

MELINDA SCHAWEL

FULL CIRCLE

20 October - 7 November 2009

When I was 8, my parents divorced, and my life was turned upside down. My Dad moved to California with my older sister, my Mom shackled up with a cowboy, and I went to church. I was convinced that although my Mother was now beyond redemption, my younger brother and I would not follow suit. This continued for quite a few years but by the ripe old age of 12, the delicate seams of the evangelical movement that consumed every small, southern town that we lived in began to unravel. You could say that I saw the light.

So when I landed back in Georgia in May of 2008 after spending much of my adult life overseas, I was quickly confronted by the reality that organized religion still played a significant role in the lives of many here. On the romantic, tree-lined streets of Savannah, there is literally a church on every corner, with signs outside beaming divine messages, beckoning the parishioners and the believers and the rest of us to put our faith in God and He will take care of the rest.

Driving up and down the streets, I often get an eerie feeling of having come full circle, only this time I am an outsider observing a place both familiar and foreign, with children of my own. The surreal experience of returning home inspired my next body of work - to create simple slogans, tips for the day, or life lessons for both my daughter and son, stripped of morality and fear and any mention of salvation, deliverance or redemption. They are messages set on a backdrop of old collaged postcards and tinged with references to my past, American popular/consumer culture and the not so serious side of life.

Melinda Schawel



Make 'em Be Lawyers & Doctors & Such
 collage, ink, wax on wood
 40 x 40 cm



Stuff & Nonsense
 collage, ink, wax on wood
 40 x 40 cm



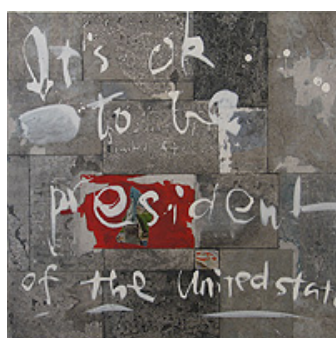
Profile view



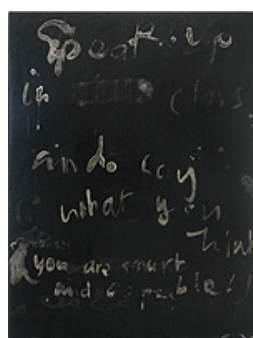
Don't Cry Wolf
 2009 (diptych)
 collage, ink, wax on wood
 40 x 60 cm



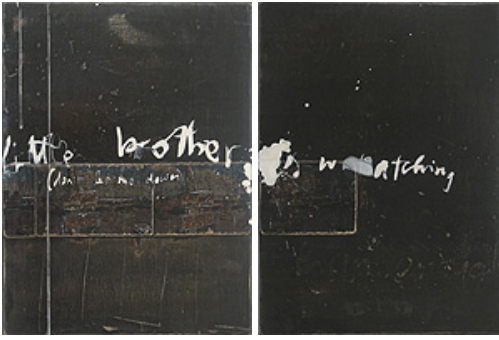
It Ain't Easy Being Green
 2009 (diptych)
 collage, ink, wax on wood
 40 x 70 cm



Tips for Girls from Barbie's White House Project
 2009
 collage, ink, wax on wood
 40 x 40 cm



Tips for Girls
 collage, ink, wax on wood
 40 x 30 cm



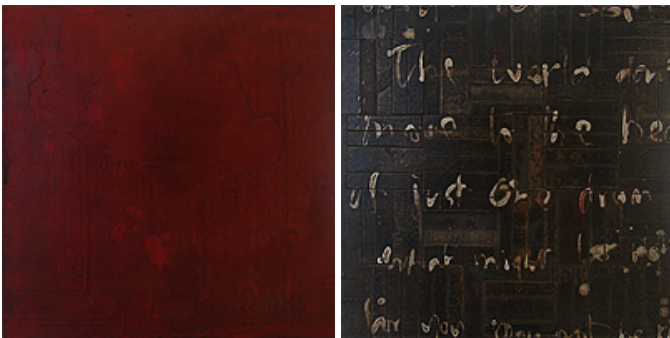
Don't Let Me Down
2009 (diptych)
collage, ink, wax on wood
40 x 60 cm



Sentient Being
2009
collage, ink, wax on wood
40 x 40 cm



Oh the Places You'll Go!
2009 (triptych)
collage, ink, wax on wood
40 x 100 cm



Different Strokes for Different Folks
2009 (diptych)
collage, ink, wax on wood
40 x 80 cm



Life's a Toy 2009
collage, ink, wax on wood
40 x 30 cm



Reinventing Yourself
2009 (triptych)
collage, ink, wax on wood
40 x 100 cm



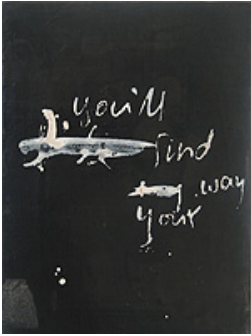
Swap Seats
2009
collage, ink, wax on wood
36 x 28cm



The More They Stay the Same
2009
collage, wax on wood
36 x 28cm



Palms & Oleanders
2009
collage, ink, wax on wood
36 x 28cm



You Gotta Go There to Come Back
2009 (triptych)
collage, ink, wax on wood
40 x 100 cm



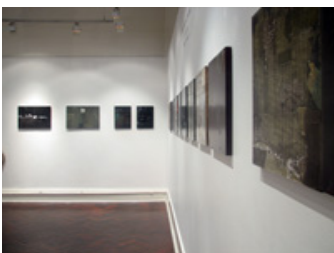
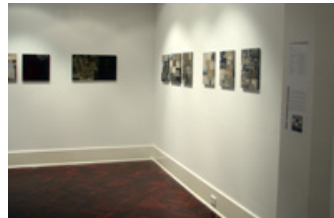
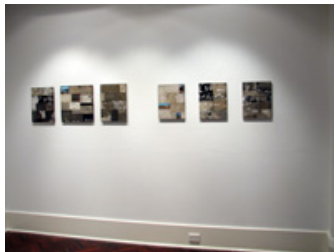
Scout's Honour
2009
collage, ink, wax on wood
40x40 cm



Good Times
2009
collage, ink, wax on wood
40x40 cm



Play Me
2009
collage, ink, wax on wood
40x40 cm



Installation views