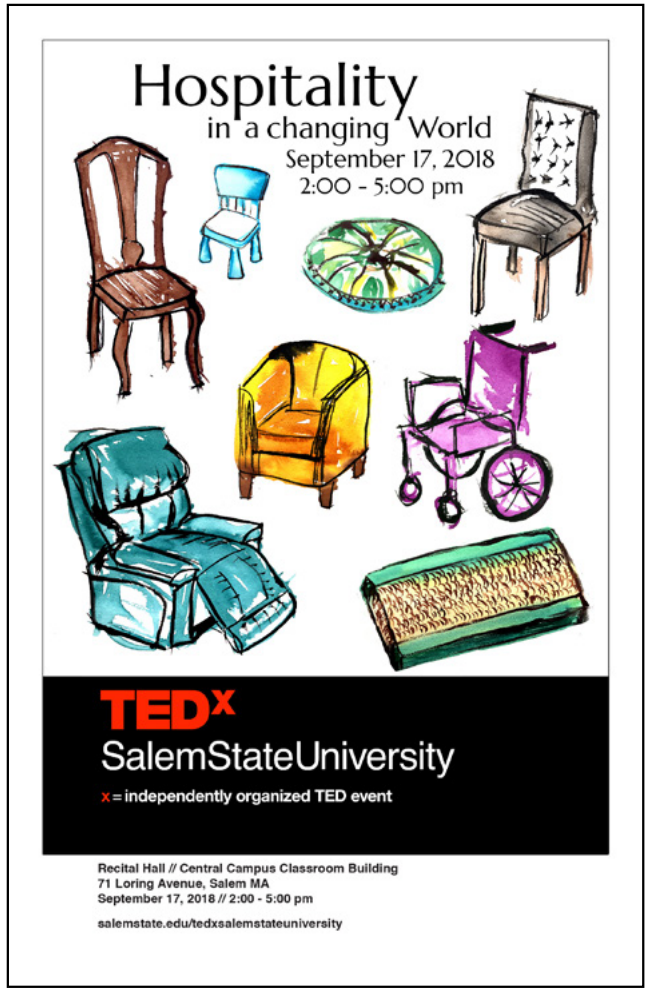
2018

Identity Design, Illustration, Graphic Design

Salem State University invited me to develop the identity for their first ever TEDx event. A faculty committee selected the topic "Hospitality in a Changing World."

After a brainstorming process I arrived at the Chair. Welcoming, cozy, comfortable, unique, stylish and relatable. They style or function of a chair immediately evokes an immediate association with time or place making it representative of diversity as well.

To create an opportunity to mingle and socialize, each participant customized their name badge with a sticker. They were then encouraged to seek out and learn about those who shared their choice.



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12

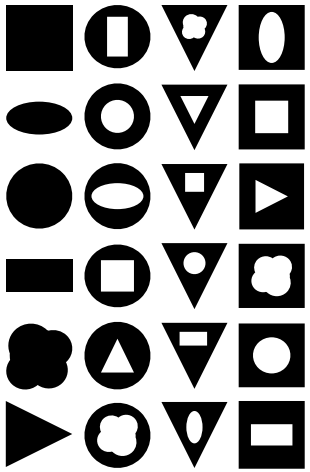
TEDX SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

