PRIORITY *

TRACKED'

* * * *
INSURED'

STUDIO: SHOPDROP

E MOJI ENVELOPE

REBEKAH MODRAK RUTH BURKE

EVA COHEN
DANA DEMSKY
JILLIAN EISENBERG
EMILIE FARRUGIA
KELSI FRANZINO
JACQUI FREY
MARIAH GARDZIOLA
RACHEL GJERSVIK
CIARA GRIGGS

JEAN LIN
KATIE MONGOVEN
OLIVIA MOORE
RYAN REISS
ALBIANN TULLY
DINA VELORIC
EMILY WATERS



EP14 AAY 2013



STUDIO SHOPDROP is an engagement course in the Stamps School of Art & Design at the University of Michigan.

Students in the studio make objects or images and covertly place these items in a retail environment. In acts of culture jamming, artists and designers interject personal, political or critical messages into commercial venues. Shopdropping introduces an alternate experience into the activity/non-activity of shopping. By reaching consumers in the midst of shopping in a store/location, artists and designers reach a broader audience than would be possible in a gallery exhibition and utilize the context of commercial products.

Rebekah Modrak, Associate Professor Ruth Burke, GSI

Thank you to John Baird for his photographs of students' work in IKEA.



JACQUI FREY

In my shopdropping practice, I gave companies permission to non-voluntarily participate in my work.

On the front counter of Arcadian Antiques sits a bowl of clip-on earrings. Antiques evoke memories and Jacqui Frey remembered wearing clip-on earrings as a child when forbidden to pierce her ears. To connect the antiques / foreign objects that once belonged to somebody else with her own memories, she created earrings from thorny flowers. She placed these fragile earrings (objects that could pierce the body and leave a mark but would soon wilt and disappear) within the existing bowl of clip-on earrings (objects that would remain forever but never leave a permanent mark on one's body).





Giving jewelry to a loved one is an inimate act, embedded with the desire to be remembered. However, the story behind a pair of diamond earrings is hidden in the shiny stone. Jacqui Frey created earrings by framing photographs of family members with embroidered words and phrases (nicknames and family anecdotes) along with beads and sequins that imitate the precious stones that make traditional jewelry seem valuable.

shop location: Nordstrom Rack







EMILIE FARRUGIA

Because my work is interactive and imaginative, I chose to work in standardized retail environments that try to direct consumer thinking in calculated ways.

I like the community and group effort that has been fostered by this studio — everyone is always willing to help each other.

Manufacturing ice in factories and home freezers contributes to our carbon footprint and to the impending threat of global warming. If the polar ice caps continue to melt at their current rate, manmade ice could be the only ice left on planet Earth by the summer of 2050. Emilie Farrugia's ice sculptures offer an apparition of this future; shoppers in the Meijer grocery store discovered her miniature polar ice caps emerging amongst the ice bags in the vending machines. An accompanying infographic of facts about global warming mimics the Meijer price tag design.



JEAN LIN

I gained the courage to put my experiences in public.

The distinctions between and the products of art and advertising are often blurred. Jean Lin experimented with the slipperiness of these boundaries by transforming a cinematic poster advertising the film MERU into an energy drink with the same catch phrase, "Believe in the Impossible." Inserting a designed can into the poster, she played with product placement and the ambiguity of artistic and commercial messages; in this case, both value masculinity and adventure as lifestyle ambitions.



Bus stops collect all sorts of people, each with different thoughts, life stories, and goals. Though the bus stop is a point of intermittence in everyday life, obliging us to stop and engage in the passive act of waiting, many perceive this stop as merely a valueless passing point before the next destination. Wanting bus stops to be a place of reflection, Jean Lin created a series of altered bus maps transforming University of Michigan bus routes into the metaphors *Commuter Life*, *Dead Line*, *Social Media Express*, *Desire Shuttle*, and *Yes (success)*.





Success

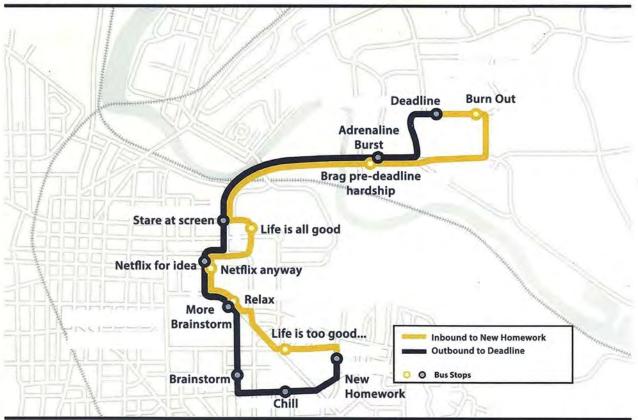
This route is currently out of service due to the construction. We apologize for the inconvenience, and hope you find your way.

Please see PTS website for additional schedule details.



Dead Line





New Homework	Brainstorm	Burn Out	More Brainstorm	New Homework
12:56pm	1:00pm	1:10pm	1:20pm	1:29pm
1:07pm	1:11pm	1:21pm	1:31pm	1:40pm
1:18pm	1:22pm	1:32pm	1:42pm	1:51pm
	then continui	ng every 11 i	ninutes until	
6:48pm	6:52pm	7:02pm	7:12pm	7:21pm

Please see PTS website for additional schedule details.

KELSI FRANZINO

Shopdropping was a wonderful group experience. We provided valuable insights for each other.

