



### **Tyrus Clutter Bio**

Tyrus Clutter is a painter and printmaker, originally from Michigan. He holds a BA in Art from Spring Arbor University and an MFA in Painting from Bowling Green State University. His work has been exhibited in numerous group and solo exhibitions throughout North America and in Europe. Clutter's work can be found in several hundred private collections as well as in the Print Collection of the New York Public Library and the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas.

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### **Artist Statement**

Much of my work explores the interconnections of the two foundational forms of communication in western civilization—Word and Image. Though each seems to lose its distinctive characteristics in this digital age, the written word continues to retain a vital role within our increasingly image-based culture.

This work investigates the tenuous relationship between Word and Image. It proposes that Word and Image are essentially variations on a common theme. The imagery does not exist without text. It may incorporate text or be based in text, but it is codependent with the words. Informed by both semiotics and deconstructionist philosophy, the images reveal themselves as texts that, under a close reading, disclose additional layers and meanings. Both Word and Image are symbolic, creating subtle shades of meaning that are not always obvious upon first examination.

The interaction of the combined words and images produces a fullness not available in the singularity of each mode. Interaction is a theme that runs throughout the work in various guises. It can be physical interaction, the reading of enclosed texts, or an analysis of the interdependence of both entities. In each context the viewer is confronted with a certain expectation that his or her participation in the work is essential for full reception of its meaning.