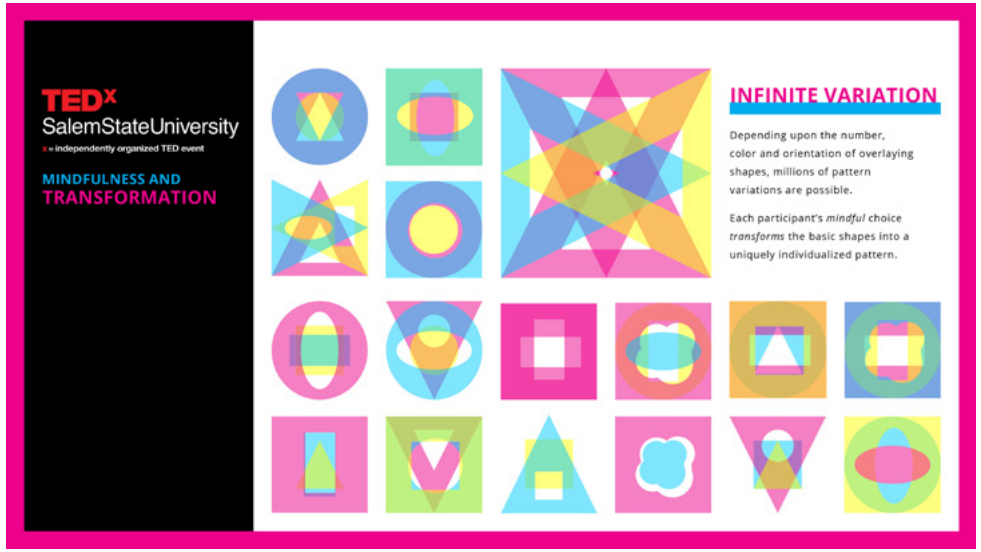
2019

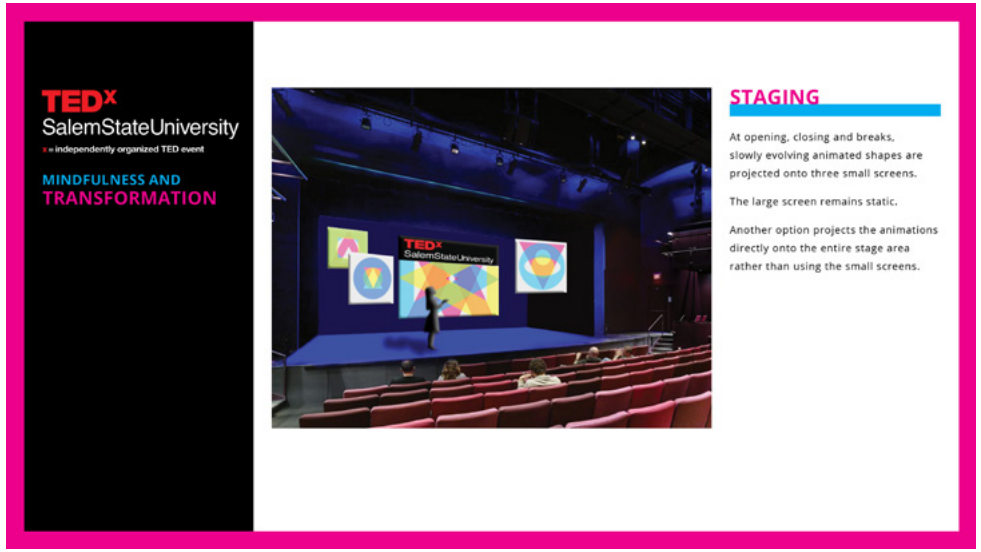
Identity Design, Illustration, Graphic Design

Based on the success of my 2018 branding, I was invited to develop the 2019 TEDx SalemStateUniversity identity.

The concept aimed to show infinite variation from a fixed set of criteria. The proposal was more comprehensive than the budget but the narrower focus worked well.







13

COMMUNITY ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

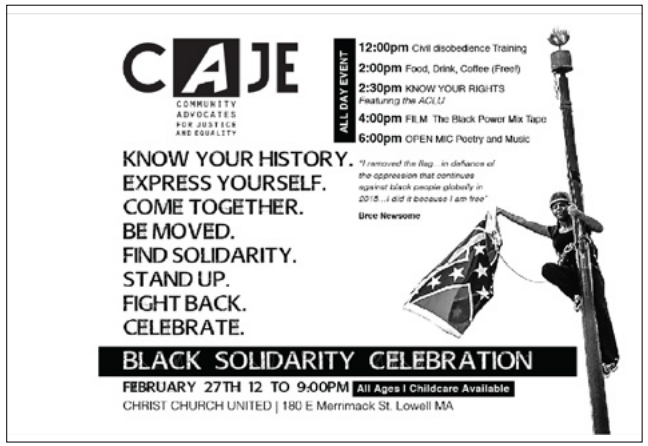
2016

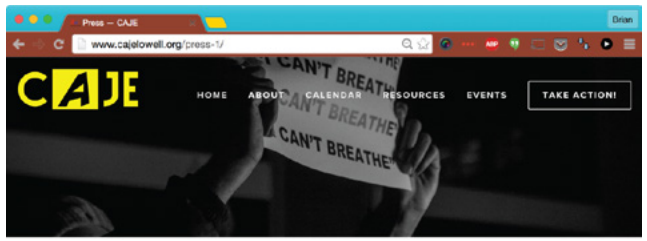
Logo, Brand and Identity Design

"A multiracial network of community members and organizations; We empower, raise awareness, provide resources and advocate for the marginalized."

