

Carissa Rodriguez

*Baby Steps*

September 6 - October 31, 2025

Three modes of production: analog work by the mother, manual work by the father, digital work by other people.

Yesterday I Tried to Paint You, 2025

(80) 35mm slides shot on Kodak E100 by Yashica T4

Projection dimensions variable

18:30 minutes

Yesterday I Tried to Paint You, work-in-progress by Jason Loeb

Oil on canvas

Approx. 8 inches x 12 inches

A painting from a single slide to be created in New York over the course of September

Track for September 6:

TIWYCF (INTRO)

By Gobby

5:20 minutes, mp3

Commissioned by Carissa Rodriguez for Artists Space, 2016 (with Jordan Lord)

Track for September 12 & October 10:

ACOPALYPTIC / WAVE OF SOBS

By Gobby

6:36 minutes, m4a

Commissioned by Carissa Rodriguez for Tomorrow Gallery

Track for September 19 & October 17:

SUMMERTIME SADNESS

By Physical Therapy

5:00 minutes, mp3

Commissioned by Carissa Rodriguez for MoMA PS1, 2013

Track for September 26 & October 24:

TIWYCF (INTERLUDE)

By Skype Williams

3:22 minutes, mp3

Commissioned by Carissa Rodriguez for Artists Space, 2016 (with Jordan Lord)

Track for October 3 & 31:

WLACK BIDOW

By Shayne Oliver & Arca

19:09 minutes, mp3

Commissioned by Carissa Rodriguez for Karma International, 2012

The expression “baby steps” refers to making small, deliberate moves to achieve what may (at first) seem daunting and out of reach, like– quitting smoking, paying off a debt or saving up for a house. In stock photography, pictures of infants’ toes are licensed for commercial use under categories such as “newborn feet in mother’s hands – heart shape.” Without getting into the whole ‘fetish’ discussion, let us forget the 90s fashion photographer who made the Yashica T4 his ‘thing’ and was cancelled for predatory behavior. In the ennui of August, we played a game of cat-and-mouse in the apartment while waiting for updates on the baseboards, the backsplash and the toe-kick. Private equity was coming for the slushie deli and then news broke that they could stay month-to-month. How to become more resourceful like the mom-and-pop shop who put two boys through college by making macerated fruit go viral. “Survived my pregnancy on their watermelon slushies”. But this is more about the medium – not just film, not just painting – but time told by the hands of the clock, made by hand, signing the lease, holding feet. In the child’s words: “I got you!”.

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