The Walgreens on North University St, Ann Arbor is patronized primarily by Michigan students, and this is reflected, in part, in their display of cereal boxes. While most stores position kids' cereal on lower shelves and healthier "adult" cereals up high, the North U. Walgreens places children's cereal at adult height. Sugary cereals remind college students of the childhood they have recently lost; stressed from transitioning into adulthood, college students cling to artifacts from their childhood. Kelsi Franzino's cereal boxes introduce hourglass marshmallow charms that promise to control the passage of time and a leprechaun mascot able to help consumers escape adulthood.

















Embedded in the tampon is a history of sexism, feminism and science. Young women often take the legacies of safe feminine-hygiene and women's rights for granted. The *Tampon History Pamphlet* details this history, reveals how menstruation and women's bodies have been seen as unclean and how politics influenced tampon design, and celebrates the women who fought for the right to control their reproductive rights and menstrual health. Tucked inside tampon boxes and intended to be read while on the toilet, the pamphlet offers an illustrated, informative for modern women whose life is easier thanks to their predecessors.

In the begining there was blood...

...and then there were tampons

wool vegetable fibers grass

how ancient women made their own tampons

The tampon industry was just getting started

1879

Dr. Aveling's Vaginal tampon Tube, essentially four cotton balls on a string inserted through a glass tube.

1900

Antiseptic wool with an antiseptic capsule inside that released upon insertion.

1920

John Williamson proposed a condom full of absorbent filling from pads

and so was the feminist movement



1848

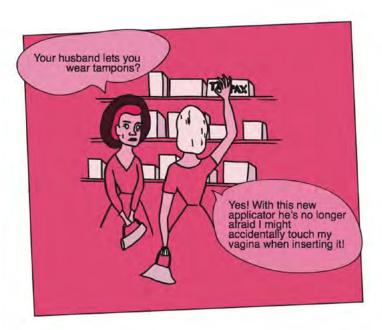
At Seneca Falls Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B Anthony began the fight for women's suffrage with the Declaration of Sentiments which made an important commentary on the rights of citizens.

1920 Women gain the right to vote

1933

Earl Cleveland Hass introduces the first commercial tampon made of compressed cotton and inserted with a telescoping paper tube.

Men feared that a woman touching herself when inserting a tampon was potentially pleasurable, so the new applicator, which allowed women to insert a tampon without touching her vagina, made them much more comfortable with the idea of tampons, allowing them to become mainstream.



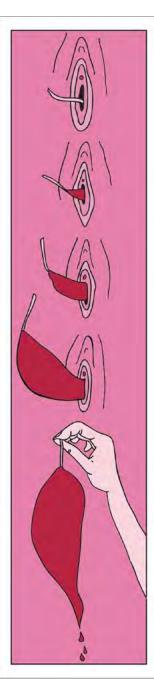


1941

America enters the war. Eleanor Roosevelt acts as fact finder for her husband Franklin, and advisor for his successor Harry Truman.

Rosie the Riveter's slogan "We Can Do It" inspires women to enter the workforce and take the place of the men at war.

Doctor and feminist William Marston created Wonder Woman, who was intended to be a strong, intelligent superhero who could inspire women to be as successful as men.



1975

Rely tampons hit the market. These tampons could be left in for the entire duration of your period. It expanded to be so big it was extremely painful remove, especially if it began to stick to the vaginal walls.

1976

Congress classifies tampons as a medical device rather than cosmetic. Shortly after they rule that cosmetics must have a list of ingredients but medical devices do not.

1980

Inspired by Rely's success, all tampons are made of synthetic materials

1983

Due to the unregulated use of synthetic material, there were a reported total of 2200 cases of TSS.

1989

FDA orders a standardized system of tampons: Junior, Regular, Super, and Superplus.

1983

Sally Kristen Ride is the youngest American astronaut in space (and also the first woman)

1972

Gloria Steinman creates Ms. Magazine. The magazine changed to ad free after a time, revealing how much control advertisers have over what is published in women's magazines.

1973

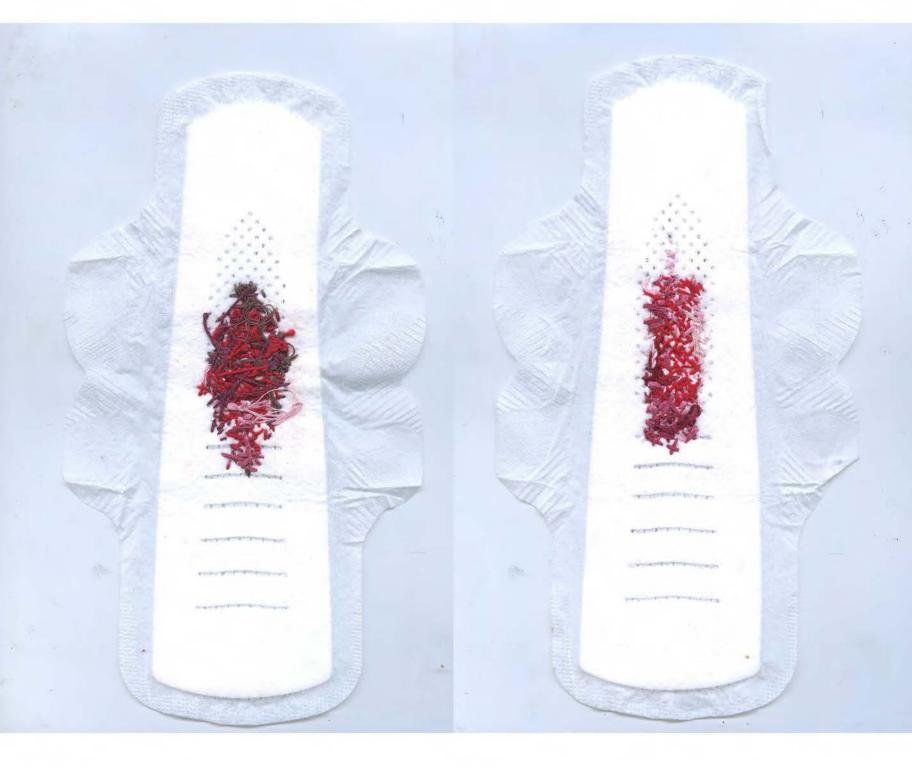
Roe v. Wade legalized abortion, giving women more control over their reproductive health.

