

David Curcio

The framed work came on the heels of some deeply personal pieces (and in many ways, is still deeply personal) about grief, guilt, and compassion - for myself and others. The cryptic imagery was initially created as a base design around which to work. In a sense, one could say that I started out by taking a decorative approach organized by imagery sometimes random, sometimes pointed. (e.g. while the portraits in "Your Rash Move..." served as compositional building blocks, the use of animals in both pieces always symbolize compassion and innocence, even when such emotions seem out of place amid darker imagery or ominous text. As to the text: in most cases, it would be impossible for me to recall where it comes from.

Overheard conversations or song lyrics, phrases read in books... whatever strikes me as able to be interpreted with *some* meaning that the viewer brings to the work for themselves - I have no agenda. It's all just grist for the mill, but I know when a phrase sticks, and even when I can't remember its origins, it takes on new meaning within the work. (Having said that, I do know that "Your rash move may cost you your life" came from a comic book panel I had taped to my studio wall where, taken out of context, it took on a vague, threatening ring.)

The unframed work was done in isolation during the pandemic. Scraps of writings, journal entries, lists, and calculations were incorporated into large color drawings I was making where I used words to create tone and texture. Indeed, the words themselves are now meaningless as they've become totally obfuscated by writing and rewriting over them. I'd be curious to read them now, but that ship has sailed. The stream-of-conscious scribblings are now illegible, reduced to design. Nevertheless, I know that *something's* in there, and whatever it is, it meant something to me at the time. For this reason, the work remains emotionally relevant. I actually have very little recollection of making them (again, this was in the depth of lockdown), though I do know I was trying to create my own vision of space and the planets - particularly the view of space as seen *from* the planets. It's all fantasy - I have no knowledge of astronomy on any level, but it was a period where any place, even the moon or Mars, seemed a lot more peaceful, rational, and inviting than life down here on the ground.