

grey/re(a)d: in response

An exhibition at PlatteForum by Julia Karll and six teachers who investigated the impact of news and media on our lives. Each teacher wrote a lesson plan based on their experience that can be utilized in their classrooms.

Essential Questions

What is truth? What is a lie? How do you know what you know? What is reported? How do statistics impact your daily life? How does media impact your daily life? How does the news make you feel...and what do you do with those feelings? What does art do? Why do artists choose the materials they work with? How can I have hope knowing what I know?

THE EXHIBITION



Knotted

Julia Karll

Read. React. Record. This is how I process the news. *Knotted* is an expression of my reaction to world events, specifically the violence reported daily. *Knotted* was constructed by twisting strips of newspaper and connecting them into long, thick ropes, tied together into an intestine-like knot. Through the repetitive use of multiple knots, I designed this piece not only to symbolize the many physical and psychological losses from violent conflict, but also to create evidence of the time I expend on my self-imposed obsession to read and react to the news. Using actual

news stories as my material adds another layer of meaning to the work.

In *Knotted*, I attempt to evoke an initial visceral response to the beauty of the craft and secondly to illustrate the subversive content within the work. The installation reflects the tension between the desire to learn about reported painful world events and the need to ignore them daily. Rigid sheets cover the wall to symbolize the mechanical way news is delivered, both straightforward and unfeeling. The knotted rope suspended before the wall represents my gut reaction to the news: an emotional combination of sorrow, the feeling of being overwhelmed, and my struggle between hope and hopelessness.



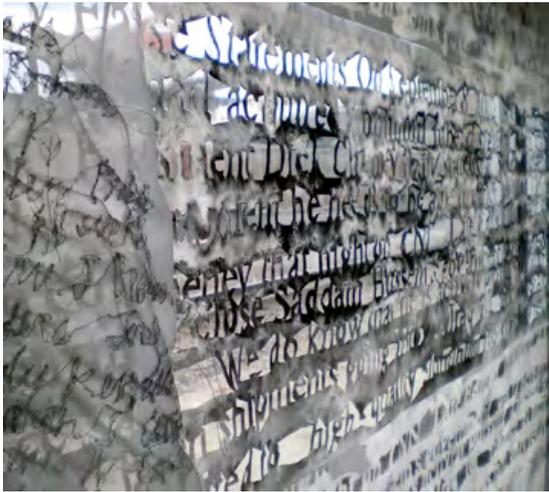
funnel

Marcy Mitchell

My work addresses the issues of consumption and marketing and the conflict that many people feel about balancing the two. Personally, I struggle with the desire to consume versus the feeling of being manipulated and used by large corporations for financial gain. I am just another faceless consumer. Why do I want what I want? Why do I wear what I wear? I would like to believe that I am immune to their tactics but I know that it is impossible. This fact, of course, fills me with anger, frustration and a feeling of helplessness in the face of such a machine.

This piece, *funnel*, looks not only at marketing, but at the media in general and the massive amount of news and advertising that we are exposed to on a daily basis, often without our consent. Our brains have a seemingly endless capacity for storing useless information such

as jingles or the ability to recognize a logo. The news of the day is often sad, scary, horrifying and overwhelming. Survival in our personal day-to-day lives requires that we deal with it somehow, often by ignoring it and becoming complacent and apathetic.



False Statements

Fallen Soldiers

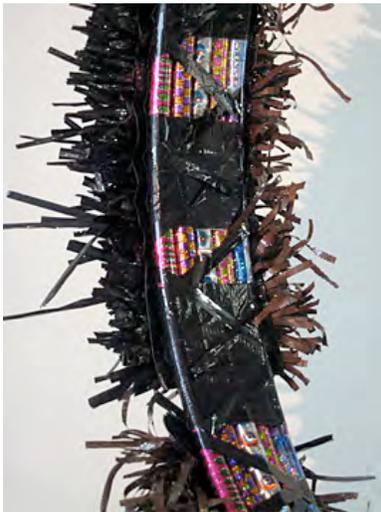
Theresa Ducayet Clowes

“A false statement need not be a lie.”

