

Bibi and Mimi's Friday Adventures

<http://bibianmimifridayadventures.blogspot.com>

A unique collaboration between Bibiana Huang Matheis and Mimi Czajka Graminski bringing invisible linking threads into the physical plane.

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While in an artist group together, we saw similarities in our processes and in our way of thinking about our work. This led to the decision to explore the connection with collaboration. Like most aspects of this project, the idea and parameters for it came together very quickly and easily. We planned to work every Friday morning from 9 to 10 in our respective studios. We did not make any guidelines on what materials or subject matter to use. Our idea was to work instinctively for that one hour with the intention of tuning into the same creative channel bringing invisible threads into the physical plane. Immediately after, we take notes on our experiences and then discuss them. Bibiana also writes a poem each week inspired by the work, one of which is below.

While discussing the work immediately after completing it and much later while viewing it, we discover many synchronicities in the work itself, the process, and our thoughts and experiences surrounding it. During the practice, we continually learn to trust creative instincts and allow for new work to emerge quickly without over thinking it. We both feel we learn from, and are enriched by the experience.

The exhibit will show the visual work (the first incarnation of the project consists of 50 pieces by each artist), as well as the accompanying documentation of individual weekly logs, and poetry written by Matheis. The text documentation can be viewed in book form or as part of the installation. For the purposes of describing the project, the following pages show the art work in combination with the text.

Mimi - Bibi
Bibi - Mimi

Every week
Mimi - Bibi
meet under a tree
at the same time

Every week
Bibi - Mimi
anticipate and await for a fruit of an idea
to drop on their lap

Mimi - Bibi
Bibi- Mimi
open their hearts and souls
and embrace inspiration

Bibi - Mimi
Mimi - Bibi
inhale the idea
and see it with clear eyes
and breath out art
same time every week

Bibi and Mimi's Friday Adventures Week - 21



Left: Mimi Czajka Graminski

Right: Bibiana Huang Matheis

Mimi: (L) A Conversation with an Invisible Dragon fabric, canvas 13"x6"x3"

Coming into the studio, I felt down and seemed to be having a conversation with an invisible dragon. I worked with orange and red, and began to feel strong and energized. Dragon heart. Empowered by the work together.

Bibi: (R) i rock, wool, i phone box 8"x6"x4"

i

i

i as a woman

i as a mother

i

i as a daughter

i as a wife

i as a friend

i as an artist

i

Bibi and Mimi's Friday Adventures Week - 9



Left: Mimi Czajka Graminski

Right: Bibiana Huang Matheis

Mimi: (L) *Keep Steady* vellum, fabric, newsprint, thread 12"x10"

I went to work as usual on the new date, but had forgotten we had set a new time. I was not able to work, and I felt stymied and stifled. I left the studio to call Bibi to tell her nothing was coming to me. She reminded me we had set a new time and to try again later. I went back to work at the correct time and immediately knew what to do. I was thinking -blue, keep steady, large, where do I want to go? I created a collage from sky blue net fabric with a pocket. In the pocket I inserted a square cut out from a comic with lines like an animal's (elephant's) hair.

Bibi: (R) *Walking Away From Feeling Small* photograph with crayon drawing 12"x12"

Mimi called around 11am to say she didn't "get anything". She had forgotten we had changed the time to 1pm. It made me realize that we needed that connection between us to make it happen. That morning I had a dream of a very small elephant walking through a jungle. I woke up thinking, "Why do I feel so small?" I decided to do a piece about not feeling so small anymore. I worked with images from the St. Louis Zoo and a field in the Midwest. I noticed that I had cut out a hole in the field accidentally. The elephant is walking away from the emptiness of the hole. When talking to Mimi after we were both finished I realized I had the negative space (the hole) in my piece and she had the positive (cut out) in hers.

