

THE GAME OF LIFE

Ian Welch

Toolbox

Found objects with paper castings, intaglio and drypoint prints



Statement

Toolbox stems from a larger body of autobiographical work investigating my experiences as an only child, along with the expectations, obligations and acceptance of assuming a role of a caretaker status that being an only child often entails. The piece itself is a collection of found objects, paper castings of old family tools and domestic items, and elements of various drypoint etchings and a multiple plate intaglio etching. These various objects speak to the issues of obligation and how memory often distorts and decays actual experiences. The tool embossments (consisting of cotton rag and pulp culled from shredded family documents) are visual representations of the voided elements of past experiences, and also comment on the fragile nature of memory. Objects that are often sturdy, reliable and useful are made ephemeral, weak, and non-functional, which speaks to my own experiences concerning moving away from home. The piece hopes to recontextualize the expectations of what a book form can be a self-contained collection of personal information that slowly reveals a larger narrative.

Biography

Ian is an artist living and working in his hometown of Toledo OH. Welch received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Northern Illinois University in 2016 with a focus in printmaking, a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Bowling Green State University in 2011, and his Associate of Arts degree from Owens Community College in 2008. Welch has had work featured in multiple exhibitions throughout the US including in Philadelphia, Chicago, New York City, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Atlanta, Portland and Seattle, as well as numerous exhibitions throughout Northwest Ohio. Welch has had two solo exhibitions in Toledo OH, *And Nothing Turned In On Itself* in 2012 at Launch Pad Cooperative and *Intangible* at LeSo Gallery. Welch's most recent solo exhibition, *As Greater Things Crumble*, in 2016, was in conjunction with the completion of his MFA thesis work and exhibited at the 214 Gallery in DeKalb, IL. Welch is also a previous core founding member of Launch Pad Cooperative and is currently represented by LeSo Gallery.

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