

Artist statement – work in progress – Joshua Pack

I am so much like an old southern man, if everything he believed in was the opposite. I'm stubborn, rough-talking, and strongly opinionated. Most of those men, sure, do deeply care about their communities; but seldom do they do anything to help to change it, or even engage with those issues in a fair way. Even less have genuine and inviting conversations to understand each other – to promote a collective wellbeing.

I am tackling issues of not only interpersonal human/ social issues (such as workers' rights, queer activism, and civil rights) while also promoting and advocating for an open dialogue. My work is not only human centered; I focus on plants, animals, biomes, continents, and the planet. These beings are promoted ad nauseam in my work, reminding us that humans are not our only community members.

I use print to connect with blue-collar workers because of the mechanical, historical, and skilled labor that is connected to and involves printmaking. Collage is important too because of its universal accessibility and low-tech nature, letting myself and others work on low budgets.

I combine these two elements together in my work; the surfaces of my prints are loud and are made up of pages from books, magazines, and documents that are loosely or directly related to the overall subject of the work. The main draw of my work is the bold, flowing, and in-your-face letterpresses superimposed on top of these collaged surfaces. These noisy backgrounds mimic the discussions and arguments we have about my subjects, along with

their own voices. All beings, humans and non-humans, have a seat at my table and a voice through my work.