

Cima Katz

Professor Expanded Media

Artist's Statement

As an artist, I rely on a variety of skills depending on what will best help me explore particular ideas. My background in printmaking (color lithography in particular) has provided a specific way of approaching the art making process that embraces a thick layering of information in both a physical and conceptual sense. My work is also about an artist's obsession with information- visual cues, literary thought, humor, poetry, politics, everyday wool gathering. It represents a free wheeling association between these experiences. In recent years, digital collage has provided the appropriate language for me to articulate beliefs that question identity, notions of family, time and the authenticity of history.

Current work represents a personal **Memento Mori**- freely translated as "Remember that you are mortal," "Remember you will die," or "Remember your death". It follows a long tradition of Vanitas images, yet departs in its iconography- borrowing from a large personal alphabet as well as appropriated imagery from historic, self-consciously nostalgic references such as Victorian mourning practices, lover's eyes miniatures and posey's, as well as old gravestone imagery, daguerreotype images of deceased family members and symbols from various religious and other cultural sources. "I am interested in creating a visual language that is a reflection of and response to personal experience. It is also an interpretation of knowledge collected about persistent cultural attempts to explain, justify, de-mystify and ultimately accept death. Juxtaposed with contemporary methodology and materials, my intention is to create a sense of melancholy that asks as many questions as it answers. My goal is to develop a feeling of substantiation and to create a palpable collective memory as the images and objects communicate the results of my forensic psychological hunt."