

Over the past 25 years John Boone has worked exclusively with words and idioms in a font of his own design. His letters resemble what one might see on a vintage computer terminal, but in fact it is an alphabet completely devised by the artist.

Boone calls his work a “handshake between the human and the hi-tech.” His invented font evokes an anonymous digital technology meant to be empirical and precise, yet the idioms on his hand-painted canvases, while widely used, are vague and ambiguous. He is fascinated by American colloquialisms such as “with flying colors” or “dressed to the nines” because they have no author, and exist as a kind of musical language, floating in the back of the mind, and woven unconsciously into human communication.

This exhibition features pairs of paintings that address the same subjects, but with different but related points of view. For example, “drawing conclusions” and “drawing a blank” reflect two sides of how the mind works. It also includes a series of paintings of the word “OH” in a range of colors, two sets of paintings using the word “Hand,” and an LED monitor with eight minutes of scrolling idioms, cliches and colloquialisms.

A limited edition temporary tattoo of Boone’s “OH” is available for purchase in the Museum store. Visitors should also note Boone’s colorful banners that grace the entryway to the Museum.

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