

Diana Calderon, Phoenix

Diana Calderon was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1981. She attended the University of Texas at El Paso and received a bachelor of fine arts degree in Intermedia Studies at Arizona State University where she studied mixed media, performance art and fine printing and bookmaking. Since 2001, she has been heavily involved in community-oriented projects with AmeriCorps in Texas and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona.

Calderon's work often references her own life experiences as a Mexican-born American, growing up in a Catholic household. These experiences have led to self-study and examination which she describes as a personal ontology, the study of the categories of things that may exist or do exist. She says she was "aware and curious about existence at an early stage" and that this self-examination process has been both a passion and a problem.

Calderon's Paper opening performance piece is called "Becoming." During the piece she distorts her appearance by covering herself in layers of sheer pantyhose from head to toe. She surrounds herself with print type drawers filled with letterpress letters and prints directly on her body. The work is a transformative process mentally and physically before the audience.