CAJE was operating without a clearly identifying brand. The primary objective in this project was to create a strong logo expressing the core values of the group while also identifying with the City of Lowell.

"Too many cooks" is one danger of designing for a loosely structured organization. The process of developing a logo took three sets of logo iterations. The final design phase involved getting several members of the group in the same room. During this time, I worked and we critiqued the design for several hours until we had a solution.





14

BEYOND SPHERES

2016

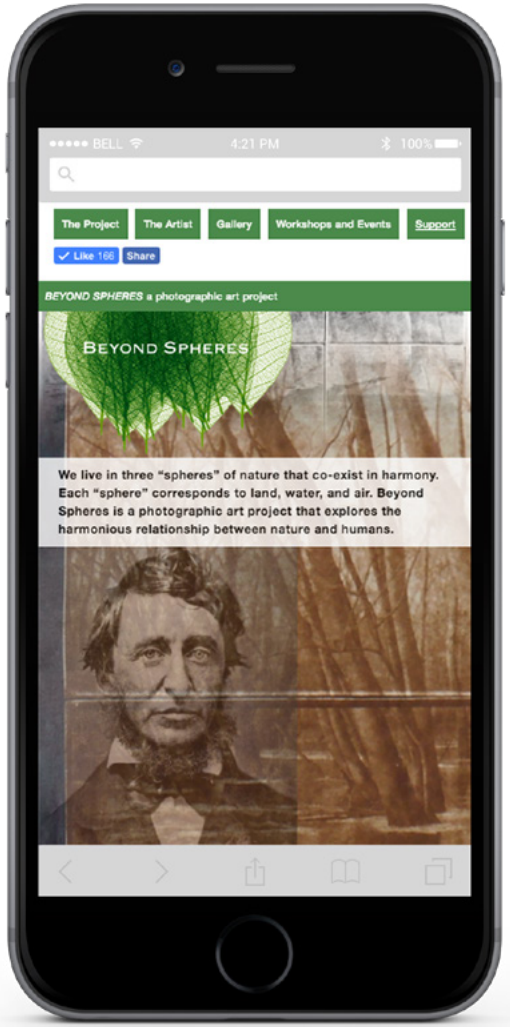
Information Architecture, Graphic Design, Responsive Web Coding, Copywriting, Editing

Internationally exhibited artist, Koichiro Kurita creates beautiful photographs using traditional processes. Inspired by the writings of American writer, poet and philosopher Henry David Thoreau, Koichiro began photographing natural landscapes for a project he titled Beyond Spheres.

Koichiro initially asked for help preparing a letter to solicit a donation he was seeking. This conversation led into his need for a new website to promote this project. After extensive discussion, design and revision, beyondspheres.org was launched with much success.

Beyond Spheres is no longer an active project and the website has quietly retired but you can still view the entire desktop mock up.