1999

Tampon Safety and Research Act (now Robin Danielson Act) aims to create transparency between manufacturers and consumers



Historically, "sanitary products" like pads and tampons have taught women to conceal the fact that they have their period. To contest the view of menstruation as shameful, Kelsi Franzino embroidered beautiful shades of "blood" onto sanitary pads. She mounted the pads onto a kiosk on the University of Michigan Diag as a public display and turned the embroidered pads into stickers, passing them out to women to encourage them to celebrate their periods rather than hide them.





RACHEL GJERSVIK

Shopdropping is a magical studio that blurs the lines of a company's agenda and the law.

On a 2015 episode of *The Real Housewives of Orange County*, one housewife lifts her shirt to expose the leeches she has taped to her stomach. Once they've sucked blood from her body, she will squeeze them to release the blood/leech juice onto her face in an attempt to look as youthful as Demi Moore. While this trend may seem outlandish, I live in a house of girls who swear by the fad of "cleansing" their bodies with liquefied fruits and vegetables, essentially starving themselves for several days.

The Ann Arbor boutique market, Babo, sells a 3-day juice cleanse package popular for its inventive flavor combinations and sleek packaging. Drink names like "Red Lipstick" and "Trophy Wife" endorse an emaciated, superficial female image. To this collection, I contributed *Stepford Wives*, a cleanse of leeches and water, and a satirical look at unhealthy and medically untested weight loss methods. Hypothetically, after consuming these leeches, one's insides would be eaten away, thereby narrowing one's figure. After dropping the bottles at Babo, a friend took one up to the cashier and said, "I see you have a new addition to your cleanses with leeches, but there's no price?" The cashier answered, "It probably hasn't been priced yet because it's a new line."







CIARA GRIGGS

I discovered the opportunity to comment on a subject that we both generate and consume: pop culture.

Shopdropping has made me more mindful of my participation in mass media.

National chain stores select and distribute publications centrally, rather than locally. Even still, Ciara Griggs expected that stores in the college town of Ann Arbor would offer more local journals among the nationally distributed pop culture magazines. However, on CVS's shelves and throughout campus, she discovered that interest in national celebrities seems to exceed the demand for local news. To shift the attention, she replaced the cover images of celebrities with articles from the Univeristy of Michigan's *Michigan Daily*.



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More than 500 graduate students and postdoctoral scholars from 16 U-M schools and colleges registered for the 13th annual Preparing Future Faculty conference to learn about strategies and resources for success in academic careers. Sponsored by the Center for Research on Learning and Taching and Rackham Graduate School, the half-day conference on Sept. 30 serves active academic job seekers, as well as those who are exploring academia as one possible career path. Sessions included faculty panels and hands-on workshops for developing job search materials—cover letters, CVs, and teaching philosophy statements.—and skills such as interviewing, giving teaching demonstrations, and negotiating job offers. Eaculty panels forused on strate. ceeding in academic postu-wide range of disciplines and ty_L

Additionally, participants networked informally with visiting presenters and representatives of U.M. offices that provide professional development support: Rackham Graduate School, CRLT, the Career Center and the International Center. Natalie Bartolacci, program office institution.

backgrounds, career aspirar trajectories through casual, ductive conversations; she similar than two dozen faculty ment than two dozen faculty ment U-M and different types of the similar transportations. for student develop Graduate Student observed lots of

postdocs r formal rersify ability d the

INSIDE: HOT SUMMER ACTION STARS TEEN IDOLS TODAY JOCKS WE LOVE



RYAN REISS

Shopdropping is a satisfying, full cycle process that took me from inspiration, to crafting and launching a final product.

Urban Outfitters sells several products that sexualize women. One of the most egregious examples is of a men's t-shirt showing Mickey Mouse hands groping a pair of women's breasts. To my surprise, I regularly saw people wearing the shirt around campus. To expose the offensiveness of treating bodies as fetish objects and the power dynamic that persistently objectifies women, I created a dress showing the mouse fondling a penis.





OLIVIA MOORE

I discovered that if you look like you know what you're doing, no one will question your motives.

Schools within the University of Michigan have varying degrees of resources, largely dependent upon a combination of enrollment or donor funding. University students from all majors are acutely aware of the mounting attention gained by the Ross School of Business, which has an extravagant new building with such amenities as a fitness center, Starbucks café, luxury hotel, a Winter Garden, and faculty offices with Herman Miller furniture and individually controlled thermostats. Questioning the idea of elitism within a public university where all students should have the same resources and none should feel intimidated to participate in certain spheres, Olivia Moore created *Branding Tags*. The tags allow students to re-allocate facilities; without being an affluent donor, students may place a tag on any piece of property to claim the resource.







KATIE MONGOVEN

I now realize that the world is full of spaces to display my art.

