



OUT OF THE BLUE

Many of the pieces demonstrate a distinctive level of experimenting and thoughtfulness, including Lissa Rivera's "Blue Room," a digital diorama photograph with vibrant colors and numerous fine details that appears to leap off the wall and commands attention. Rivera's inspiration comes from "pure fantasy" and the earliest uses of photography and cinema as "carnival side-show attractions." Her combination of simple materials (cardboard, paste, and many materials used in elementary school art projects) and exciting themes ("Blue Room" calls to mind the Victorian Era) results in an intricate fusion of dreamlike images and genuine amazement. This remarkably fascinating piece of visual art is not easy to look away from.

Following the essence of experimentation, Adam O'Day describes his work, entitled "Gumbo," as "a bizarre expressionistic painting" that challenges the conventional view of the cityscape. The painting was included in a previous show also named Gumbo, held at nearby Voltage Coffee & Art, which intended to create "a spicy art stew." That objective is definitely seen in this energetic explosion of color. O'Day said the painting represents "faith, hope, and things to come. It's a commentary on religion, humanity and the future." His blend of depth and color provides intensity and strength to his creation, offering confidence for the future, a feeling linked with the aspirations for the Lunder Arts Center.

Part of the exhibit's compelling impact comes from one of the curator's own submissions. Andrew Mroczek, partnering with Juan Jose Barboza-Gubo, submitted the photograph "Freddy, Diptych," an attention-grabbing work of art from their Los Chicos series, also on display at the Brattleboro Museum. Its goal is to raise awareness of political issues within Peru's culture. Using the site of a manse, which has become neglected and represents Peru's cultural significance as well as its damaging notions of class and social rank, this photo attempts to defy "patriarchal machismo" and stereotypical ideals of masculinity as a way to raise awareness of the courageous emerging gay culture within this environment.

Lissa Rivera, *Blue Room*, 2012, digital c-print.