



# Janie Geiser



By Steffi Toma



# Background

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- Born in Louisiana and went to the University of Georgia
- Is now on the faculty at the School of Theater at the California Institute of Arts
- Uses film, puppetry, installation, and performance art
- She often uses old photos and videos, found objects, “discarded materials,” and images from outdated popular culture

# General Themes

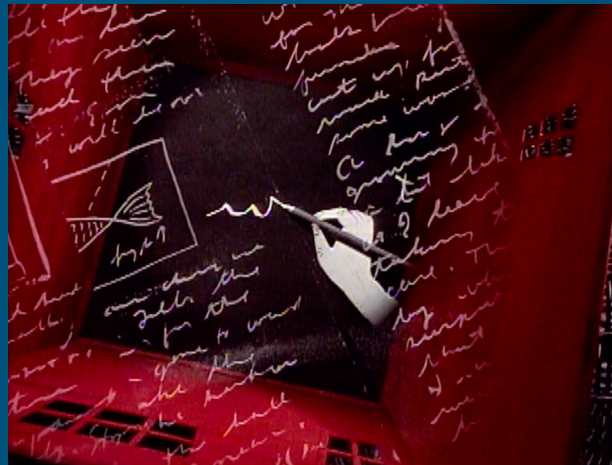
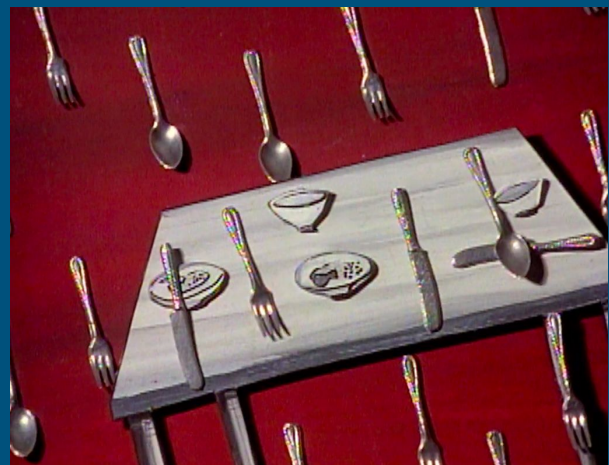
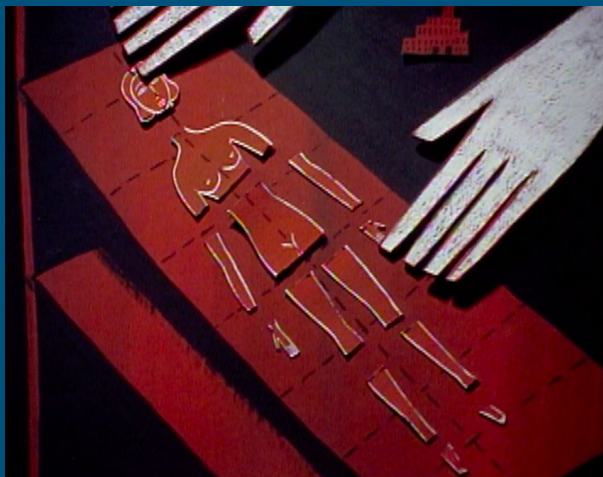
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- Dreams
- Memory and time
- Janie Geiser's work "prowls around the mysterious boundary-land between territories — like the lands of the conscious and the unconscious mind, or life and death, sanity and madness, hope and despair, animate and inanimate, nature and culture." —Holly Willis, KCET Artbound (2014)

# The Red Book

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- Made with painted paper and some 3D elements
- Tells the story of a woman with amnesia
- Explores themes of memory, loss, identity, language, and how language influences or creates identity
- References myths about how different languages were created by breaking apart a person's body
- Inspired by a book called "The Man With a Shattered World" by H.R. Luria, which is about a man who loses his memory but tries to regain it by writing his own life story. Geiser was "intrigued by this tale, and its implications regarding the essential mutability of narrative, memory, and identity" (Holly Willis)



# Other Videos

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[Ghost Algebra](#)

[The Hummingbird Wars](#)

[Lost Motion](#)

[Immer Zu](#)

[Silent Sister](#)