



**Noyes**  
Museum of Art  
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

Education Guide

September 6 – December 2, 2018

## ***A Life in Transition***

**Janet Boltax, Artist**

**Opening Reception:  
Noyes Gallery at Claridge  
Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
11:00am - 1:00pm**

Featuring a series of portraits by artist Janet Boltax, his exhibition depicts the gender transition of two individuals over a period of approximately two-and-a-half years. Accompanying the portraits are excerpts of interviews the artist conducted during each sitting.



Janet Boltax, *Autumn*, oil on canvas

The series of oil portraits reflect the physical transition of Autumn, a transgender female, and Chris, a transgender male. The first interview with each individual examines their life history with regard to feeling deeply that their gender did not correspond to their physical body, how this affected them throughout their life, and how they arrived at the decision to transition. Subsequent interviews consider their life experiences during the transition process.

As Chris described during one of the interviews:

*I have always felt like I didn't belong to any gender, and it was kind of confusing. I think I just grew up with that, kind of confused. I never really felt like a girl, never really felt like a guy. I am still debating how I feel, but I don't feel comfortable in between. I feel like I want to have the opportunity to express my masculinity. But I also know that when I do transition I will also feel androgynous. They call that gender queer and I think I fit in with that.*

Mounted next to each portrait are three panels with excerpts of the interviews.

As an artist intensely interested in the human face, Boltax was curious to see the physical changes that took place in each individual over time. She also wanted to understand why they felt compelled to change their lives so radically, and the emotional and physical repercussions of the transition.

*In the past few years, I have returned to oil portraiture full-force and have focused almost entirely on the face - the area that has always been of greatest interest to me. It was a relief to permit myself to work only on the face and not feel I had to paint traditional portraits that include more of the body and background.*

- Janet Boltax



Janet Boltax, *Autumn*, oil on canvas

With this exhibition, Boltax hopes to communicate and foster a deeper understanding of the powerful imperative felt by many transgender individuals to do whatever is necessary to express their deepest selves in physical form.

**For more information on Janet Boltax and her artwork, be sure to visit:**

<http://janetboltaxart.com/>

**The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University:**

[www.artsgarageac.com](http://www.artsgarageac.com) 609.626.3805

**The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University:**

[www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org) 609.626.3420

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