

Josh Meillier | Artist Statment

My generation is the last to remember a time before the internet. The internet is understood as a progressive resource for information and education; it has created the 'Information Age'. We often forget that it is also a space of intentional misinformation. To this end the internet has a complicated and fraught relationship with art making and viewing. I am fascinated by representations of a lack of information or data, or redactions on documents, lost and missing signals. What does it mean when the tools that are meant make us aware, conscious, educated, and informed are ~~intentionally~~ broken?

In my paintings and sculptures there is a sort of sleight of hand, that is meant to trick the browsing viewer into inspecting. Tape may or may not be real functional tape. Surfaces contrast between shiny and matte to play with a camera as it documents. Images of plants, tv static, and tools are stacked and layered using transfers, collage and paint. Found and ready-made objects are sometimes cast or fabricated. I use these techniques to call attention to something being fake, or real. Without making a claim at either.