The bistro boxes at Starbucks remind me of Japanese bento boxes with food that has been cut into bite-sized pieces, making eating effortless. Each food item has its own compartment, like a house, giving sushi or an edamame hummus wrap human and toy-like qualities. In my previous work I have been interested in working with tactile fibers and materials with unique physical characteristics. With Meret Oppenheim's *Breakfast in Furs* in mind, I imagine the feeling of thread on my tongue or gnawing on a felt square with my teeth. The idea of eating something that cannot be digested is unnatural and somewhat disgusting. On the other hand, with this work, I'm mimicking food using heavily processed materials that were once plants and animals that could have been consumed.









JILLIAN EISENBERG

Consumer space is intentional. Nothing is by accident.

Ragstock is a Midwest chain store selling used and new clothing and known, on college campuses, as a go-to place for everything from wacky costumes, jean jumpsuits, Hawaiian shirts, or even lingerie. Ragstock has a particularly large assortment of tights and thigh highs, modeled by women in sexualized poses. Questioning gender roles and sexualized apparel, Jillian Eisenberg recast the female model of Rainbow Thorn Net Thigh Highs.



Leg Avenue;

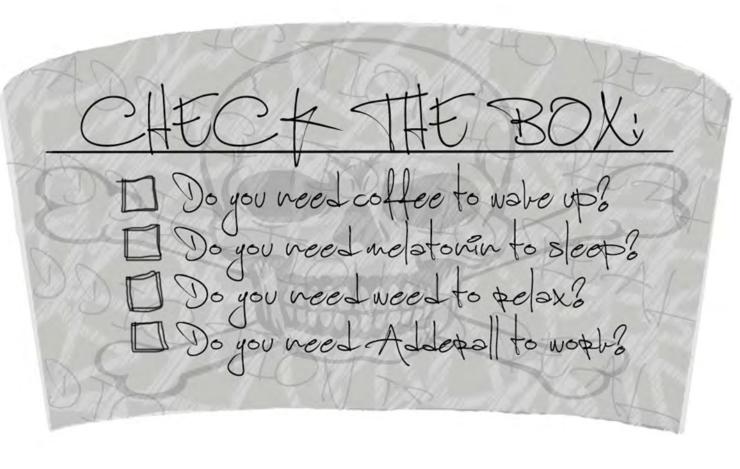
Rainbow Thorn Net Thigh Highs

Bas Résille Arc-en-ciel Epines





Are you a college student? Do you need coffee to wake up? Do you need melatonin to sleep? Do you need weed to relax? Do you need Adderall to work? Jillian Eisenberg's *Addiction Coffee Sleeve* queries college students' dependence on multiple stimulants and depressants in order to accomplish day-to-day tasks.

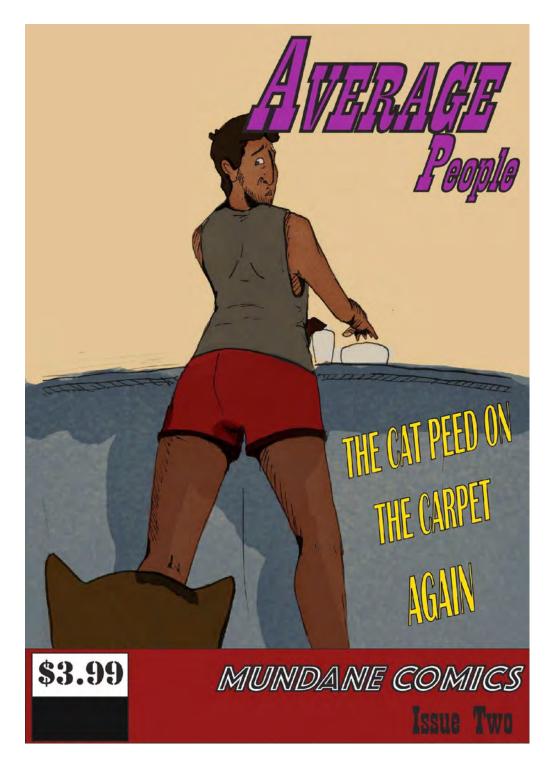


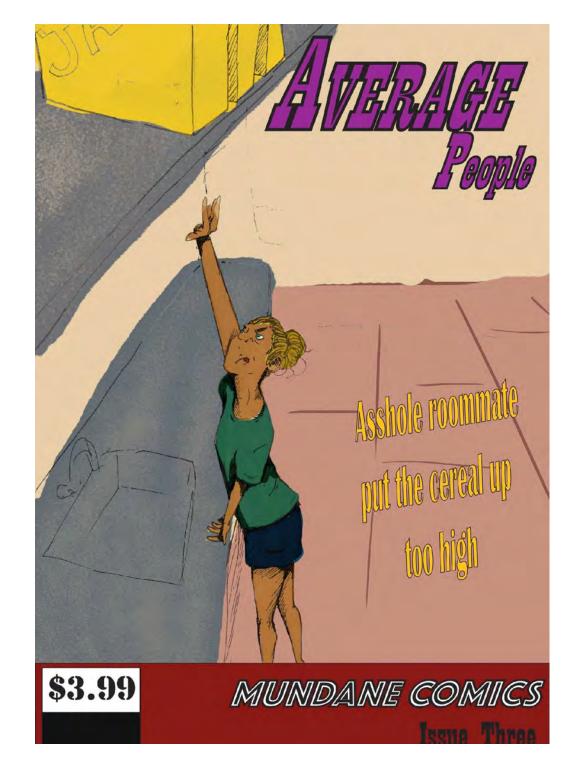


EMILY WATERS

The comic shop Vault of
Midnight is my world: comics,
games and "geeky" things. To
make critical artwork for my
"own world" was very significant
to me and I hadn't thought to
produce work for this
environment.

