An iconic view of text

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AN ICONIC VIEW OF TEXT

by

Isaac Elijah Sullivan

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Fine Arts degree in Art in the Graduate College of The University of Iowa

July 2011

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CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

MASTER'S THESIS

This is to certify that the Master's thesis of

Isaac Elijah Sullivan

has been approved by the Examining Committee for the thesis requirement for the Master of Fine Arts degree in Art at the July 2011 graduation.

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This spring I will attempt to drive 14,211 miles between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, delivering things for people while drawing cursive letters with the help of a global navigation satellite system.

I begin with the desire to recognize the earth as a repository of information, and to circumscribe what I can’t say or know. To that end, here are some notes toward a capacious or ecstatic vision of drawing as driving:

1) the slightest mark implies a perspective; 2) each time I make a mark I am placed; 3) the aggregate of marks within a frame makes a kind of mask, a conglomerate that does and doesn’t seem to move, a mapping of times that imply one placement; 4) the I that makes the mark and the I that then sees it are drawn together on the screen/road; 5) to posit a global navigation satellite system as a tool for drawing is to frame reflexivity as the first surveillance.

San Francisco, February 2011
Figure 1. One Virtual Drawing to be Traced by Car and Replaced Subsequently by Another.
Figure 3. Day 1.
Figure 4. Days 1 and 2.
Figure 5. Days 2 and 3.
Figure 7. Day 4.
Figure 8. Day 4.
Figure 9. Day 5.
Figure 10. Day 6.
Figure 11. Day 10.
Figure 12. Day 11.
Figure 13. Day 13.
Figure 14. Day 15.
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Figure 16. Days 27 and 28.
Figure 17. Days 30 and 31.
Figure 18. Day 36.
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Figure 21. Untitled.