- from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This piece represents a vast number of questionable Iraq War statements juxtaposed with the names of fallen soldiers. My previous work portrayed familiar rhythms and patterns in nature; however, this workshop inspired me to push my work in new directions. The words in this piece have a purpose; they are not ambivalent. The information is real, although not positive. Its beauty lures you in with familiar words,

rhythms and patterns generating endless questions. Its beauty is seductive, tempting and enticing us to move closer, to explore and question. Why is it that when we are seduced by the media 24/7, we do not move closer, to explore and question? This piece represents the tension between juxtaposing facts.



Turn and Repeat

Noelle Jung

As a mother and a teacher of children, I am invariably around at least one child throughout the day. Much of my time is spent seeing the world through their eyes. Consequently the attitude I have toward news and current events is not one of negativity, but rather one filled with hope. I am, of course, aware of the media reporting information about war and violence, but I choose not to live my life focusing on it. I can't show the utter disgust and sheer terror I feel about the world, all the while knowing that my daughter and my students are only beginning their journey on this planet.

In *Turn and Repeat*, my relationship with news and daily reports of world events is represented by an abstract waterwheel, which I've created out of child-friendly hoola-hoops and media material, (newspaper, audio and video tape). The waterwheel is the vehicle that drives my ambivalent attitude. As I turn the wheel in my mind, I pick and choose mostly optimistic news stories to keep close and discard of the rest, tossing it back in to the swell of negative information. This cycle of constant media regurgitation takes place as the wheel turns and repeats.



Cairn: Marking the Path

Beth A. Erlander

The news is full of stories that I don't trust at times, or stories I feel with which the media manipulates us. I created a single strand of newspaper and then wrapped these stories around the rocks with the intention that the rock or the earth will absorb the negativity as my body, heart and mind cannot take it all in. I believe the earth takes our negativity when we give it to her. The rocks are placed in a cairn, a pile of stones used to mark a path when there is no trail to follow. I need a path marker in my journey with the state of the world. In Mongolia the shamanic cairns, ovoos, are created to worship the mountains and sky and the person is invited to walk clockwise around it three times to have a safe journey. I invite you to put on the VHS tape scarf and walk around the cairn, feeling the heaviness that I feel and focus on a positive intention for the world we live in.



pressure ≥ mass + media

Laura Zoromski

My work is a statistical expression of the types of reported information that is available to each of us on a daily basis. All these varied forms and multitudes of stories create immense pressure, numbing me. VCR tape, audiotape, newspaper and computer wires are used to represent the four most popular forms of media. Shredded jeans represent me as I express how I am faced with the true pressure of it all. Latch hooking brings each material together meticulously in a familiar traditional textile technique. When placed on the shoulders of the other, the weight of the work and proportional exaggeration gives the feeling that at times the influx of information is too much for each of us to bear.



Mediated

Cheryl Wilsey-Cleveland

I choose to use primarily materials produced from media sources: (video tape, newspaper and books). The materials used in effect give the viewer clues as to what the piece conveys. The work reflects how media has changed over the years. Likewise, the work addresses my feelings about what is reported and recorded in news and media. This piece contains newspaper articles from present day along with articles from the 1970's, thus showing a cycle of common stories/problems/events that seem to repeat themselves.



constructed / constructing

Judy Anderson

How do we know what we know? So much of the information about the world around is outside of our direct experience. If it's written in a book, does that make it true? In a newspaper? On television or a website? Do we use the World Book Encyclopedia as reference...or Wikipedia that reflects the ongoing interpretations of anyone who wants to join in on the discussion? Stories and reports surround us in newspapers, news broadcasts, websites, magazines, books, bloggers, pundits and spinners. In this piece the viewer is asked to consider this conundrum as they navigate their lives and, at this particular point-in-time, elect leaders that they can trust and believe in. A red chair tilts precariously on carpet of "truth", surrounded by cannons of reflected truths.

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Through the creative process, PlatteForum gives hope and direction to underserved youth who collaborate with master artists from around the world. This experience transforms the lives of the youth, the artists and the community.

youth. artists. community
Transform lives through art.