

Source: Detroit Institute of Arts, http://www.dia.org/portrait_studio/wall.html#



Jess, Recycle Here!, 2013 (printed 2014)

“I moved here three-and-a-half years ago because I came and visited a few times and was completely inspired by people who were doing work here, who then invited me to move. One of the things that I appreciate about Detroit is that you have to sometimes live your life at a slower pace and make time to do things where you’re interacting with people. In like, California where my parents live, you just throw everything in the garbage bin and they sort it for you. But, see, when you do that all you have to do is stay at home all the time or go from home to those very specific places where you hang out with people who are just like you. Whereas here, you know, you come to the recycling center and you see, you know, people you know, people you don’t know, you’re mixing and mingling, and I think that connecting to community is what I love about living here. It’s an opportunity for everybody. I think that it’s really incredible the way that community organizations and community groups have been able to enable community members to participate in the creation of the things that they need. And so, it’s really an experiment in more true democracy than a lot of what you see in other places in the country, and we’re not perfect at it by any means, and there are still voices that are louder than others, but I think that it’s still an opportunity.”