



Interview: Teréz Iacovino

Posted on **02/12/2011** by **admin**

Future Tenant is excited to present Teréz Iacovino's interactive Posted Public Project as a window installation. We're also excited that she took the time to answer our hard hitting questions for this blog.

Future Tenant: How did you get involved with Future Tenant?

Teréz Iacovino: I became involved with Future Tenant through Katy Peace. Katy recently moved to Pittsburgh from New York to pursue her master's in Arts Management at CMU. Prior to the move she was extremely active in promoting opportunities for artists in the Hudson Valley area. Although she's 400 miles away, Katy remains both a great friend and resource to me, and she suggested I check out opportunities at Future Tenant.

FT: Tell us about the Posted Public Project.

TI: When I first moved to Rosendale in June of 2009, I started running outside...a lot. If you've ever been to the Hudson Valley in the summertime you'd know why this seemed so appealing. However, what I noticed even more than the beautiful picturesque lakes and woods was the numerous amount of "Posted: Private Property" signs plastered to the trees. With a background in printmaking, I tend to always look for multiples in the everyday and this was certainly one of authority and presence.

During this time, the town of Rosendale was also heavily marked with signs reading "Welcome Canopy" and "Save the Lakes." A rift had formed between residents on the issue of a developer coming in to the area to buy Williams Lake Resort with plans to potentially turn it into a gated community. Battle lines were drawn.

I found it interesting that the town itself was covered in multiples and that they all related to ownership in the form of public and private space. As such, I really wanted to play with a way to bring some ownership back to the citizens of Rosendale that utilized the multiple within the environment. I appropriated the "Posted" sign's imagery, inverted the message, and put them up throughout town; and thus P3 was born.

FT: Who are your influences?

TI: One artist in particular that comes to mind is actually a Pittsburgh resident who teaches at CMU, Kim Beck. I started following her work when I was an undergraduate at Syracuse and I'm really attracted to the way in which Beck melds paraphernalia from the everyday urban, suburban, and rural landscapes and how she in turn creates, as she might say, a "chimera" environment that seems fantastical and yet familiar to the viewer. In this way, I feel we both work with the familiarity of objects, this vocabulary of signs and symbols in our environment, that so many people have in common.

FT: What was your experience working in the space?

TI: I found working at Future Tenant somewhat challenging and serendipitous at the same time. It was a blessing that the

walls for the previous show had been painted black and left that way. I feel this really allows for the bright yellow of the signage to pop against the dark wall. If the walls had been white, it just wouldn't have the same effect.

On the other hand, I was faced with the challenge of hanging the map and photographs facing away from me, which meant was staring at the backside of all the pieces. I suppose it would be the equivalent of being stuck in a wall behind a piece rather than in front of it. I kept running outside into the cold to make sure the various places on the map marked with string were properly matching up with the corresponding photographs. Yet, as I struggled in the window, people passing by stopped and took notice, and that was exciting.

FT: If you were trapped on a deserted island, what three things would you want to have with you?

TI: I think my grandma's spaghetti sauce, a really good bra with underwire, and public radio.

FT: What are you afraid of?

TI: Mostly failure and the probability of not being able to do a cartwheel when I'm old.

FT: What color crayon are you?

TI: Turquoise.

FT: If you were auditioning for American Idol, what would you sing?

TI: The Weather Girls' *It's Raining Men*

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Interview: Jerstin Crosby

Posted on **01/21/2011** by [admin](#)

Last week, *Acid Rain: A Plague Upon the Waves* opened in the space. This week, we are pleased to present our interview with curator Jerstin Crosby. The exhibition runs through February 5th so if you're looking for something to occupy your time while you wait for the Steelers to win the Super Bowl, come to Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 1:00-5:00 PM.

Future Tenant: How did you get involved with Future Tenant?

Jerstin Crosby: I found out about Future Tenant prior to moving to Pittsburgh when I was looking online at local galleries.

FT: Tell us about Acid Rain.

JC: *A Plague Upon the Waves* features work in traditional media by artists who have shown their time-based work on my cable access video art series, Acid Rain Production. The only criteria was that the work not be video, so several artists chose to use new media, or alternative non-video time-based approaches, like the "Next Level Shit -or-Earnest Goes to War" Sega Genesis piece by Jesse Hulcher.

FT: What is your artistic vision? What influences you?

JC: I would have to say it is extremely pluralistic, and varied. Mainly I think a lot about distribution in my projects, and that can take many different forms. Zines, broadcast TV, dispersement of ideas through culture, hearsay, and inter-linked associations among other forms and how those attempts at communication build strange communities of people... even if they never meet.

FT: What was your experience working in the space?