brianalves.com/beyondspheres.shtml



15

WICKED QUESTIONS

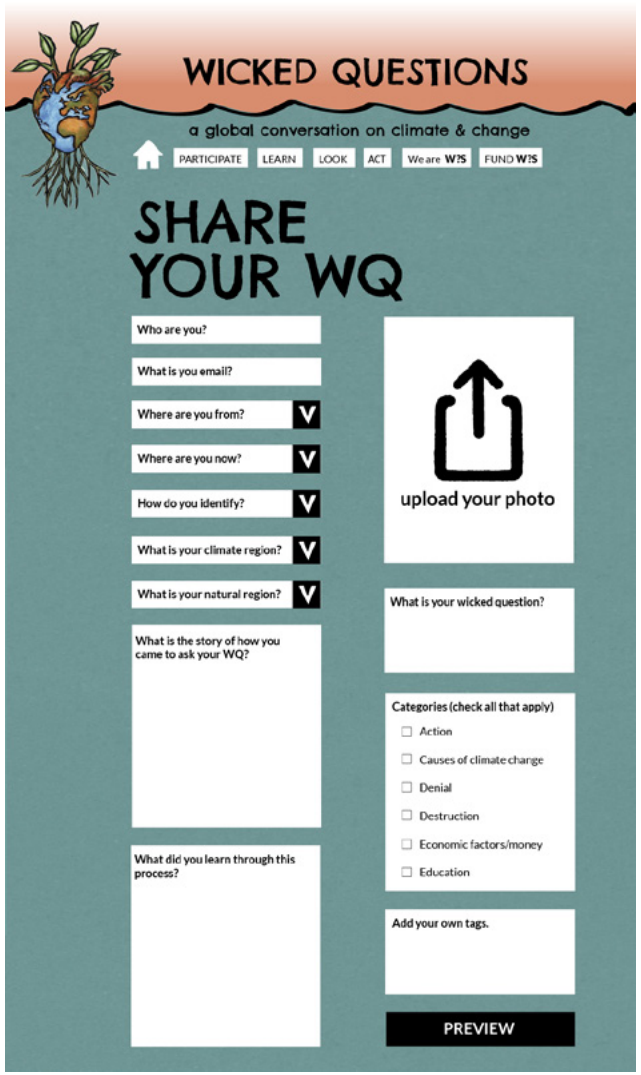
2016

Information Design and
Design for Web and Mobile

Founded by artist Teresa Konechne in 2014 in the wake of a personal epiphany, WickedQuestions.org offers a thoughtful process that "invites all people to respond to climate change deeply, personally & collectively."

Teresa approached me in January 2016 seeking my design help after a series of design collaborators failed to pull the site together the way she had hoped. I spent many hours video conferencing with her to understand her vision and sharing my thoughts about how the site could function before finally pulling together a comprehensive design incorporating Teresa's illustrations.

This project in particular highlights the importance of process in developing successful design solutions. Without truly understanding the client and the primary goals of the project, I would not have been able to properly resolve the Wicked Questions dilemma.