Comics provide escapist fantasy for readers. Emily Waters' *Mundane Comics* subvert these expectations and jolt readers back into their real lives with plotlines based on the most ordinary of the average of events.











These cups feature Intense feelings of Guilt, Increased Lethargy and Apathy, Sudden intense emotions followed by numbness, and Lack of motivation and interest. These four symptoms are common signs of depression, often overlooked by friends and family, and contribute to the stigmatization of depression and mental illness as a whole. I chose to drop the cups in Starbucks because it's a hub of activity and a meeting place for students, and because the warm lighting and comfortable furnishings of the coffee shop invite customers to feel safe. Drawing inspiration from my love of comics, I turned cups into mini graphic novels in the hope that they would help those who experience depression feel not so alone.



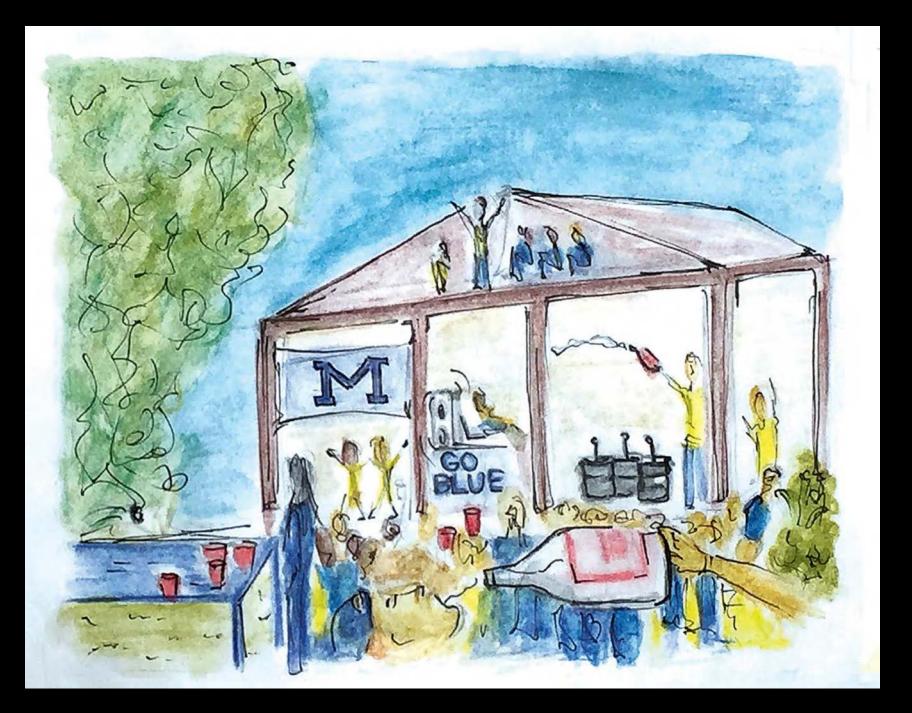


EVA COHEN

Shopdropping has changed how I think about the consequences of art, audience, and interaction.

As the "official retailer of the University of Michigan Athletics," the MDen's postcard rack provides a face for the "leaders and best" while "honoring the tradition of excellence." The MDen also shields prospective students and nostalgic alums from unsavory aspects of University life. Eva Cohen's cards present a fuller picture.







DINA VELORIC

I was able to watch consumers grab my product and see their reactions to something I made.

Dina Veloric transformed Coke bottles into interactive sculptures. Using gummy bears as embellishment, labelling, and tangible icons of sugar, she dropped in a perpetually low-stocked local pharmacy to add color and play to the store.



ALBIANN TULLY

While we intervene in the retail experience to impact others, the experience also changes us. Working in the toy store sparked my sense of whimsy, curiosity and play.

Robot kits found at Robot Supply & Repair in Ann Arbor use objects easily found in one's home. Albiann Tully's *Hand Robot* imitates these kits and allows the consumer to turn their hand into a robot. Using tape, spare metal parts and wires, the product probes the plausibility and usefulness of live human robotic hands.



HAND ROBOT

A ROBOT THAT SCUTTLES ALONG BY CONTROLING THE MUSCLES OF YOUR HAND. IT IS POWERED BY SUPERFOODS AND WILL GRAB YOU BY SURPRISE!

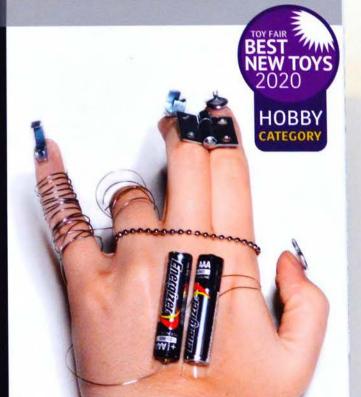
- ROBOT MAIN
 HANDROBOTER
- HANDENROBOT
 MANO ROBOT
 ROBOT MANO

FOR AGES OVER 8



CHOKING HAZARD - Small parts. Not for Children under 3 years.







