

ARTIST STATEMENT #490:

*Health & Hypochondria*

Foreign pathogens can take many forms, and display diverse degrees of severity and malignancy. They can even come in the guise of friendship, and therefore it is a good idea to learn discernment in the art of health, and to avoid the trap of hypochondria that can cause health to seem as sickness, and sickness as virtue. Making drawings, in colored pencil and ink, on solicitations received in the mail, I am attempting to explore this dynamic. “Junk mail” is itself a kind of virus, an outside invader into the home through the back door of the mail slot, offering its incessant hypochondria of the satiation of false desires and imaginary problems that required no solution before the suggestion of disease was planted in an immunocompromised mind. My solution to the faux dilemmas peddled by these solicitations is to juxtapose their hypochondriac offers (often in black and red printer's ink) with drawings of simple pleasures found in my home: my cat sleeping in a cardboard box, old comic books, decorative objects of sentimental worth, & c. & c. This gesture is meant as a kind of holistic exorcism or detoxification, a gentle reminder to myself and to the outside hypochondriac world that the truest solutions are oftentimes the simplest and those readily at hand. I plan to make nineteen of these drawings.

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