16

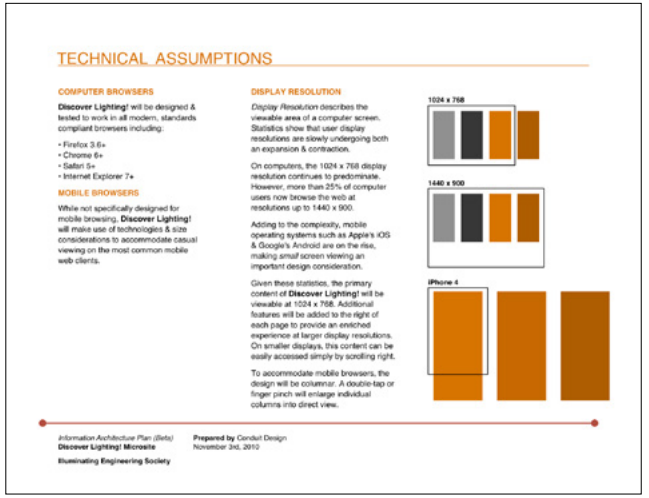
DISCOVER LIGHTING MICROSITE

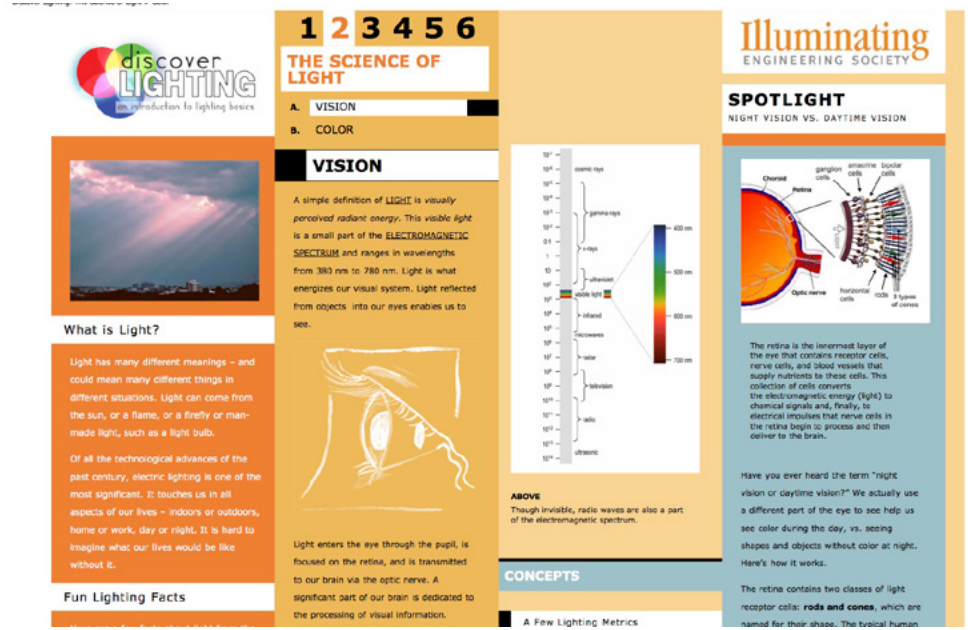
2010

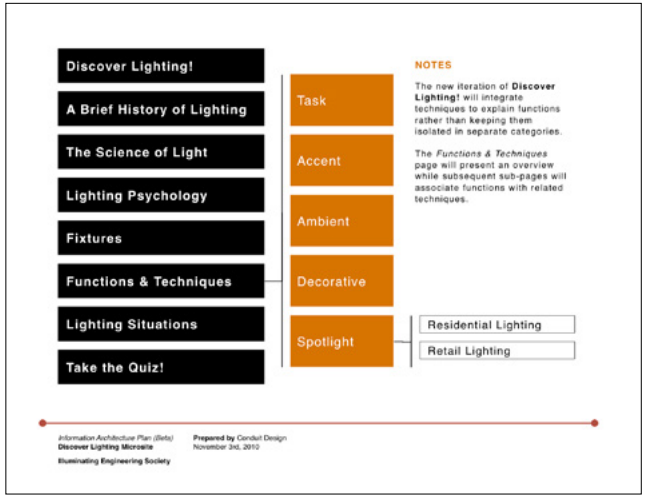
Identity Design, Information Design and Design for Web and Mobile

The Illuminating Engineering Society asked that the Discover Lighting! site be a gentle, image-rich entrance into the exciting world of lighting. While technical knowledge was introduced, the site served primarily as a vehicle to encourage deeper academic exploration of the field via the full IES *Fundamentals of Lighting* curriculum.

Discover Lighting! was designed to appeal primarily to students, casual amateurs and young professional designers in fields indirectly related to lighting.







