

UTOPIA/DYSTOPIA

Jessica Drenk
Titusville, FL



“Selections from an ongoing collection of altered books, each piece inspired by nature and the ever-changing natural world.”

Reading Our Remains

Altered books created with wax, plaster, and string.
approximately 8” h x 48” w x 10” deep (group)

Statement

Reading Our Remains is an ongoing collection of hundreds of altered books, each piece inspired by nature and the ever-changing natural world. The collection began as an exploration in obscuring text: creating pieces in which visual form became the subject to be read. This process eventually evolved into a meditation upon the relationship between past and future, mind and body, the natural world and the man-made. Inspired by fossils, geological specimens, and organisms of all kinds, these books have been re-formed into objects that seem better suited to a natural history museum than a library. Viewing them has also become a new experience: we are reading and studying ourselves, the specimens we are, and the specimens we might leave behind.

Biography

Jessica Drenk is an American artist raised in Montana, where she developed an appreciation for the natural world that remains an important inspiration to her artwork today. Tactile and textural, her sculptures highlight the chaos and beauty that can be found in simple materials. Drenk’s work is also influenced by systems of information and the impulse to develop an encyclopedic understanding of the world.

Drenk’s work can be found in private collections throughout the world, and can be seen in galleries across the United States. Her work is a part of several corporate collections, such as that of Fidelity Investments and The Macallan distillery in Scotland, as well as university collections, including that of the Yale University Art Gallery. Drenk has been the recipient of several awards, including International Sculpture Center’s Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award, and her work has been pictured in Sculpture and Interior Design magazines, as well as The Workshop Guide to Ceramics.

Drenk received an MFA in 3D Art from the University of Arizona in 2007 and a bachelor’s degree from Pomona College in 2002. A working artist since 2007, Drenk’s home and studio are currently in Florida.

www.JessicaDrenk.com