

Statement

Melinda Tidwell

“My work begins with the formal aspects of design and a fascination with the balance of visual elements in composition. Using simple geometric shapes and rectilinear alignments, I focus on the coherence and juxtaposition of color, pattern, placement and size.

My background in mathematics, computer graphics, and design informs my predilection for the geometric. This rational foundation serves as the basis for my departure into what is not rational: the way colors activate each other, how size and position muddle or enhance visual unity, the simple grace of worn and tattered surfaces. The picture plane becomes a dialogue of vibrant, abstract voices unified by a logic one can feel but not fully understand. This, to me, is wonderfully mysterious and enlivening.

Using discarded books as my primary material adds both serious materiality and levity to my work. I love the aging of my materials, how glue and tape create texture, covers fade and fray, and the paperbacks grow deep wrinkles at their corners. I like working with pieces of words, diagrams, the odd string of numbers. Cut away from their original context, they operate as texture and shape and also as a kind of code, or pieces of memory. The abstraction of this information into bits of non-sense, hopes to tease the mind into the wilder lands of free association and one’s own imagination. The peculiar sensation of a world slightly askew gives me no end of delight.”

- Melinda Tidwell