JC: I like how bare bones Future Tenant is.

FT: Do you have any advice for emerging artists?

JC: My advice is always the same...become a lawyer.

FT: If you could meet any artist, living or dead, who would it be?

JC: I think meeting anyone that is dead, whether they are an artist or not, would be pretty intense....so just anyone dead.

FT: If you could have a career other than the one you have now, what would it be?

JC: I would probably be into delivering pizza for a fictional vegetarian pizza joint called Jonathan's Pizzeria, where every Friday is 'create your own pita pizza day'.

FT: What's your favorite flavor of ice cream?

JC: Falafel ice cream with chick pea dust.

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Interview: Brad Stephenson & Fred Betzner

Posted on **11/03/2010** by [admin](#)

In case you hadn't heard, "Future Ten" – Future Tenant's annual 10-Minute play festival, opens tomorrow night (11/4/10). For our second foray into the world of exclusive, behind the scenes blogging we interviewed Future Ten's producers Brad Stephenson and Fred Betzner.

Future Tenant: How did "Future Ten" get it's start?

Fred Betzner: Brad started it in the very distant past, so he's the best person to answer this.

Brad Stephenson: I was working for Future Tenant as a student in the Master of Arts Management program in 2004, and one of my tasks was to design some type of performance programming. I have always loved 10-minute plays, and there isn't another 10-minute play festival in Pittsburgh, so it seemed like a great fit.

FT: What's the play selection process like?

FB: We had a group of fantastic readers who each read a portion of the 170 plays that we received and graded them based on a simple set of guidelines and personal whim. Brad and I then took the top 20 plays based on the reader's scores and we narrowed them down to the top eight that make up the festival. And I think of our individual top eight, we independently chose the exact same top seven scripts. The eighth show was determined by a barbed wire cage match that ended in extensive hospital stays for us both. Brad won, but I feel it brought us closer together.

BS: Fred summed it up best. He's forgetting something about the cage match, though. We were both wearing nothing but monocles.

FT: What can we look forward to in this year's Future Ten? Any surprises? Guest appearances? Robots?

FB: Of course there are robots! We've also got a number of actors and comedians and improv artists who regular Pittsburgh theatre go-ers will definitely recognize!

BS: Actually, Fred's lying. All of our actors have been replaced by robots this year. Also, we will select one lucky audience member each night and turn them into a cyborg who must submit to the will of the collective.

FT: What's the biggest challenge in producing?

FB: This is my first year producing for Future Ten, but what I always try to do at the beginning of any project is anticipate anything and everything that could go wrong along the way, and inevitably something you never even thought about ends up going wrong and there's a last minute scramble to fix it. So I guess the lack of omniscience is the biggest challenge. That's kind of also the thrill of it too: managing to pull something off that was almost just a near catastrophe hours before.

BS: The biggest challenge of producing a small festival like Future Ten is the lack of a real production staff. I always end up acting, running sound or lights, sometimes directing, and spending too much of my own money on props because I'm a perfectionist and everything needs to look just right.

FT: Of the plays that weren't selected, were there any interesting/crazy/truly bizarre ones you could tell us about?

FB: Well sometimes you'll read a play and say to yourself, "I didn't really like that, but maybe it will work on stage." In other words you can't really tell if it's good or not until you see it preformed, and most of the time I'm willing to give a script the benefit of the doubt. There was however a script this year that was so overtly racist, nonsensical and poorly written that I dismissed it about half-way through. The details are best left undiscussed, but it involved a dead psychiatrist, pickled pigs feet and a very stereotypical manner of speech.

BS: I'll let Fred suffer the wrath of the unnamed playwright whose play he mentions in his response. I will say only that ... he's not wrong.

FT: What character on Gilligan's Island best represents you and why?

FB: Probably The Professor, not because I'm especially intelligent, but because I'm always building stuff for the festival (Robots, Jetpacks, more Robots) from whatever I find lying around.

BS: I like to think of myself as Eunice "Lovey" Wentworth Howell, Thurston's rich old wife.

FT: What super power would you like to have?

FB: I want whatever's keeping Keith Richards alive. That or I want to blow stuff up with MY MIND!

BS: I'd like to have the power to make Fred fart loudly by simply tugging on my ear.

FT: What's your favorite thing to do in Downtown Pittsburgh?

FB: Leave! HAHAAHAHA, no no, I kid. They make it almost impossible to do that. I'll tell you, normally I'd say walk around, but that was before I rode a segway all over the place down there. So now that.

BS: I have a 19-month-old daughter, so I've recently rediscovered how amazing the City of Pittsburgh is, especially through the eyes of a child.

Also, I like to beat up the homeless.

