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ISSUE 7

Papermen



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Papermen





Community. Belong. What do those words really mean today? That's the question Christine Kirouac asked when she

arrived in her newly adopted home of Winston-Salem. She saw people who resembled her, people who didn't....people who did things she did and people who didn't.

Body politic. Commonality. Both are synonyms for the word community....this word that can both unite and, ironically, isolate. Harmonize. Exist. Become. All metonyms of belong....but who do we belong to? Who do we face and who do we brush by?

"In 2009 I noticed men selling the Winston-Salem Journal at city intersections. They were a curious community, these men who stood differently, interacted with drivers differently... they moved with a distinct cadence all their own." Community. A unit made up of individual beings that, somehow, tie the separate geographies of the city together. That's what these men, these Papermen were...a community.

"I wondered if I could talk with them," remembered Kirouac, "would they speak with me and if they did, what would we talk about? I wanted to see what could happen." Over time she did speak with each of the gentlemen presented on these pages. Some interactions were smooth while others were a little more reserved. They were wary and unsure of this stranger who wanted to know more about their community while, possibly, discovering her own. *(Continued on page 12)*



Biography: Christine Kirouac



Christine Kirouac is a Canadian Prairie born artist. Over the last twenty years she has held several residencies and has received diverse grants from The Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council, the National Film Board, and the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation. She recently received her first American Regional Artist Project Grant from the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County for the feature work of this issue, the photo-based project Papermen.

Her media installations and videos have exhibited in both galleries and screenings at film and video festivals throughout Canada. Her work has been well received from the Lisbon International Film Festival in Portugal to the 4th Cairo International Video Festival in Egypt in 2011. This year her new video work, Don't Go Away, was short-listed as a finalist for New Frontiers at 2012 Sundance Film Festival.

Don't Go Away has ultimately been chosen to have it's world premiere at Light Assembly; Art Basel Miami Beach this December during their inaugural mass-scale showcase of video art and architecture. The goal of Light Assembly is to combine large-scale video art projections with the citywide canvas of Miami Beach and mainland Miami's modern architectural marvels and historic landmarks.

Ms. Kirouac has taught as a Visiting Professor in Studio at Salem College and has been a lecturer in Art History and Appreciation at Winston-Salem State University and Greensboro College. She currently teaches Studio Foundations and Drawing at Wake Forest University. ■

You may see her work featured at:
www.christinekirouac.com and
on facebook at [wsartsmag](https://www.facebook.com/wsartsmag).

