

The Sky's No Longer Blue



i heart you 1980's malibu [Item #1305], 2017, 17 x 30 in, Oil on Linen

The Sky's No Longer Blue is the first iteration of shows from artist Sydney Croskery presenting bodies of work whose content is derived from a custom computer database tool.

Since 2013, the artist has been collecting and archiving artifacts from the personal and cultural landscape, along with physical properties and narrative stories tied to each item. In her process, anything is fair game for collection; consumer packaging, junk mail, found objects, TV commercials, iPhone videos, Facebook posts, spam, photos, relics, and more are all individually photographed and recorded into the database archive. 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, giving the ability to mine these artifacts and information in unexpected, poetic and circumvented ways. Croskery turns to the database to word-search homonyms, using words that sound alike but with wholly different meanings as a metaphor for our polarized political environment. These sound-alike words and their corresponding imagery highlight the absurdity and complex array of interpretations that occur when translating and comprehending the world around us.

The works in this show are a result of performing searches in the database for the words **here** and **hear**, the computer returning images of items from the collection where those words exist somewhere in the data description or story. Sometimes the computer finds the word unmitigated, other times as part of a larger word. The computer reads **Hear** not only as **hear** but also as **heartfelt**, **etheareal**, **shearing** and **heard**, and returns those images associated. **Here** returns objects linked not only with **here** but **there**, **where**, **everywhere** and **somewhere**. When the computer returns images of an arbitrary set of societal artifacts from the interpreted and misinterpreted word searches, presented together these items allow for new connections and meanings. The idea of misinterpretation challenges our own ideas of perception, opinion and fact.

Work in this show will consist of the output of the word searches presented as quiet and solitary objects in formal paintings and drawings, alongside a frenetic video work that combines all items returned from the word searches into a chaotic digital tableau. Using the computer to create content for analog pieces and an analog approach to building digital mediums, Croskery further explores the handmade versus the machine made in a way in which both go hand in hand in her artistic production.

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 personal and societal items as contemporary hieroglyphics and as a means to examine our cultural landscape.