

Babette Rittenberg

During the 2018 Tricentennial year, curator Susan Tucker sat down with Babette Rittenberg and other artists who participated in the Panel Discussion to ask some additional questions about their work. The following comments were made in response to Susan's question about how New Orleans had influenced their art.

I think of New Orleans as an intimate city. It's a city with a generous and personable spirit, and yet as small as it is, seeing people you know everywhere you go, there are still worlds of new people and places that are unfamiliar. There is great freedom for comfort, fun, and growth in that spectrum. I hope I can embody these characteristics in my art.

It's a city where if you meet someone new and feel like you have a connection, the chances are high you will bump into them again, whereas, having recently lived in New York for over a decade, there is great contrast. You can talk to someone all night, have mutual interests, and then never see them again: they disappear.

Evaluating New Orleans as an influence on me and my art is sort of like saying what's your blood type. It's just a part of you that makes you you.

It would be hard to dissect that seeing as it's just my in my DNA, which I hopefully make visible in my work.

New Orleans raised me and I feel like it is a parent.