17

FEED MY FUTURE

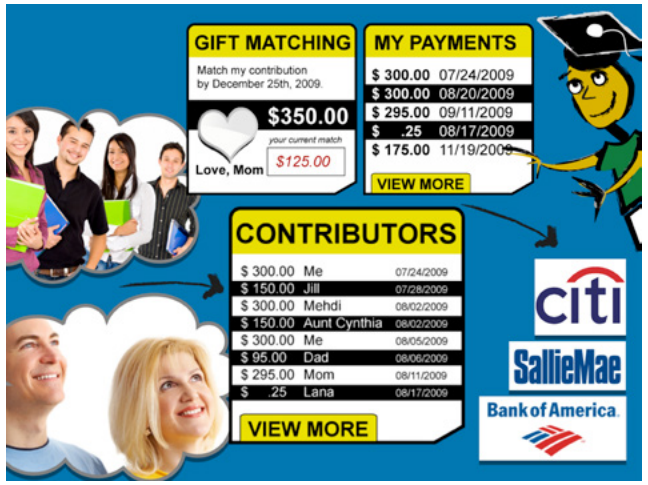
2008-09

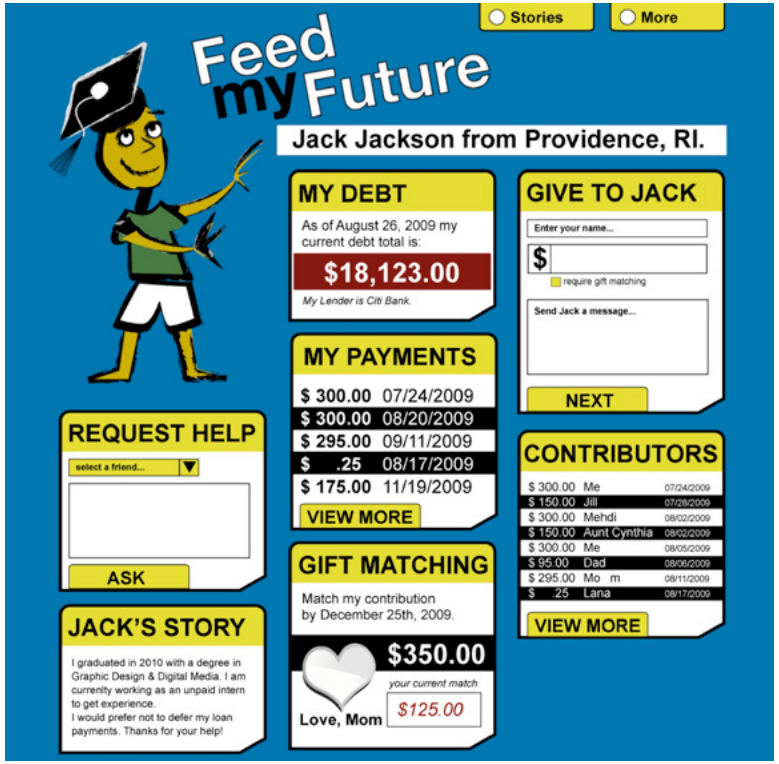
Start Up Brand, Identity
and Information Design

Before *Kickstarter* there was *Feed My Future* - a start up venture aimed at helping graduates manage their student debt through crowd funding. Founder Mehdi Moutahir invited me to join him in a six week small business incubator program to visualize potential business start ups.

Inspired by concepts of gamification, *Feed My Future* hoped to make money management fun and engaging.

Feed My Future was a fully visualized "minimum viable product" that regretfully failed to advance due to the competing commitments of it's co-founders.





18

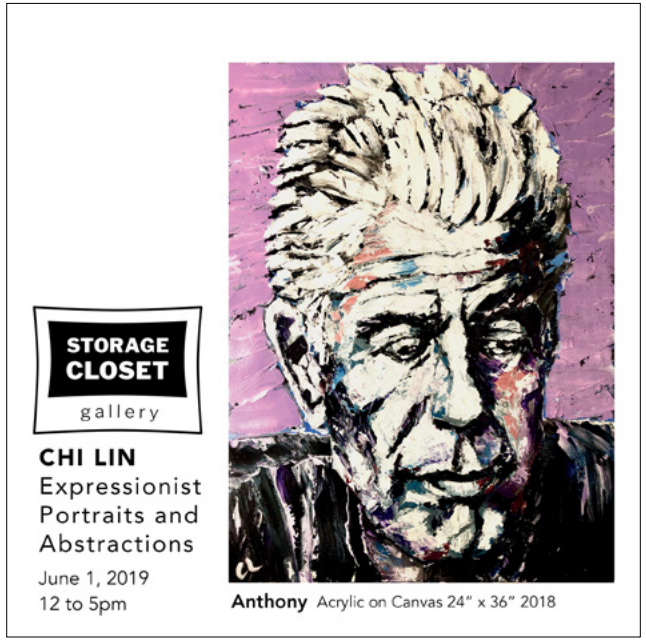
STORAGE CLOSET GALLERY

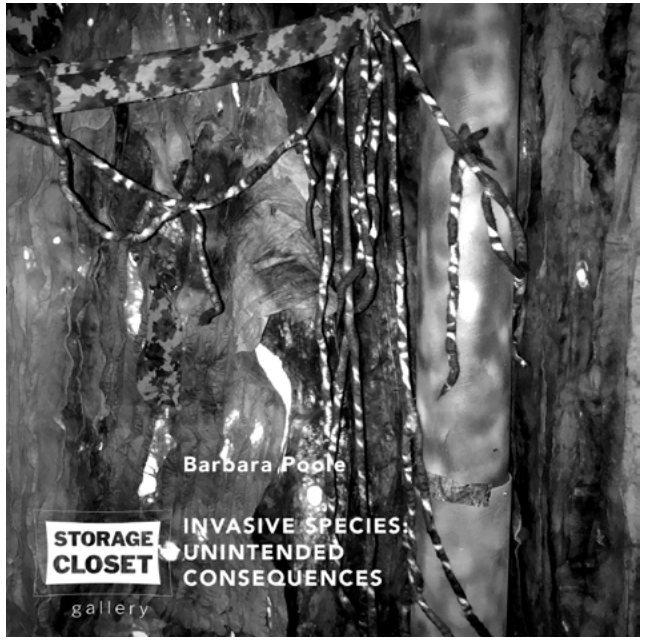
2018-PRESENT

Contemporary Art Gallery

I curate a small but delightfully Instagramable gallery featuring selected works of contemporary art in Lowell, MA.

