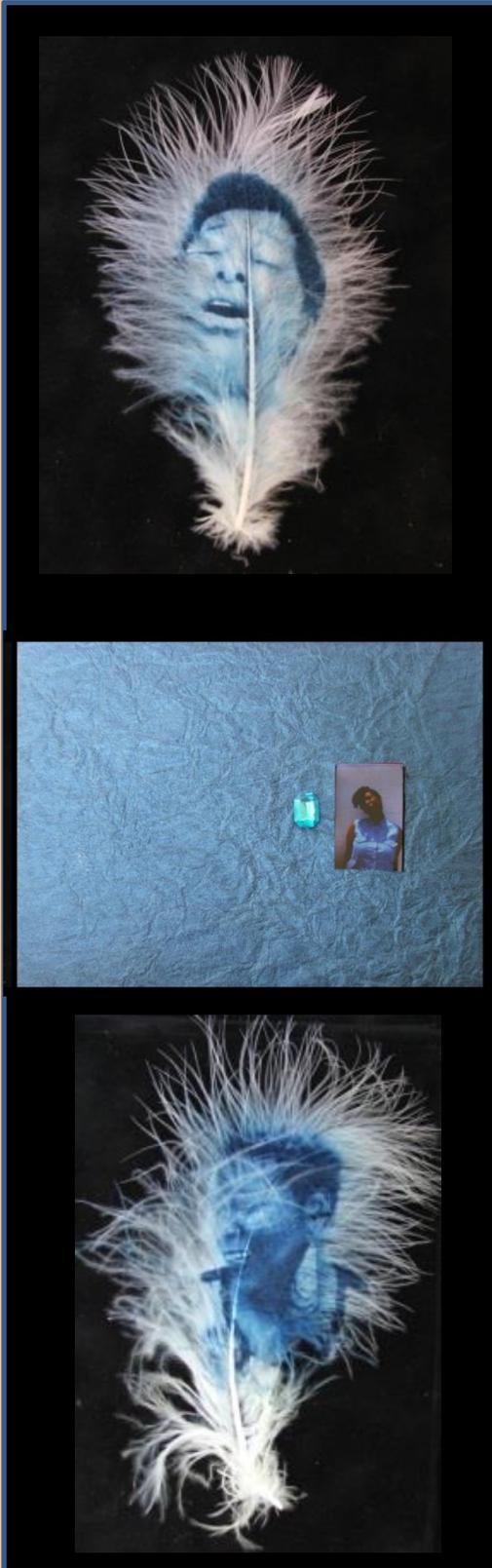


## ART FACULTY'S INNOVATIVE PRINTMAKING HIGHLIGHTED IN HOUSTON EXHIBITION



**A**rt Instructor Ann Johnson is currently featured in a group exhibition titled: **SUGA**, at the BLUEorange Contemporary art gallery in Houston. **SUGA** contributes to the discourse of contemporary printmaking using traditional and experimental methods while highlighting the diverse art practices of Rabéa Ballin, Ann Johnson, Delita Martin and Lovie Olivia. These four artists' works navigate between styles of the past and the proposed future and addresses experiences unique to Women of Color residing in the American South. These artists not only embrace and challenge drawing conventions in medium, surface and concept, but apply unusual approaches to the process and ingredients of printmaking. Identifying as installation, video, mixed media artists, sculptors and painters as well, they make the common voyage – once a year - to the arena of Printmaking. Johnson continues to challenge experimental printmaking by printing on feathers and leaves. For the SUGA exhibition she continues her *Nesting* series, and introduces the viewer to a new series called *Suga Blues*. Where *Nesting* explores an individual's private space, thoughts and moments of conceptual seclusion, *Suga Blues* examines an impromptu conversation. For *Suga Blues* each print is born from a still shot of an accompanying video. Johnson says "I simply wanted to capture a visual moment in a conversation. The images are printed on a feather in blue ink which creates a hint of mystery without the video, as well as, observes an interest into the individual's state of mind at that moment". The personalities in the videos are a random group of artists within the Houston community, and each tells a unique story. Each individual was asked to respond to three questions. "What do you think of, 1. The color *Blue*, 2. *The Blues*, and 3. *Sugar*." The answers are emotional, funny, and at times predictable.

The SUGA exhibition will be on view until July 19, 2014. The BLUEorange Contemporary Gallery is located at 1208 West Gray, in Houston.