



On the Bus:

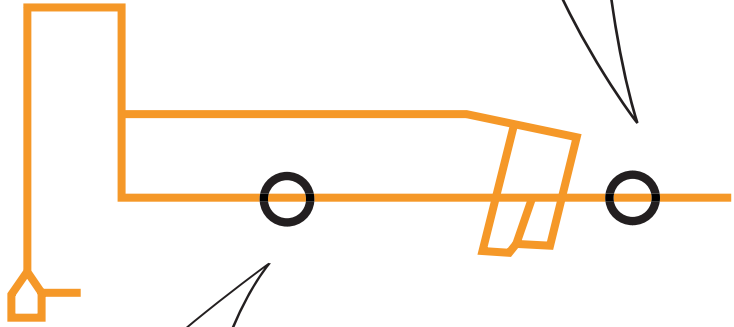
An art project intended to spark interest in those around you

I like what I do. I like doing crafts. I do a lot of kind of cross-stitch pictures and give them for gifts like weddings and birthdays and when babies are born. I like doing stuff like that. I like reading too...I like mysteries...I like Laura Ingalls. Although she's passed on, I like those books and I like her movies. You know, I got to go see her cabin when I was in Kansas and I went to Mansfield, Missouri to see her other house where they went to live. She is a true person. A lot of people don't think so, they think it's fiction. -Alice

I wish I could get my own home and own it myself but as far as I see it now, no. 'Cause I don't have the financing. My grand kids are living at home with me now. I'm living in someone else's home because I was really like more like homeless. But now I got a roof over my head and food to eat - that's greater than it was. And two of my grand kids there with me, temporary. -Mary

I'll be seventy the 20th of July, this coming July. So I had a beautiful life. I married young; I was married forty-some years. My husband passed in 1988 and I'm by myself and now all I'm looking forward to - I'm diabetic and just praying that I'll get well from that because I've got an ulcer on my ankle. But other than that, I'm glad to be here because at my age I could be gone. But I am looking forward to living - maybe to get 90 or 100 years old I hope, 'cause I try to take care of myself. Just hope to have a happy life for the rest of my life. -Lillian

I'd really like to find something where, you know, I could use the stuff that I'm interested in which is computers. So maybe something where helping the Russian children with computers or something that, that I could work on would be really nice.
-Jesse



Every time I read about it they say that every time they look into space they see that Einstein knew what he was talking about, the theory of relativity. I don't know enough about that to tell you, but if you accelerate long enough you go back in time. One of our fighter pilots was going north over Lake Michigan going through the speed of sound, he looked down and saw Philadelphia as it was in 1913, he looked down and saw Philadelphia on the lake surface as it was in 1913. He'd seen pictures of it, that's how he knew what he was looking at. He accelerated and went back in time. -Larry H.

○ The Project

From February to April of 2002, I began an interview-based art project about the bus system in Champaign-Urbana. I rode five bus lines (yellow, red, blue, orange, and green) from beginning to end and back again. Trying to maintain a diverse group, I approached people with two questions: "What are you looking forward to?" and "What are you not looking forward to?". With these two questions as a starting point, conversations developed, each one as unique as the people I met.

This project is about increasing awareness of and appreciation for people we encounter in our daily lives. Have you ever wondered what the person sitting next to you on the bus is thinking about? Is she on her way home to check the day's lotto numbers? Are he and his wife trying to decide what to name their baby?

Because having a specific purpose makes it easier to ask personal questions of strangers, this project gave me the excuse to approach people and ask them what was on their minds. The recorded conversations resulting from this process are the basis of the project installations on the buses and in the bus station. Audio recordings of the interviews are installed in the transit building and quotes from these conversations can be found on area buses. As people encounter these remnants of my experiences on the bus, I hope that their interest in their own fellow passengers is heightened.