instagram.com/storageclosetgallery





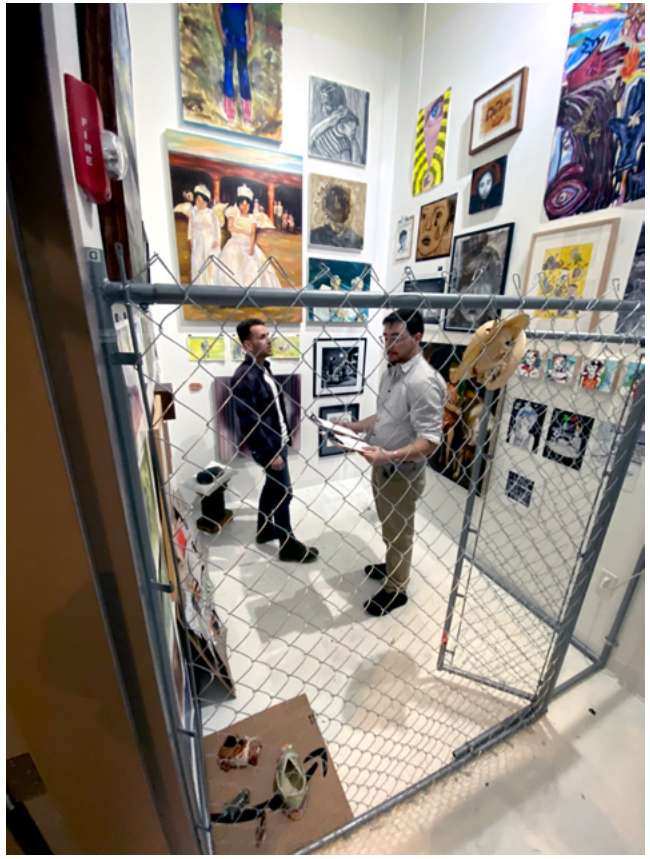
CHILDREN: ARTISTS UNIFIED AGAINST FAMILY SEPARATION

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2019

With the theme of children and childhood, this exhibition brought together artworks from 35 artists to demand a change to our government's shameful policy of undocumented family separation. Work was hung floor to ceiling intentionally to create an emotionally charged space with multiple media by contributing artists. Visitors entered a fenced area to see the artwork more closely.

In October, the exhibition will also be accompanied by a pair of participatory events: 1000 Gifts of Decolonial Love and Raise Your Hands Up, a community mural project.

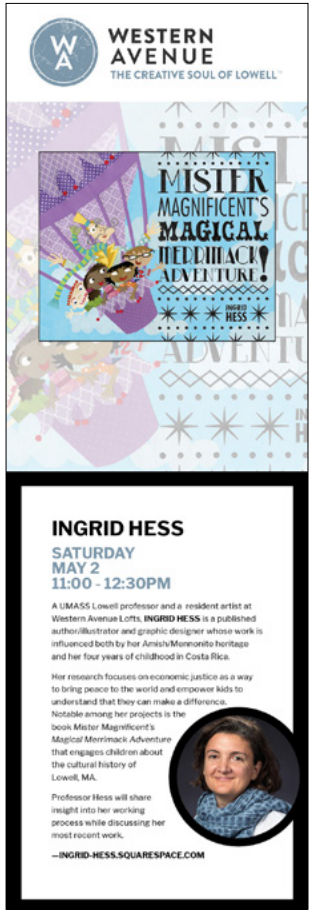
As the Trump administration continues to threaten immigrant rights, we will use ART as a powerful protest tool.



WESTERN AVENUE INSPIRES

NOV 2019 - MAY 2020

Western Avenue Inspires feature a series of six creative professionals speaking about their ideas, passions, and recent work. Presented before each First Saturday open studio at the Western Avenue Studios in Lowell MA, this speaker series provides fresh insight into the careers of creative professionals.

Six professional across multiple disciplines have been selected to offer the public a broad spectrum of creative career approaches including photography, dance, sculpture, illustration, graphic design and gallery curating.

In addition to exploring personal narratives of these speakers, the series addresses topics of community engagement and social justice—concerns that are central to the practice of many creative artists.