Walking Away from Feeling Small

Move on
Move to
A new plane

Walk in
A new direction

Take on
A new course

Jump start
A new progress

Moving on
toward
A new zone

Bibi and Mimi's Friday Adventures Week - 16



Left: Mimi Czajka Graminski

Right: Bibiana Huang Matheis

Mimi: (L) Teetering paper, thread, fabric 15"x8"

I woke up early and began thinking about a meeting I had and how I could have handled it better. I was surprised to find myself filling up with self doubt because I had been feeling the opposite lately. I thought I wanted to deal with this feeling differently than I have before, but how? I went into the studio with these thoughts and felt like I was in a place of change. I felt like I was teetering and not on solid ground- changing to a new way. I wanted to make something whole and complete and began with the round shapes in the paper and fabric. Just have to keep moving, living through the feelings.

Bibi: (R) A Poem to You eyeglasses, found object, ink drawing, needle, thread 10"x6"x2"

A poem came to me on Thursday and I woke up early on Friday thinking of it and what to do. As before, I rejected it as coming to me too early, but then I realized I have learned to trust the process and went with it when I got to my studio. I worked with old glasses, little figures my daughter Maya had given me and a small drawing I had done. When I put it on the wall it all hung perfectly. The paper hung so that you could see both sides of it. The needle seemed to balance it all. -A magical balancing act.

A Poem to You

Writing a poem to you
- sometimes it hurts
when we talk

You bring me down
- if I tell you
I'll bring you down

You and I riding
- the seesaw
in our day to day

Come close to me
- as I move to you
to the center holding hands

Writing a poem to you
- sometimes it hurts
when we talk

Bibi and Mimi's Friday Adventures

Week - 18



Left: Mimi Czajka Graminski

Right: Bibiana Huang Matheis

Mimi: (L) Follow Those Intuitions fabric, mesh, paper 10"x4"x1"

I was all over the place today. I started one thing, then went on to others. Finally, I went back to the first idea because it was most alive and felt right.

Bibi: (R) art you do art I do fabric, beads 12"x7"x2"

Art You DO - Art I Do

You see
why
I see

You know
what
I know

I see
why
You see

I know
what
You know

You do
art
do

You feel
how
I feel

I do
art
You do

I feel
how
You feel

Bibi and Mimi's Friday Adventures Week - 40



Left: Mimi Czajka Graminski

Right: Bibiana Huang Matheis

Mimi: (L) Emotions found object, fabric, thread 14"x3"

I was feeling all over the place with many different emotions. I came into the studio and saw that a mouse had stolen a small bone from a collage and it made me angry. I took the medallion from a sari and the piece just flowed easily from there - stitching, sewing round circle, star, flower with tentacle strings. I then spoke to Bibi and she talked about the effects of the full harvest moon. This made me feel better that perhaps other forces were at play affecting my mood.

Bibi: (R) Moon drawing on photograph 19"x13"

Moon

Deity
mischievous
Full Moon

Beauty
pixellate
Harvest Moon

Bibi and Mimi's Friday Adventures Week - 4



Left: Mimi Czajka Graminski

Right: Bibiana Huang Matheis

Mimi: (L) Blue and Orange vellum, fabric, thread 12"x9"

Thinking – blue and orange, circle, sewing, net. Creating the piece went quickly, easily. I questioned that, and thought - I should have used the full hour. But then realized the amount of time doesn't matter.

Bibi: (R) Ancient Secret of a Bird photo with ink and pencil drawing 13"x12"

I had the need to draw, but what? I had a photo I took in Japan, that didn't print properly, and I made lines from it onto another piece of paper that flowed down. They reminded me of cables that were perhaps connecting me to Mimi and to the universe. I decided I would draw a bird and opened my animal book randomly to a Secretary Bird, which I drew under the photo of the red lantern.

I spoke to Mimi before my piece was done and she said she used all blue and orange in hers. I was thinking perhaps there was no connection this time. It wasn't until the next morning when I realized I had had on blue and orange undergarments that day. I remembered thinking when I got dressed- no one will know they don't match. When I told her this, Mimi laughed, and blurted out –except me, I know your secret!

