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Between

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Written Statement
Summer Grijalva
CGU Art 2010

My art evolves out of deep attentiveness to idiosyncratic aspects of mundane experience. These aspects of experience are manifested through body language, gestures, facial expressions, and the peripheral hunch. They arise from the awkward and pleasurable peculiarities of interacting with humanity on a daily basis. My work also touches upon fantasies and private thoughts that can determine behavior when individuals interact.

I am fascinated with the kind of invisible everyday occurrences that are a part of our daily lives. They can establish the peculiar ambience of a given moment. I feel that everyone can relate to my work because these are experiences that can happen any time, any place with anyone you may encounter. I'm referring to the unspoken sensitivities that constitute our awareness of each other and the secret desires that we all think about but never dare to disclose. These are inevitable experiences we all go through. I am interested in disclosing the unseen contents of both our unconscious and conscious fantasies. I want to bring them to life. I am making the invisible visible.

In my art practice, I operate as an investigator. I test and participate in real life scenarios by watching communication between people. My work is created with watercolor, handmade paper, acrylic and pencil. The fluidity of the watercolor invokes the interaction that we have with others, while the handmade paper stands in for the responses and the set of sensations one feels. My work depicts the internal feelings of individuals as well as the external signals they give off.

My stylized figures literally wear their sensations on the surface and in so doing also disclose their internal sensations. This can be humorous. The sensations that are so real at these crucial moments become funny as soon as we get some distance from them through the work of art.

The unconscious and conscious fantasies we experience are overwhelming and odd. However, they are the foundation for how we interact and socialize with each other through non-verbal cues. Body language can have an enormous effect on communication. The tension it produces can be great when words subside. How well our dialogue and sometimes our day will turn out depends upon these overlooked moments.

I want others to recognize their own sensitivity and empathy. That will enable us to better understand so many moments that can otherwise seem perplexing.