

Statement: Peter Massing

With this body of work I am looking for new ways to make a mark and learn how to let what happens during the process lead my investigation. Finding new direction is most often realized when doing something again for the first time, like picking up a penny from the pavement, or putting into order the items that I have collected. The act of drawing in many ways is similar to rediscovering making a mark. My process involves a key image, a printing element, or a common thread that provide a basis to evolve multiple viewpoints.

The prints document the reduction of a wood block and how the color is used to illustrate the over all picture or the pictorial composition. The drawings utilize a common thread such as a face represented by two eyes, mouth, and a nose. The representational face can serve as a focus for investigating a wide range of materials and content. I choose to group pieces together in a way that express variations of a theme or reverberate visually.

I think that what I do as an artist is a form of visual anthropology. The visual inquiry is labeling an artwork or illustrating an experience and putting those kinds of things together. The picture is a document of an experience or thought process. I often lay out all my drawings and prints on the floor and move them around so that I can group them together aesthetically by color, by content, or by the narrative they create. A single picture does not reveal the entire process or how the story might unfold. My intent is to develop a visual narrative that might broaden the scope of an experience and connect what we bring to looking or visualizing.