Ancient Secret of a Bird

To Draw -
Secretary Bird

Draw -
Like a secretary taking notes

Time -
Is not matter

Secret -
Is entrusted

Cable -
Is a way of modern life

Keeper of the time
Keeper of the bird

Take your time
To Draw

Bibi and Mimi's Friday Adventures Week - 17



Left: Mimi Czajka Graminski

Right: Bibiana Huang Matheis

Mimi: (L) O's paper, fabric, found objects 13"x7"x1"

Changing identities. Walking around the studio, touching different things, looking, adjusting, fixing. What am I going to do today? I opened a folder and saw these colored translucent papers with some shapes cut from them - O's, circles. I saw an old broken jewelry piece - an elephant, the negative space creating the shape. I put these all together into a collage. I was thinking about the project and the commitment to keep at it. It was teaching me to live in the reality of the current moment, live through this one hour being on the same wavelength.

Bibi: (R) All in an Afternoon branch, pearls, found object, photograph 31"x15"x1"

All in an Afternoon

all on your own
you came down from
the wall, where I
left you twenty years ago

revive, revive
make me new again!

rewire, rewire
match you with a nectar!

you smile, I smile
a nectar smile
we all smile, calling all "o"
all in an afternoon

Bibi and Mimi's Friday Adventures Week - 11



Left : Mimi Czajka Graminski

Right: Bibiana Huang Matheis

Mimi: (L) Thinking of Bibi thread, yarn, vellum 9" x 13"

I started working and was thinking of Bibi. I don't usually do this as I work and said to myself – no, I should try to tune into the 'source', but she stayed on my mind. I played and sewed and the piece turned into a map of sorts. It didn't really feel like me, maybe it was about Bibi?

Bibi: (R) Self found objects, wire, drawing on paper 11" x 13"

I had a stack of stuff as supplies for this project and had no idea what I would use today. I had a beret of mine that was chewed by my dog and decided to do a self portrait. I did a pencil drawing of my face which I hadn't done before. It doesn't necessarily look like me, but I realized –it is what it is, and I wouldn't redo it or throw it away. It is here and is honest, a self examination, self growth, self realization.

Self

Self - I

Self - intention

Self - examination

Self - knowledge

Self - confidence

Self - portrait

Self - discovery

Self - respect

Self - support

Self - will

Self - concern

Self - heal

Self - love

Bibi and Mimi's Friday Adventures
Week - 38



Left : Mimi Czajka Graminski

Right: Bibiana Huang Matheis

Mimi: (L) Pink Wool wool, vellum 21" x 35"

This morning I was thinking about a piece I wanted to make with the wool roving. I got involved with other things and started to leave to do errands and as I was driving out I remembered my date with Bibi. I came into the studio and immediately began working on the idea I had been thinking about all morning. (I hadn't realized the idea would be for this project when I was processing it.) I made a circle with a tail, threading the wool through the vellum, rolling each end to make it a point. I am excited to be working again with Bibi after a hectic summer. It feels right.

Bibi: (R) Minutes

nest, nails, pincushion

5.5" x 16"

Every step

Every minute
is full

Every Step

Every minute
is spoken for

I am able to truly live and
experience every minute

It has been a while since
I've done this project with Mimi

It is good to be back
in the nest with Mimi
in this hour, this minute

Bibi and Mimi's Friday Adventures

Week - 45



Left: Mimi Czajka Graminski

Right: Bibiana Huang Matheis

Mimi: (L) From Wrong to Right foam, arms, powder puff with pastel
6"x3"x2.5"

I started out with a drawing in mind – white circle surrounded by dark. I worked on this and then it didn't feel right, so I threw it out to start over. While looking for some white chalk I found these baby doll arms. The piece then just came together easily and quickly- foam, arms, powder puff with pastel. It felt right.

Bibi: (R) Peace found objects, arm, written word 12"x3"x3"

Peace

A feather by the sink

Dust off the lens

Almost used up

Red signal every where

Peace be with us