



Adam Tinkle

Objections from the Permanent Collection (2015, 2017)

found objects, tactile audio transducers, 2-channel sound
(10:00) [not for sale]

Adam Tinkle and Atlan Arceo-Witzl (b. 1996)

A Mess of Things: illustrated libretto from the documentary musicplay by Adam Tinkle (2017), handmade artists' book

Opening bid: \$300

Artist Statement: In 2011, I created *A Mess of Things*, an evening-length solo performance that interwove audio documentary, original songs, musical accompaniment, and abstract video. It focused on my grandfather, Ben Seltzman, an engineer and inventor who struggled with the immensity and disorganization of the physical archive of all the projects he had worked on. As Ben aged and his collection filled 5 storage units, Ben's "mess of things" became an epic personal and family struggle, one which I documented and sought to understand and exorcise, through creating this performance and touring it to Fringe festivals, museums, and music clubs around the country.

Ben loved clocks, as he loved every kind of deftly engineered mechanism, and many of his inventions and sketches manifest his obsession with time and machines in cyclical motions. As Ben began to suffer dementia, his storage units were ultimately emptied, and, years after making *A Mess of Things*, I came into possession of many of his things. In *Objections from the Permanent Collection*, I remix material from *A Mess of Things* by literally making Ben speak through his objects. Affixing audio transducers to the case from Ben's "treadmill to

oblivion,” I literally vibrate the aluminum shell of his now-destroyed invention with the sound of Ben’s voice as he describes what this piece, and the process of making, meant for him.

Sitting inside the case is a full libretto for *A Mess of Things*, designed and handcrafted by Atlan Arceo-Witzl. It incorporates both the transcripts of the

audio documentary portion of the piece on white paper, interleaved (on yellow cardstock) with the poetic texts that I authored to try to understand and interpret how Ben’s story bears on issues of memory, family, inheritance, and the difficulties of divesting.

Artist Biography: Adam Tinkle is an artist/scholar working at the interface of sound art, audio documentary, experimental performance, and socially engaged art. Some representative projects: the Universal Language Orchestra (a children's ensemble that improvised on and composed for invented instruments), “The Hard Problem” (a radio play with Marina Abramović and novelist Kim Stanley Robinson), and an interlinked series of broadcasts, gallery exhibitions, recordings, and a zine-catalog with the collaborative music-installation-radio group Seven Count. Trained in music at Wesleyan and UC San Diego, he has taught at Skidmore College since 2014, and co-founded the netlabel Risky Forager. adamtinkle.com

Atlan Arceo-Witzl is an avid maker of things including but not limited to: drawings, paintings, collages, prints, books, music, sounds, noises, voices, gestures, thoughts, ideas, movements, gaggles, goofs, etc. He is pursuing a Bachelors of Science in Studio Art (drawing/printmaking) at Skidmore College.