

It Narratives: The Movement of Objects as Information takes its title from a prose genre popular in the late 18th century: the “it-narrative.” These were accounts of objects that circulated over great distances in the structures of early global markets. Written in the first-person from the perspective of the objects, these narratives reflected the public’s fascination with the journeys of everyday items. *It Narratives* the exhibition updates this concept for the 21st century by presenting artists’ projects that track the movement of objects online and by mail, taking measure of the physical and emotional experiences of time and distance inherent to these networks.

Mail art emerged in the late 1960s as a collective, networked medium. It allowed artists to circulate and exchange works and ideas in a sphere uncontrolled by institutions, markets, or state censorship. Today, mail is used less commonly as an artistic medium, in step with broader trends: news and greetings from friends and family have migrated from the postal system to the faster networks of email and social media. “Snail mail” has not become obsolete, but it is increasingly linked to online commerce. Print-on-demand services allow users to design and order their own T-shirts, books, or mugs with a few clicks of a mouse, connecting Internet browsing to receiving objects by mail and handling them in everyday life. Thinking about the connections between the historical mail art movement and contemporary Internet art, *It Narratives* considers how network technology and digital forms of commerce have changed the way artists engage the postal system to make their work.

Upstairs Gallery

Counterclockwise from gallery door

1. Lukas Geronimas

The Custom Postbox, 2014

Wood, plastic, LED strip light, glue, fasteners, power supply

Courtesy of the artist

2.

David Horvitz's Mail Art Call @ Franklin Street Works

September – November, 2014

Open call for mail art

Courtesy of the mail artists

3.

Frank Heath

Bcc: Fort Lafayette Island / David's Island (Bed), 2013

Powder coated steel (downstairs gallery), photograph, postage

Courtesy of Simone Subal Gallery

Bcc: Hoffman Island / Swinburne Island (Blanket), 2013

Blanket, cast plastic (downstairs gallery), photograph, postage

Courtesy of Simone Subal Gallery

Bcc: Hart Island / Rat Island (Coffin), 2013

Pine (downstairs gallery) photograph, postage

Courtesy of the artist

4.

Roberto Winter

Revolution Institution, 2014

Video, sculpture and Anonymous masks

Courtesy of the artist

5.

Nadine Goepfert for The Perfect Nothing Catalog X Print All Over Me

Image Results: Sponges, SS14

Rayon

Courtesy of Print All Over Me

Carson Fisk-Vittori for The Perfect Nothing Catalog X Print All Over Me

Image Results: Freestyle Arrangement, SS14

Rayon

Courtesy of Print All Over Me

6.

Anonymous Press Library

Keywords: Mail Art, Internet, Digital, Object, Postal, Material, Information, It Narratives, Movement, Circulation

7.

Paul Soulellis

Selections from *Library of the Printed Web*, 2013 – ongoing Print-on-demand books

Printed Web #1, Paul Soulellis, 2014

On November 4th, 2008, I transcribed the following Facebook status updates within the first two hours of Senator Barack Obama's predicted victory as the next President of the United States of America, Erik Benjamins, 2008

On November 6th, 2012, I transcribed the following Facebook status updates within the first four hours of Barack Obama's predicted victory as the re-elected President of the United States of America, Erik Benjamins, 2012

American Psycho, Jason Huff and Mimi Cabell, 2010

Spam Bibliography, Angela Genusa, 2013
Dutch Landscapes, Mishka Henner, 2011
Photography Is, Mishka Henner, 2012
Selections from Anonymous Press, Karolis Kosas, 2013
Blank on Demand, Silvio Lorusso and Guilia Ciliberto, 2012
X Marks the Spot, Joachim Schmid, 2013
Other People's Photographs Vol 1, Joachim Schmid, 2013
Other People's Photographs Vol 2, Joachim Schmid, 2011
Porn, Andreas Schmidt, 2011
Courtesy of the artist and authors

Café

8.

Tim Devin

Food for Julian, 2014

Informational posters, cookbooks, stationary, stamped envelopes

Courtesy of the artist

Stairwell

9.

Greg Allen

Destroyed Richter Painting #002, 2012

Oil on canvas

Courtesy of Postmasters Gallery, New York

Destroyed Richter Painting #004, 2012

Oil on canvas

Courtesy of Postmasters Gallery, New York

Shanzhai Gursky #003, 2014

Digital print and frame

Courtesy of the artist

Downstairs Gallery

10.

Alan McConchie and Kristina Lee Podesva

09 F9 Archive, 2007

Digital and analogue archive

Courtesy of the artists

11.

3D print of digital model of *Lady* (artist unknown),
unknown period

from Lincoln 3D Scans, The Collection, Lincoln and Oliver
Laric

Printed 2014 by MakerBot

<http://lincoln3dscans.co.uk/lady/>

3D print of digital model of *Untitled* (artist unknown), 19th
Century

from Lincoln 3D Scans, The Collection, Lincoln and Oliver
Laric

Printed 2014 by MakerBot

<http://lincoln3dscans.co.uk/007a/>

3D print of digital model of *Untitled* (artist n/a, Anglo-
Saxon skeleton), Anglo-Saxon period from Lincoln 3D
Scans, The Collection, Lincoln and Oliver Laric

Printed 2014 by MakerBot

<http://lincoln3dscans.co.uk/bone/>

12.

Alexandra Lerman

Groundstroke, 2013

Ceramics

Courtesy of the artist

Alexandra Lerman
Release, 2013
Unfired clay
Courtesy of the artist

13.
Jean Keller
Black Book, 2013
Custom-ordered book
Printed by lulu.com

14.
Kristin Lucas
Video Check Out, 2010
Concrete casts of VHS tapes
Courtesy of the artist

15.
Cat Mazza
Stitch for Senate, 2007 – 2009
Helmet on model head, flag pocket, letter
Courtesy of the artist

16.
Yevgeniy Fiks
from *Lenin for Your Library?*, 2005 – 2006
1 book (V.I. Lenin “Imperialism: the Highest Stage of
Capitalism”), letter
Courtesy of the artist and Winkleman Gallery, NY

17.

Emily Spivack

Sentimental Value, 2007 – present

Collection of objects and stories: hot pink Versace jeans, bronze gown, Chanel shoe, Harajuku shoes

Courtesy of the artist

18.

Forms of Melancholy

From *Forms of Melancholy*, 2009

Custom teddy bear, 2 printed mugs, keepsake box

Courtesy of the artist

19.

The Thread

Thread Things (Once Removed), 2014

Customized paperweight and condoms, marble slab

Courtesy of the artist

20.

Ehren Tool

Letter to the United Nations Security Council and the Ambassador from Iraq, 2003

Letter, photo, cardboard box with cup, US Postal forms

Courtesy of the artist

21.

Lance Wakeling

A Tour of the AC-1 Transatlantic Submarine Cable, 2011

Video

Courtesy of the artist

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