If that doesn't inspire you to come see Future Ten 7: Too Big To Fail, we're not sure what will. The festival runs November 4-6 and 11-13. Buy your tickets online and save \$2.

Future Ten Tickets

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Interview: Julia Cahill

Posted on **10/27/2010** by [admin](#)

The newest edition to Future Tenant programming is our bathroom installation series. That's right folks, we invite artists to create site specific work in our luxurious bathroom and this month, we're pleased to present the work of Julia Cahill. Julia has created "Dungalier," a work that explores the dichotomy of attraction and revulsion.

Julia graciously accepted our request for an interview and she has unwittingly become our first subject in the new "Behind the Scenes at Future Tenant" blog (yeah, we know, we're still working on a name).

Future Tenant: How did you get involved with Future Tenant?

Julia Cahill: I've been to Future Tenant in the past few years to see various shows. When I saw a bathroom installation this summer, I was inspired to also take on the challenge of creating a piece for the space. I looked up the opportunity on the website, emailed my idea, and got accepted to install.

FT: Tell us about your installation.

JC: My "Dungalier" installation in the bathroom actually began a few months ago when I found tempered glass and shattered it into pieces. I used that to create the chandelier forms, which to me, looked as though they should spew out some kind of revolting substance. This desire to make something beautiful excrete something abject came about because I enjoy exploring the juxtaposition between the feeling of revulsion and attraction in my work.

So when I found out about the bathroom installation, it felt like the perfect opportunity to push this idea further. I wanted to connect the piece to what occurs in a bathroom. The placement of the feces-like material below two chandelier implies a connection between the two, suggesting that one cannot exist without the other. I interpret my piece as a representation of the way humans cannot live without defecating. We are beautiful creatures that excrete foul waste.

FT: What is your artistic vision and who influences you?

JC: As I mentioned earlier, I work with the juxtaposition between revulsion and attraction in both sculpture and video. My interest in exploring the abject comes from inspiration from artists like Carolee Schneeman, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Marina Abramovich, and Paul McCarthy. I'm sure the focus of my work will shift as I grow and am exposed to more artists.

FT: What was your experience like working in the bathroom?

JC: Working in the bathroom was challenging because it is such a small, intimate space, but what that did give to me was the opportunity to create a piece that people would have to confront during an intimate experience.

FT: What's your advice for other emerging artists?

JC: Since I'm an emerging artist still, I have just a few pieces of advice. 1. Take on all of the opportunities you can, whether it seems so small or so major that you are not "well known" enough for. You never know what could open a new door. 2. Make friends with people in the arts because networking is key to getting involved in other opportunities and meeting even more people.

FT: If you could meet any artist, living or dead, who would it be?

JC: Paul McCarthy. I'd invite him over for a sleepover bff pow-wow.

FT: If you could have a career other than the one you have now, what would it be?

JC: Any career where I could go to space. I suppose that would be an astronaut, but I would even be the janitor on a space shuttle just to get time out there to stare into the never ending blackness of the universe.

FT: What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

JC: Classic chocolate.

Thanks Julia, for your interview as well as your installation. To see more of Julia's work visit <http://cargocollective.com/juliacahill>. For more information on the bathroom installation series, please visit the "Opportunities" section of our website.

Posted in [Bathroom Series](#), [Interview](#) | Comments Off

New website, new world

Posted on **08/20/2010** by [L. Corwin Christie](#)

This summer has been an intensive process of revamping our web presence. A large part of this involves our SEO (search engine optimization).

If you have been to Future Tenant and experienced a show or art in the space, we would appreciate you weighing in on [Yelp](#) and [Citysearch](#)!

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The Sharp Edge and Future Tenant: An easy way to give

Posted on **07/27/2010** by [L. Corwin Christie](#)

When times are difficult, people are forced to make choices about where and how they spend their money. In the last couple of years those of us in the arts industry have felt the pinch in our budgets as we have worked to cover our expenses even as donors have given less money.

This Thursday is an exciting opportunity to help fund Future Tenant. [The Sharp Edge](#), which has a few different [locations](#) around the Pittsburgh area, is dedicating this Thursday, July 29, to supporting [Future Tenant](#).

Print out the flyer below and bring it with you on Thursday when you go for a drink or meal to any of the Sharp Edge Pittsburgh locations. With the printout, 15% of your bill will be donated to Future Tenant. Cool, right?

Thanks in advance for filling your bellies and helping the artspace!

Sharp Edge Supports Future Tenant

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Future Tenant provides a laboratory setting for artists, arts managers, and audiences to explore the limits of the creative expression, presentation and interpretation of various art forms.

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Future Tenant is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.

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