

Word Paintings
1999

Catching common words phrases and dropping them into an esthetic situation is an opportunity to hear their sounds and appreciate their shapes as well as contemplate their linguistic meaning. Over the past few years I have been using word lists as both background and subject in my work. Names, qualifying words, derogatory epithets and phrases serve as ornament and content. Isolating groups of words is also a therapeutic act. The listing ritual gives an illusion of control over a world that seems beyond reach. In combining the words with an image, I want to make associations that are relevant but not necessarily linear.

Recent work has focused on isolating and then grouping common verbs. Each drawing acts as an instructional sign as well as an arrangement of marks. Together they form a set of random tasks that can be read in any order.

I like to choose words that sound good when spoken, that carry meaning well or that have multiple meanings, that look good when written, that reflect contemporary events in my life and in the news.