

Mint Condition

Senior Project Submitted to
The Division of the Arts of Bard College

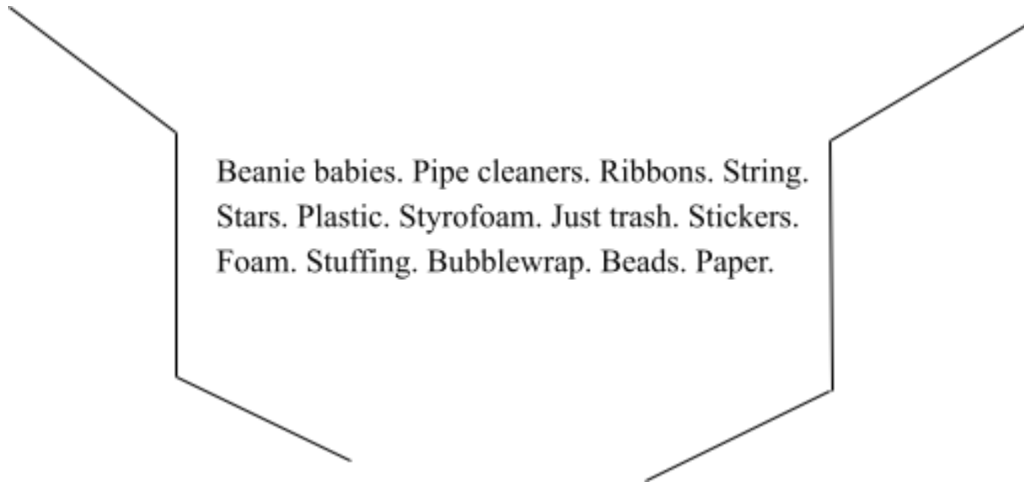
by
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Artist Statement

What is collected? What is discarded?



When something is described as “mint condition,” it means it has virtually no imperfections.

This term is given to pre-owned objects, denoting their value.

Collected and discarded materials absorb something from us, something distinctly human. I think about all of the stuffed animals I’ve owned, how I embedded personality in and formed a relation to those objects. The *stuff* we collect becomes elevated and reinscribed in that way. This is true for the materials we discard as well. Each plastic takeout container holds nourishment, however temporary it may be.

The materials in my work are a combination of secondhand beanie babies, discarded bits and pieces of plastic, paper and styrofoam, as well as objects that invite a childlike spirit of arts and crafts such as beads, pipe cleaners, cotton balls and string. This element speaks to my personal embeddedness in the work. To this degree the work is an opportunity to gain insight into my own collection habits that fill corners in both my home and memory. Allowing the objects one more incarnation.

This project was born out of a drive to take childhood objects and bring them to a larger scale- to give them more importance and value, as well as an aim to depict the process of growing up, a process which may be deemed as a loss of innocence or value.

The works in *Mint Condition* are anything but pristine. They are messy, at times grotesque with an element of sickly sweetness. The beanie babies themselves, which are often kept in mint condition by collectors, have been doused in glue, tied up and reconfigured forcing their significance to come from elsewhere.

