

Joseph Bolstad

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

In today's industrialized, technologically advanced society, we depend on a vast, infinitely complex set of consumer relations to insure our own survival. Most of us no longer grow our own food, and household items which were once handmade are manufactured in factories overseas. The natural world has been reproduced and re-presented to us in the form of idealized, marketable goods. Our way of life is convenient, but fraught with anxiety -- the anxiety of no longer clearly understanding the origin or workings of our surroundings, nor the consequences of their production. It is this sense of unease which I have set out to explore in my work.

I begin by scanning the minutiae of consumer society. The tremendous amount of consumer-ready products, seemingly endless in variety, serve as material to be adjusted, expanded, copied, and combined. The original purposes of the objects I choose to manipulate are subverted for the sake of new, hermetic systems. Everyday items like wastebaskets or children's toys become tools of philosophical exploration. Through careful manipulation, I seek to create situations that speak to the futility of establishing order and truth within the spectacular chaos of contemporary existence.