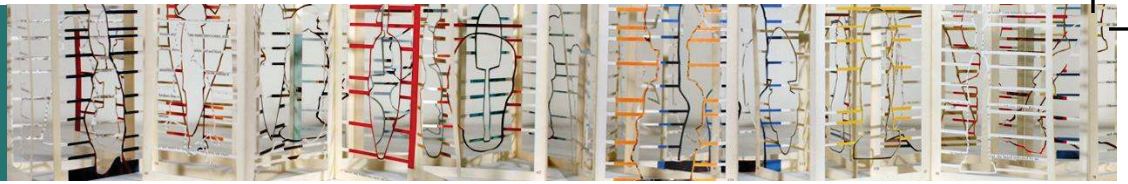
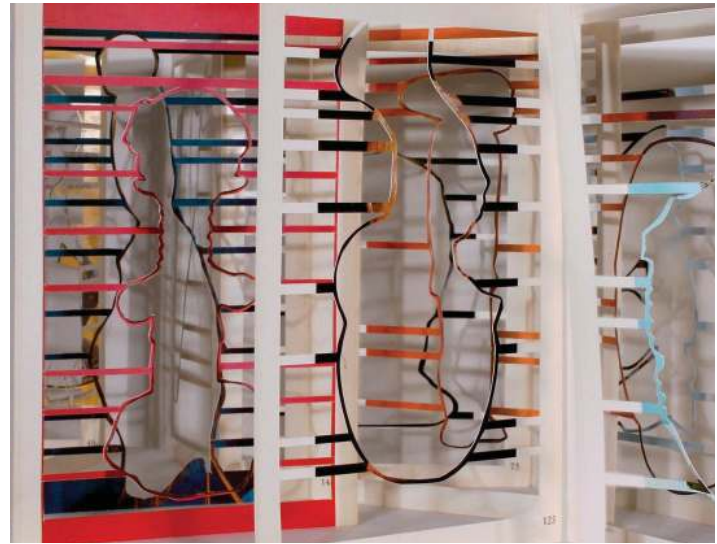


Susan Sironi



Appropriation / Appropriazione, 2019
deconstructed book, watercolor paintings and collages
Courtesy of the artist.



Artist's Statement of Work:

When we find ourselves encountering (through books) new cultures and new knowledge what is it that we assimilate? What things become part of us? And in what way does the quality of the photographs or the texts for the graphics interfere with the assimilation of those contents? And how much of these contents sediment within us definitively? The installation *Appropriation* reflects on this and utilizes pages taken from two books: one on African art and the other on ancient Roman art. Passing through the pages of books even if something is lost in the course of time, we are, in any case, transformed.

This work began as a deconstruction of a book that illustrated art works from African and Oceanic cultures. The book depicted art that had been collected from these cultures and were in museums throughout the world. It had colorful backgrounds and was nicely designed. Sironi's initial ideas were to remove all images and text, and utilizing the formal aspects of its structure and design break down the book to emphasize the means by which the information was communicated. After doing this Sironi realized she was creating a work that was more about absence and removal than about communication.

Her actions also confronted the difference between what is cultural appropriation and what is cultural exchange. Acts of removal can obliterate or degrade, or can expand awareness and educate. Cultural appropriation tends to be

the former and cultural exchange the later. The work also started to suggest a colorful turnstile where the fragile outlines of removed images are held in place by horizontal color strips. Books can act as turnstiles and libraries can too. We pass through these structures in order to get somewhere else, to gain something, to experience something new. But because we need to pass through them there is an implied respect that what we may experience is not ours and free for the taking. If we do take something with us or leave something behind it is with the intent of an exchange where both parties agree and benefit. Sironi's work intends to inspire to be a work that contributes to a cultural exchange of work and ideas.

Biography:

Susan Sironi lives and works in Los Angeles California. She received her degree from California State University Long Beach in Drawing and Painting. She later pursued special studies in Photography at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. She began using books in her practice as a way to look at everyday cultural influences, which evolved into work questioning how we communicate. She has exhibited throughout Los Angeles including The Laguna Beach Museum of Art, SOMArts San Francisco, MarinMOCA, MOAH Lancaster and also at the Carpenter Center for the Arts at Harvard University Massachusetts. She has been included in group shows in Napoli Italy and Art Basel Switzerland since 2004.

