

KATHLEEN O'CONNELL

WORD FOR WORD



NOV 9TH-JAN 7TH
GORECKI GALLERY
BENEDICTA ART CENTER, CSB

Word for Word contains a selection of text-based prints, artist's books and works on paper. Part in the image of a somnambulist, part autobiographical, and part of regular creative practice, the exhibition features texts collected from messages, conversations, books, news and translations that were misunderstood or reinterpreted with sentiment, to evoke a meditative state, where one is still, but very much alive; strangely occupying the familiar.

ARTIST WEBSITE

[Kathleen O'Connell \(kathleenoconnell.net\)](http://kathleenoconnell.net)

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TOPICS AND THEMES THIS EXHIBITION ENGAGES WITH:

- Printmaking
- Reflection
- Travel
- Cultural Differences
- Language
- Meditation

QUESTIONS

Talking about her artist practices, Kathleen stated, "I spend a lot of time thinking, meditating about certain phrases or ideas before I use them. While tying together the initial drawings of the *Difficult Loves* book, I was listening to an audio book, *In the Heart of the Sea, The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex* by Daniel Philbrick. I spent a lot of time thinking about my love of boats/ships and failed endeavors (relationships that soured or sank or were doomed from the beginning; paths taken/not taken that could have led me elsewhere)--all things bittersweet."

- What mental state do you perceive the artist is experiencing while creating the pieces in the show?
- What was a failed endeavor that you undertook that led you to learn something about yourself?
- In what ways do you use meditation and hindsight in your artistic practices or daily life?

Much of Kathleen's work involves travelling to different countries, experiencing life, and trying to find understanding. Kathleen stated, "When traveling, the mental state is of heightened observations; I always try to think about what's the difference between myself in my day-to-day life, versus myself when I am travelling." Even for those viewers who have not had the opportunity to travel to other countries, we have all experienced this shift, whether it was leaving home to start college or just experiencing a new city.

- What differences do you see in yourself when you are "traveling" compared to when you are in your "day-to-day life"?

Like many of the CSB/SJU FAP exhibiting artists for the 2021-2022 visual arts season, Kathleen's original show dates were cancelled and had to be moved because of the Covid 19 pandemic. This has given the viewers a unique opportunity to view a shift in her work, from pre-pandemic to current. Most notably this shift is seen in her sketchbook pages, that have no set order. Looking at this piece,

- How has the artist's work changed from 2017-2020?
- Why has Kathleen chosen to display the work randomly instead of chronologically, how does this change the meaning of the work?
- There are many topics in the sketchbook pages, ranging from police brutality, motherhood, civic unrest and Covid 19, just to name a few. Looking back at the last year and a half, what topics would you have included in your own sketchbook?