

THE GAME OF LIFE

Katie Christensen

Dialing Data (Transitioning)

Davey board, book cloth, dowels, kitakata paper, collagraph print, colored pencil, graphite and embroidery thread

Statement

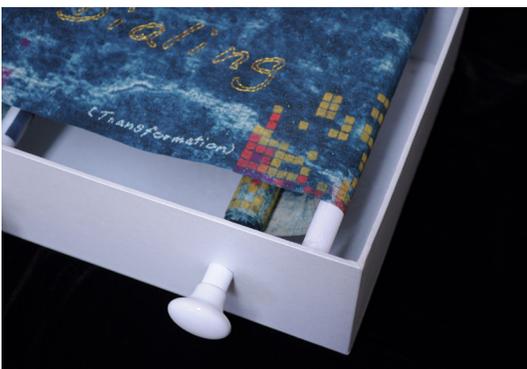
Dialing Data (Transitioning) began with me tracking menstruation and ovulation so my husband and I could potentially start a family. Unsure and told from doctors that it would take some time, we were very fortunate (and surprised!) to conceive right away. Using another app on my smart phone, I log the daily progress of our first pregnancy. Translating this digital language, each column is a new day, and each row in the grid monitors a different physical change in my body. By assigning colors, they are ranked from mild, moderate to severe.

In the process of using modern technology and logging daily medical information, I discovered the mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of this transition were almost completely ignored in the tracking. This act of becoming a parent is so much more than just physical health and peculiar changes to my body. It's happening not only externally, but also in my head and heart. There was no component of the app that tracked this ancient aspect of transition from woman to Mother.

As time goes on and the user slowly turns the dials on this artist book, one discovers that the data is still important and ever present, but so too are the spiritual and emotional aspects-- this metaphorical rite of passage, spiritual growth and emotional act of bringing a new life into this world weave their way into the visual storyline. Referencing new technology with an ancient scroll format, this book balances the emotionless medical monitoring of physical changes with layers depicting time and a metaphorical journey, using the "traditional women's work" of sewing and embroidery.

Biography

Katie was born and raised in the wide-open spaces of rural Wyoming—Encampment to be exact. After receiving her BFA from the University of Wyoming she spent time making art in Argentina and the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology in Oregon. She also studied at Vijnana Kala Vedi in India. In 2009, she uprooted and moved to the flat Midwestern state of Ohio to pursue an MFA at *(continued)*



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Bowling Green State University. She was the founding director at Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts. Katie also worked at the Wyoming Arts Council and most recently began as Curator of Education at the University of Wyoming Art Museum.

Katie's own artwork has been exhibited regionally, nationally and internationally through juried exhibitions and portfolio exchanges. Current works include abstract, large- and small-scale prints and artist books that are inspired by Western space and personal experiences.

www.KatieChristensenArt.com