
ARTS

'Day Jobs' brings Andy Warhol and Whataburger to the Blanton

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Side hustles are king in the Blanton Museum of Art's newest exhibit, "Day Jobs."

Through a fork sculpture, a portrait of a Whataburger cup, and a piece using hole punch debris, among others, "Day Jobs" explores the work artists did, and do, to support their creative careers.

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The exhibit includes work by a dishwasher, hairstylist, an H-E-B employee and a lawyer. Big names like Andy Warhol and Jeff Koons are included in the exhibit, as well.

Our favorites from the exhibit include Julia Scher's "Hidden Camera (Architectural Vagina)" and "Security Landscape of the Year," "Whatacup" by Chuck Ramirez, and "Flash Art" by Gretchen Bender.

At first glance, "Whatacup" appears to be just an image of a fast food cup, printed with the words, "When I am empty, please dispose of me properly." But to Ramirez, who was a gay man living with HIV and whose works included themes of mortality, the cup functions as sort of an epitaph, according to his website. Ramirez, who died in a bike accident in 2010, was a self-trained artist who worked as a graphic designer for H-E-B.

A requirement for works included in the exhibit was that the artist's day job had to have a real impact on their art, said Veronica Roberts, the Blanton's former curator of Modern and Contemporary Art.

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Scher used her experience as a janitor at a gym and in installing security systems for women to create "Security Landscape of the Year" and "Hidden Camera (Architectural Vagina)." The

pieces both include security cameras; one features a knife stuck in the wall, and the other has big, dark red feathers.

"I think (Scher's) thinking about, 'Is surveillance actually making us safer?' She's playing with notions of danger and protection and is, in fact, the knife a danger or is surveillance perhaps more dangerous?" Roberts said.

No part of "Day Jobs" feels or looks the same. The mediums switch as you go through the show, keeping you engaged. A light installation, drawings on the museum's walls, sculptures of Nefertiti, Janet Jackson songs and felt tools are all part of the show. It's fun and reminds us that anyone can be an artist — you don't have to be professionally trained or rich to have an impact.

If you go: 'Day Jobs'

Where: Blanton Museum of Art, 200 East Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

When: "Day Jobs" will close on July 23. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Cost: Entry for adults is \$12, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for youth and those with a college ID. Children 12 years old and under are free, as are those with a University of Texas ID and K-12 teachers with an ID. Admission is free on Thursday.

Information: blantonmuseum.org.

Coming up: Check the website for updates to hours and admission prices, which are changing later this year, including free admission day moving to Tuesday. The museum will be closed to the public April 24- May 3.