Life in Space imitates a memory game called Life on Earth but elaborates on the theme by depicting whacky furniture and other articles imaginable in civilizations throughout space. Inspired by Dr. Seuss, mid-19th century furniture, and futuristic furniture, Albiann Tully hand-drew a playscape for children of biomorphic fluffy lamps, poofy bike wheels, gumdrop domes, mars rover couches, among other fantastical, utilitarian contraptions. The resulting memory game allows users to remember imagery that only partially relies on known objects.

drop location: Mud Puddles, Ann Arbor















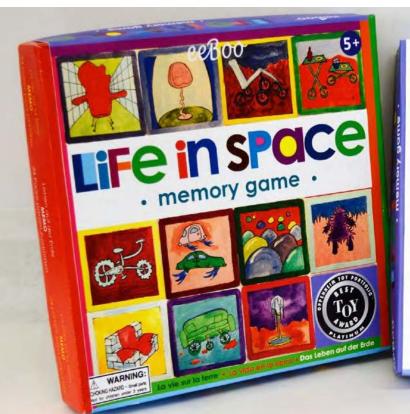






































DANA DEMSKY

Shopdropping helped me take risks in my creative practice that I wouldn't have done in any other studio. I've learned to think creatively in the form of installations, performance art, and textiles.

Emoji Envelopes introduce the United States Postal Service to contemporary technology. Users can write a small "text message" on the front of the envelope and send emoji cutouts to friends and family anywhere. Using collaged mailing envelopes, Dana Demsky reworded the envelopes to fit users' emoji needs.

PRIORITY * TEXT *



E MOJI ENVELOPE

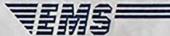




EP14 July 2013 OD: 11.625 x 15.125







EXTREMELY URGENT

Please Rush To Phone

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For om G and ha ha LoL Use

Visit us at usot.com

YOUR TEXT "CRE

lucrnoeq





MARIAH GARDZIOLA

The opportunity to discuss my thoughts about the University, politics, or normative prescriptions has been very rewarding.

The 2016 presidential election began to pick up in intensity as Donald Trump entered the race as a Republican and Bernie Sanders changed his Independent status and claimed Democratic affiliation. Many U.S. postal stamps exist in the 'forever' form, never losing value. Mariah Gardziola's 2016 Candidate Selection poster juxtaposes this ceaseless value with the fleeting attention that the public, en masse, turns toward politics and debate.

2016 CANDIDATE SELECTION

A COLLECTION OF THE STATES' BEST AS THEY SCRAMBLE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC BY DEMONSTRATING QUESTIONABLE LEVELS OF INTELLECT*



HILLARY CLINTON
FLIP-FLOPPING ON
SOCIAL POLICY
SINCE '79



DONALD TRUMP All of the 1%



BERNIE SANDERS Democratically Socialist



JEB BUSH Were two not enough?



JIM WEBB A Democrat with an 'A' in NRA

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

REPUBLICAN PARTY













MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT BY CHOOSING ONE OF THE STAMP SETS**!

*THESE STAMPS VALID UNTIL THE PUBLIC FORGETS ABOUT POLITICS AGAIN
**DUE TO THE POLARIZATION OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM, YOUR VOTE ONLY
REALLY MATTERS IF YOU CHOOSE ONE OF THESE PARTIES. HAPPY POLARIZED HUNTING!







While most spirit wear exists as a display of pride or identity affirmation with the University, the *Michigan Elitists*, *Michigan Indifference*, and *Leaders & Blessed* shirts shift the positive view typically associated with boosterism to one of critique. The series considers the economic and social realities of a public University that is becoming increasingly expensive.







Voyeurism takes on a new face as the publishing world releases the private pages of diaries into the public domain. Posthumously released journals, such as Kurt Cobain's, often publish curated versions of an individual's inner thoughts, not necessarily meant for public consumption. The book that Mariah Gardziola dropped in Urban Outfitters is a curation of pages from her own journals. She wrote these private thoughts without intention to disclose. Though Gardziola handcrafted the final book product, the work exists in her instigation of the process of curation, whereby she invited a stranger and a close friend (whose relationship is detailed in the journals) to select which pages to publish.



WHEN YOU MAKE IT OUT OF MATBHETICKS, YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT TO END IN FLAMES



She told me don't womy about it. She told me don't worry, no more.

I'M LAVING DOWN BUT I FEEL LIKE I AM FALLING SEND HELP. some Live bitter rich billy rolling and the

I used to among know whose voice would take me down. I wallant even need to tell them. I could just call and my nothing for a hour and feel New 11's not the feeling of falling that scarce me of much of the not knowing whose voice I want to hear.

This is both very scany & very exciting. 72.2.7. 7. 2. 7. 1 deline

Because everytime 1 coton myself, I get a Little Jost Gronger. Because everytime I catch myself. I can breathe myself out of H. I can be myself until I'm out of the what a beautiful time it is to be failing when

