

GALLERY AFERRO

Drawn In: Caren King Choi

Curated by Caren King Choi & Candace Nicholson



Caren King Choi, *Mt. Rushmore (Nieces and Nephew)*, china marker, graphite, stickers on paper, 36x46, 2020

Jan 29 - Apr 1, 2022

Gallery Aferro

Eleta J. Caldwell and Rodney M.

Gilbert Memorial Gallery

73 Market Street, Newark

OPENING RECEPTION

February 5th, 2022

6pm - 10pm

GALLERY HOURS

Wednesday - Saturday

12pm - 6pm

and by appointment

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Drawn In is an exhibition that presents two visually divergent bodies of work by one artist. Caren King Choi applies drastically different techniques from the meditative and studied *Red Portraits* to the quick and humorous *Motherhood Doodles*.

Red Portraits presents in absorbing detail the features of ordinary Chinese Americans, inviting viewers to pause and contemplate the kinds of faces that are typically skimmed over, caricatured, or excluded. Made by overlapping thousands of stickers, the portraits resolve into seemingly straightforward images, smooth and luminescent. Up close, they look chaotic, scaly, and jagged.

In stark contrast, *Motherhood Doodles* are specific to the artist's life, but echo the universal and often invisible experience of parenting. Dispensing with backgrounds, colors, and most detail, Choi explores the expressive possibilities behind a quick and sometimes sloppy pen stroke. Both collections demand a closer look, engaging viewers with subjects they may otherwise fail to notice.

www.aferro.org | www.aferrostudios.org
73 Market Street, Newark, NJ | 973.353.9533
Wed - Sat 12-6pm

Visit

73 Market Street, Newark, NJ
Wednesday - Saturday 12-6pm
and by appointment.
aferro.org
aferrostudios.org

Contact

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Mission

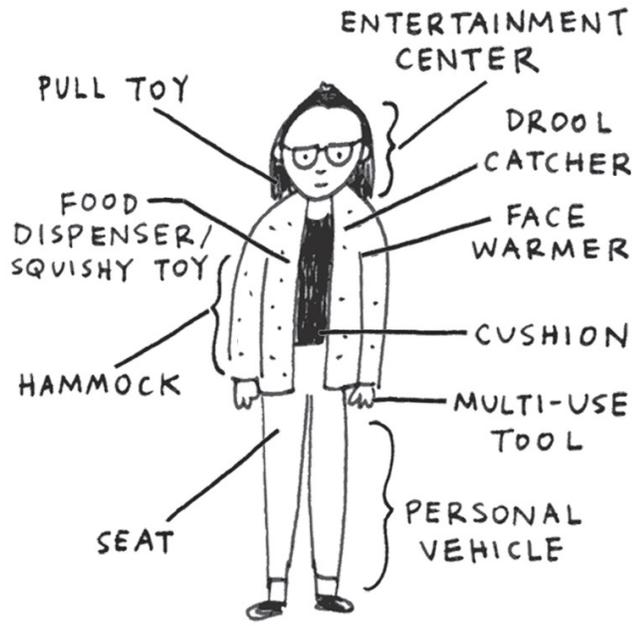
The mission of Gallery Aferro is to function as a platform for the exchange of ideas in service of advancing human dignity and beauty, with a focus on visual arts as the vehicle, proudly located in Newark, NJ.

Accessing The Gallery

Gallery hours are listed above, come by for a visit! Gallery Aferro is a street level store front gallery and is wheelchair accessible. If you need special assistance, requests, or desire additional information about accessibility, please email our ADA Coordinator, Candace Nicholson, at cnicholson@aferro.org. We believe art is absolutely for everyone and are very happy to accommodate anyone's needs but please give us 1 weeks notice for any arrangements that will need to be made at the gallery. If you require large print press materials please let us know 48 hours ahead of time.

Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our funders, sponsors and the individual donors who make our programs possible. The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and RBH Group.



MOM

AKA SWISS ARMY KNIFE

Caren King Choi, *Swiss Army Knife*, digital print, 5x4, 2019

Caren King Choi is a Chinese-Taiwanese-American artist, illustrator, and writer born and raised in New Jersey. Her multimedia artistic practice has taken many forms: intricate portraits, personal essays, hand-sewn dolls, life-size drawings, poetry, flipbooks, and lots and lots of doodles. A sense of playfulness and wry observation often permeate her work, as do moments of stillness and reflection.

Choi's artwork has appeared in exhibitions at a variety of venues including the Pollak Gallery, Newark Arts Festival, Gallery at 14 Maple, William Paterson University Gallery, Express Newark, Gallery Aferro, Akwaaba Gallery, and the Newark Museum of Art.

After 10 years of working as an arts administrator, educator, and program director at the Paul Robeson Galleries in Newark, NJ, Choi started a new career in 2018 as a full-time mom and homemaker.

She is the author and illustrator of two self-published books: *Every Day Something New: Doodles by a New Mom* (2019) and *Let It Happen: Doodles From A Parent's First Year* (2021). Choi lives and works in Fair Lawn, NJ.