

**No two clouds
are alike,
except when
they are from
junk mail.**



MESSAGES

1. collect contemporary artifacts
2. catalog artifacts into online database along with physical and lyrical attributes
3. perform digital search functions to form content for analog works
4. examine text data to isolate and interpret messages

The works in *Messages* are further exploration in the ideas of cultural artifact, over-stimulation and hieroglyphics through drawing, painting and video by artist Sydney Croskery.

Since 2013, the artist has been collecting and archiving artifacts and moments both personal and public, along with physical properties and narrative stories tied to each item. In her process of collection, there is no restriction in criteria - consumer packaging, junk mail, found objects, TV commercials, iPhone videos, Facebook posts, spam, photos, relics, memories and more all can find their way in this growing archive. All

items are individually photographed/recorded into the database archive with a story, as well as any identifying tags. Items large and small, past and present, physical and digital, mundane and precious become flattened and equalized in this digital form, becoming an antidote to the overstimulation of daily life. The database itself serves not only as organizational tool, but as egalitarian medium treating each item with the same level importance.

The database also serves as the artist's unique search engine, using the properties and narrative stories as data, giving the ability to mine these artifacts and information in unexpected, poetic and circumvented ways.

In **Messages**, the artist's process moves from the prosaic to poetic as she tries to re-interpret the data associated with the artifacts. Ideas for drawings and paintings start out as searches of similarly categorized objects such as "arrows", "items made of plastic", or "credit card offers". The groups of objects are then re-envisioned as drawings and paintings, offering quiet works as slowed down moments in time to combat the rapid movement of contemporary society.

Each narrative story associated with the objects then gets strung together as one nonsensical narrative piece, a complicated mishmash of text echoing our own overstimulated society. Sometimes becoming the title of the drawing or painting, other times becoming a video piece, the texts are edited, whittled down and simplified into new texts which range from the absurd, to the incongruent, to the beautiful. The works in **Messages** intend to force a momentary pause in this fast-moving cultural time, aiming to change the moments of noise and rapidity into moments of beauty and calm.

A sculptural tableau serves to be a visual representation of the archive, presenting not only physical objects with their database item numbers but also looped videos, allowing for the objects to interact with each other in unplanned and haphazard ways.

Croskery has been compiling and archiving items from daily life into a computer database for the last 4 years. Numbering into the 3000's, the artist collects these often times insignificant cultural artifacts as a means of hieroglyphics to understand our society in new ways.