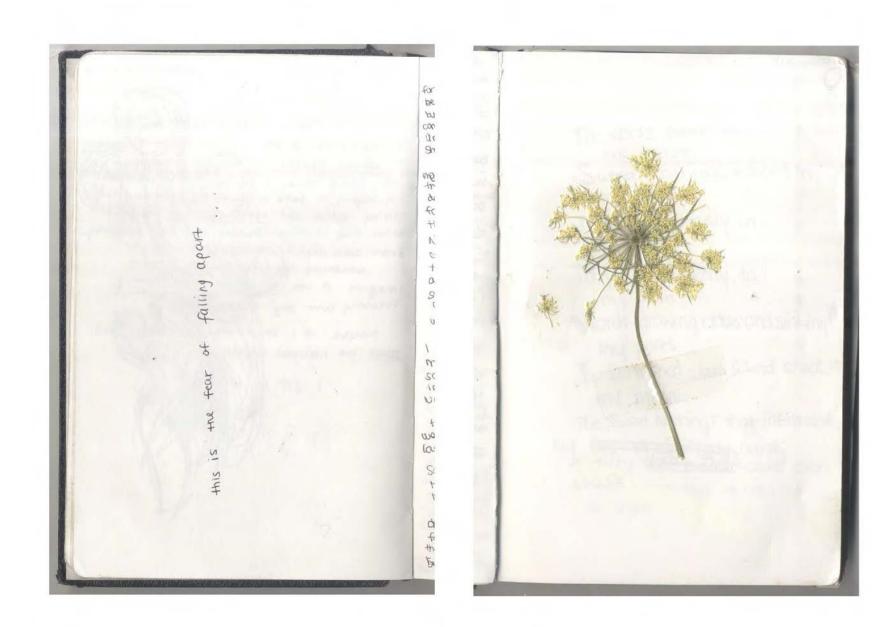


WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS? superious man

21 July 2015

Taday fell asleep at 2 am and barry slept. Vini texted me asking now much to charge from for Adderal & when I got a that +rm Anaj telligo the to tell line a son poince I just a rapprobate. We neutoned Amy with Nayla.

I I called I'm the way and is a rever ord he was beating her. We go to his friends at fold cooldand. He sould be tell atterp at wronk. I'll he saw he fell atterp at this place. A guy from pcg works there & he'll so there it med school doesn't work out. All the lies. when he walked out he was a dear in





(0)

THE YEAR OF GOOGLE NUMBERS

First meeting him I ramember knowing that he wasn't somether to be around, white polo surrounded by structurear knock off Givenary. Their altitudes toward one where knowing of a warning. There is no war and a coment operations, they were their truck souls.

Intel al impression are important, but they it would seem I

found this ene irrelevant. Commend I must have land to collect move information. This was the downfall

information.

It started out of their perverse desire to sell prescription chags. It search like he was an a cecktail of all types of drugs, but he had sylvante to space. They were so welrolly giddly about it all. It has no your he told the search about the bad his brain worked, everything he told the search and whill the year of google members bogen them. It continued without one until the year of google members

A luvury come to our end.

our Eviendship and stow to growing but when it did it chapt through the lived pathod becombed. The lived chapty when I had to pull them the lived pathod becombed. To grew with him the presented it is not, the grew together. At 180 H, I grew with him the presented it is use both sid. Crewing better and bother at looking a good friend in 10 we hoth sid. Crewing better and bother at looking a good friend in 10 we hoth sid. Crewing better and bother to seeing a good friend in 10 we have golding to have yelling. In spoon brands of ht. I spent that time yelling close to have. She is log able.

the should cousing prohums early. October my friends he I, between the and new people He is a hilly long. You can tall in the every that he holds once himself. In the every he foixes his have in every reflection surface. How he constalking every down his locks.



IKEA

As a group, the Shopdropping Studio engaged with one site collectively — IKEA in Canton, Michigan. IKEA offers fascinating cross-cultural perspectives, ideas about modern living, labor, and mass production, several types of shopping experiences that appeal to both emotional and logical consumers, and a huge range of commodities related to ideas about the "home." We study the history of IKEA's strategies, stores, products, amenities, and labor practices, and do a full site visit and analysis. Each student creates a work with IKEA in mind as the location and we shopdrop these images/objects during one 3-hour period.



Artist: Dana Demsky

The Curtain of Objects Past is built from recycled materials and old, forgotten articles — a curtain rod, antique painted cups and dishes, a handmade needlework, kitchen utensils, and scraps of fabrics and textiles. Standing in front of the main entrance to IKEA, Dana Demsky invited customers to walk through the curtain portal as a way of transitioning from their past possessions to their new IKEA acquisitions.



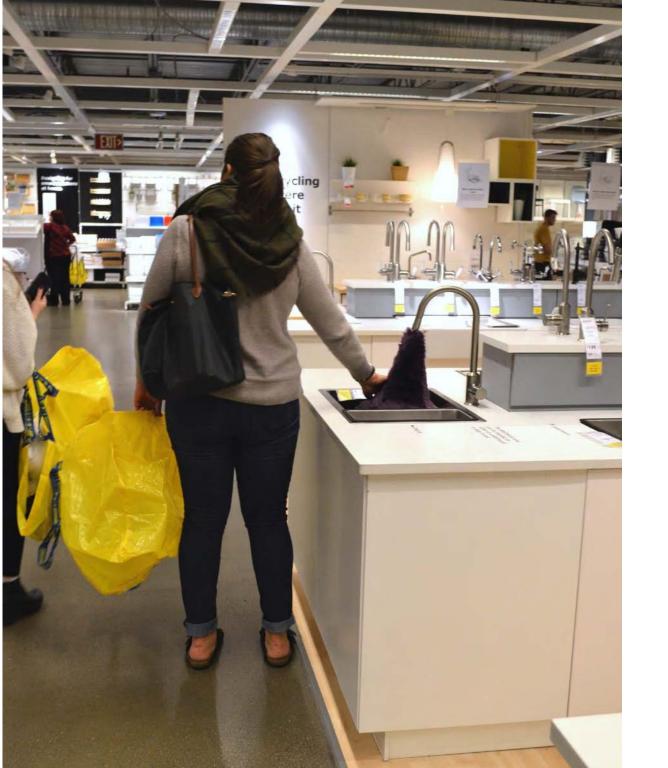
Artist: Albiann Tully

Drops of stuffed fuzzy fur and felt tumbled out of showroom sink faucets to add whimsy to IKEAs view of home life. Albiann Tully placed the furry forms to lighten shopper's moods and break their concentration from the practicalities of usefulness.











