

2010/11 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Kraus Family Foundation Award



ADRIENNE TARVER

Fine Art
Graduate Student
Art Institute of Chicago



I was born in New Jersey, lived in Georgia and then settled in the greater Chicago area when I was in middle school. Moving around allowed me to experience different ways of life and understand different viewpoints across the country, but my experience was still distinctly American. I lived in suburban neighborhoods and everything seemed to go according to a predetermined plan. Then when I was 16 my older brother died. He was barely 20 years old. He was not supposed to die. It was a heart condition, something that was unexpected and the experience made me feel very alone. Now, eight years later, I've learned how experiences like that do not have to be isolating, but can create connections to foster.



I believe there are basic emotions that link our individual experiences – even across different cultures and countries and our varied and unique cultural histories build distinctive visual lexicons that can be translated and understood like spoken language. In my work, I explore the visual cues that trigger these emotions and how a visual lexicon can be translated to create a common sensation.



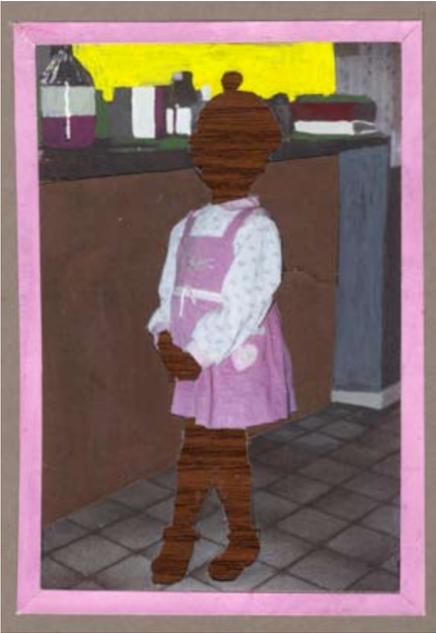
Worldstudio
FOUNDATION



the professional association for design

ADRIENNE TARVER

Fine Art



In 2008 I worked as a resident intern at Caversham Centre for Artists and Writers in Lidgetton, South Africa, a non-profit arts organization mainly dedicated to facilitating community programs in rural South Africa. Most of my time was spent working with women, ranging in age from their mid-twenties to over 50 years old who all had very different life experiences than me. Despite the vast difference in our lives and a great language barrier, I was able to connect to these women on a deep emotional level. I could not fully understand their experiences nor they mine, but there was a level of empathy that I had never experienced before.

Since then I have expanded my studio practice to include a greater element of collaboration. It now involves a constant and evolving international conversation. I have been accepted to a printmaking residency in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where I will collaborate with printmakers to develop a body of work and install an exhibition. For this exhibition I will employ my visual vocabulary – taken from my memories, photos, objects and experiences – to produce a space in which the viewer can draw connections to events from their own life. My goal is to remove extraneous details from the specific locations and objects and find the essentials of an experience so that the viewer can understand how it felt and connect to that feeling.

I would like this exhibition to travel and grow. It will involve other artists. I see this as a teaching tool within each community it reaches and as a productive way to maintain a dialogue and exchange ideas between countries and cultures.

This is the type of project I would like to facilitate in the future, allowing me to work on my studio practice and contribute to cross-cultural conversations.

