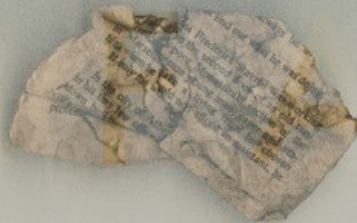


FROM

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From the Surface
by
Morgan Wedderspoon

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts
in
Printmaking

Department of Art and Design
University of Alberta

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Wedderspoon_001 **From the Surface** 2015 woodcut, digital print 22 x 30 inches



Wedderspoon_002 **Installation shot**

From the Surface

Artist Statement by Morgan Wedderspoon

From the Surface is an exhibition haunted by the presence of the global ecological crisis. As I implicate the viewer in a web of associations between word, image, and thing, I invite contemplation of our place in a changing world. I seek to unsettle the comfortable illusion that humanity is separate from nature, exploring instead the anxiety of being inextricably embedded in a context that is radically and unwittingly being transformed by our own hands.

Through a chance-based practice of found-object collection and display, I search for unforeseen materials gathered from the ground to participate as subjects in my work. The resulting collection is an assortment of artifact-like objects, many which were formerly overlooked, discarded, or forgotten. More specifically, they are fragments – worn pieces of things that have broken down and dispersed, travelling across unknown distances. The gesture of collecting marks a momentary acknowledgement of coexistence between humans and things within the context of unfolding ecological crisis. As a group, the objects act as a humble reminder of that context, in which the dream of human dominion over nature is called into question. In a broad sense, my collecting practice addresses the tension between the urge to try to exert control over the material world and a sense of being caught under its spell.

Using printmaking, I highlight the potential for unexpected relationships between the objects, bringing them into new formal associations and exchanges. By displaying the objects themselves alongside the prints that derive from them, I construct a network around the viewer, a back and forth between the real, the representational, and the abstract. *From the Surface* enmeshes the viewer in the struggle to reconcile physical experience with the conceptual realm – lending a heightened sense of reality to a crisis that we know is unfolding, but which tends to lurk in the background of our everyday experience.



Wedderspoon_003 **Continuum** 2013-2016 found objects 122 x 36 x 12 inches



Wedderspoon_004 **Continuum** 2013-2016 found objects 122 x 36 x 12 inches



Wedderspoon_005 **Dwellings (left wall)** 2015 woodcut, digital print, size variable



Wedderspoon_006 **Dwellings (right wall)** 2015 woodcut, digital print, size variable



Wedderspoon_007 **Prototypes A + B** 2015 woodcut, digital print 34 x 50 inches each



Wedderspoon_008 **Coincidence** 2015 photo-intaglio, letterpress, size variable



Wedderspoon_009 **Coincidence (detail)** 2015 photo-intaglio, letterpress, size variable



Wedderspoon_010 **Surface Reader 1** 2016 woodcut, digital print 30 x 44 inches



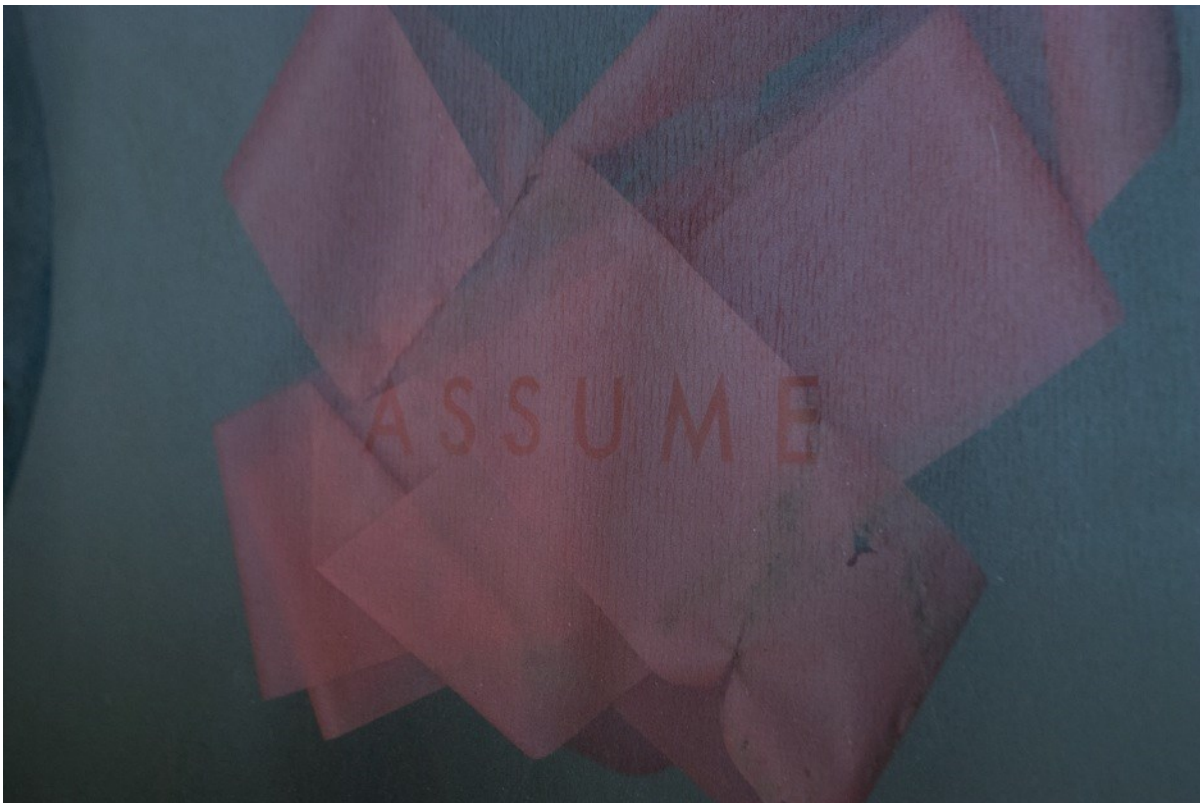
Wedderspoon_011 **Surface Reader 3** 2016 woodcut, digital print 30 x 44 inches



Wedderspoon_012 **Surface Reader 5** 2016 woodcut, digital print 30 x 44 inches



Wedderspoon_013 **Surface Reader 5 (detail)** 2016 woodcut, digital print 30 x 44 inches



Wedderspoon_014 **Surface Reader 4 (detail)** 2016 woodcut, digital print 30 x 44 inches



Wedderspoon_015 Surface Reader (installation shot)

Acknowledgements

Sean Caulfield, Liz Ingram, and Steven Harris have provided tremendous support and guidance to me throughout my program, helping me clarify my research and asking tough questions. Thanks for challenging me while showing incredible generosity and kindness.

Gavin Renwick and Marko Zivkovic, I am grateful that you were a part of my defence committee and I appreciate your genuine interest and encouragement.

Lianne McTavish, thanks for your thoughtful engagement with my work and for giving me the opportunity to present my research in front of my peers.

Many thanks to Steven Dixon and Marc Siegner for your expert knowledge and reliable assistance in the printmaking studio.

Blair Brennan, Sue Colberg, John McGee and the team at FAB Gallery, I appreciate all your help with the exhibition.

Thank you to anyone who has contributed to the collection of found objects that has made this body of work possible.

I also acknowledge the generous financial support of the University of Alberta, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, and Student Aid Alberta.

Finally, thanks to my friends, family, and especially my partner Chris Gusen.

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