Artist: Emilie Farrugia

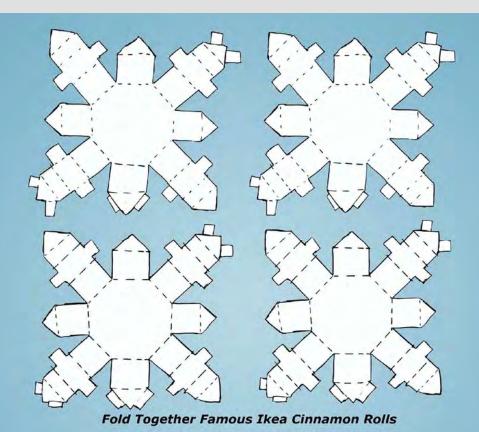
Yoko Ono's 1960s abstract and optimistically imaginative instructions on large white canvases inferred that anyone could participate in the creative process of art making. Emilie Farrugia applied this idea to small tags within the endless, teeming maze of products at IKEA in an effort to prompt non-materialistic thoughts.











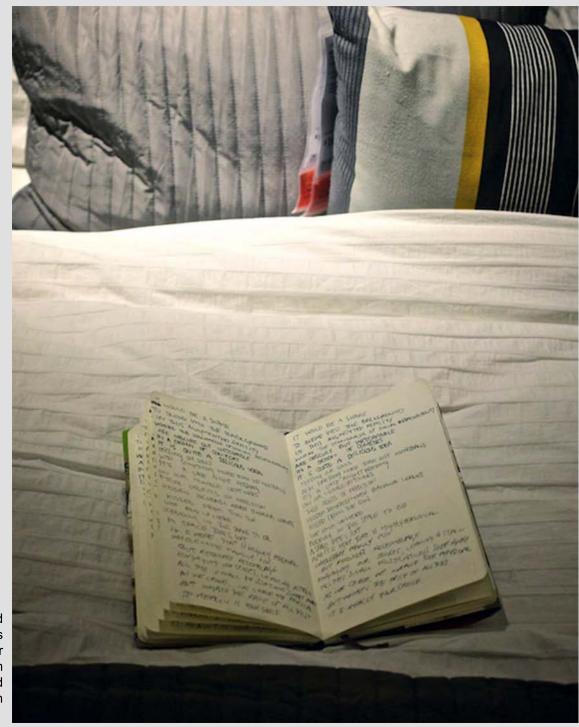




Artist: Emily Waters

The IKEA Foldable Cinnamon Roll utilizes the IKEA effect in allowing users to have a hand in building their own cinnamon rolls. Mimicking the style of IKEA instruction, consumers receive directions to assemble their own roll from a uniform pattern.





Artist: Jacqui Frey

Thumbing through the IKEA catalog and thinking about the large corporation, its cheap products, and our consumer culture, Jacqui Frey created a found poem that uses only IKEA quotes. She hand wrote the poem 400 times in a book as an insane ritual of mass production of poetry.



It would be a shame To blend into the background In this augmented reality Where the standards of social responsibility Are obscure but inescapable In a cocoon of comfort It is quite a delicious idea Feeding our souls With something more than just meatballs It's a late night feeding On our humble leftovers These objects of our affection Hidden beneath woven banana leaves Kissed from the sun We end up here Residing in the space to be, a space that's soft And it is here that is highly personal Wholesome family fun, but requires assemblage Engaging our senses, leaving a stain All these small frustrations, swept away As we crave We crave the physical But what's in the price of all this? It really is your choice.



Artist: Jillian Eisenberg

IKEA appeals to the sensorial component of consumer experience. When I walk into IKEA, the first thing I notice is the mouth-watering scent of cinnamon buns. As I take the escalator upstairs, the scent disappears, leaving a lonely smell of nothingness. Walking through the showroom kitchens, where I feel most at home, I imagine the kitchen utensils are my own, that I'm slicing cookie dough with their roller-cookie cutter. In my own home, I cooked four dishes that might embody ideas of "home" for the IKEA customer in Canton, Michigan: two street-style Indian dishes (Canton has a large South Asian population), Michigan Pasties, and Swedish Pancakes. In the kitchen/dining showrooms at IKEA, I opened the steaming bowls and transferred this food onto the IKEA table settings, allowing the aromatic scent of a home cooked meal to spread throughout the store. — Jillian Eisenberg





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Artist: Eva Cohen

While the IKEA catalog emphasizes the role of the designer in creating innovative design, the store emphasizes mass production. Eva Cohen created signatures for IKEA designers that interpret their design sensibilities as autographs. Placing each signature and an edition number on their creations in the stores called attention to the artists behind the pieces.









Magnus Eleläck 0000203/100000



Artist: Mariah Gardziola

Sexualization of the female body permeates our society. This shower curtain in IKEA plays with the idea of boundary through its transparency. The curtain communicates the confusions between nudity and sexuality. By marking the words "not a sexual object" on the body inside, Mariah Gardziola makes this window visible and asks the voyeur to question their associations with unclothed bodies.











Artist: Katie Mongoven

Inspired by the loud, yellow mass of IKEA bags in bins, Katie Mongoven knit an IKEA shopping bag of yarn. While making the bag, she thought about the repetition of her thousands of stitches with the mass production of furniture in IKEA, but, in the end, her mass of stitching produced a handmade, one-of-akind bag. The Knit IKEA Bag shares the same dimensions as the original but, as Mongoven walked through IKEA's marketplace filling her bag, the yarn flexes and stretches, accommodating more and more products and becoming an extension of her self. In the video documentation, she drags the sagging bag across the floor, limping from the weight. While other shoppers' wheeled carts abstract their mass of acquisitions, Mongoven's Knit Bag renders the full weight of her impending purchases.