Invitation



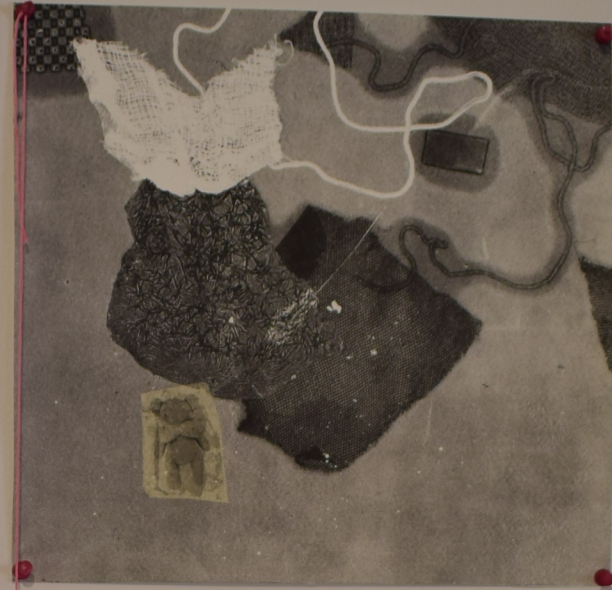
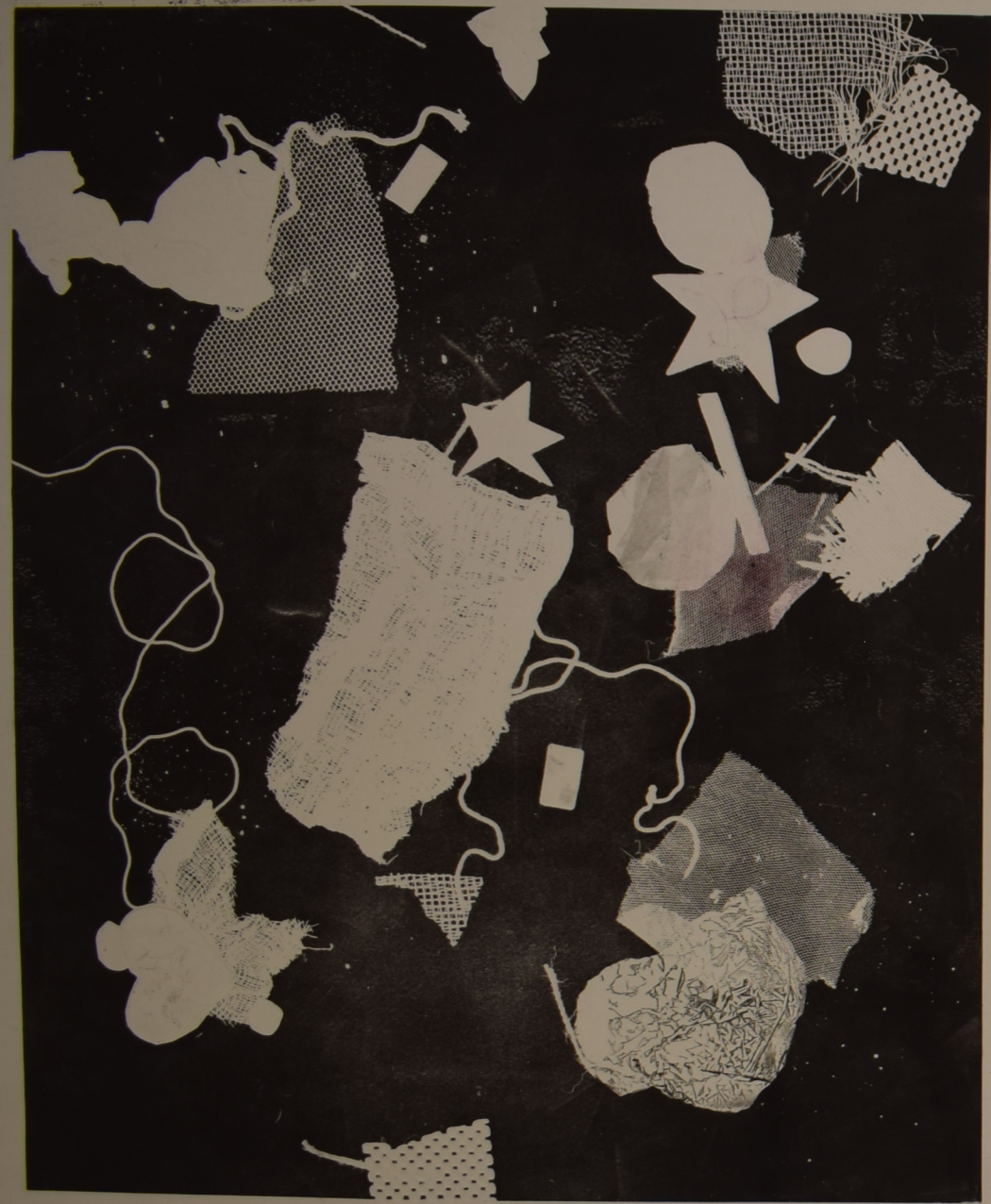
Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my advisor Lisa Sanditz for her nurturing guidance and for always pushing me to be bolder and less delicate, for her consistent care towards myself and my work.

Thank you to my friends: my hype men, my support system, my collaborators, my community, my family. I love you all so dearly.

Thank you to my parents and my brothers, for cheering me on from across the country. I love you.

Thank you to all those I cannot be physically near, I cherish you all.





EXIT

mint condition







