

Spring 2022

Barking With The Dog

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Barking With The Dog

Senior Project Submitted to
The Division of the Arts
of Bard College

by
Cameron Orr

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
May 2022

I dedicate this to Anni, who Annihilates my heart.



Acknowledgements

A warm thank you to professor Sam Vernon, my senior project advisor, for your encouragement and guidance. Having you oversee this project was truly excellent and I am so grateful to be your advisee. Thank you for recognizing my aesthetic and challenging my understanding of materiality.

A special thank you to professors Kenji Fujita, Beka Goedde, Sarah Hennies, and Shai Secunda, for answering the questions I didn't know how to ask.

The biggest thanks to my family: my late father, my mom, my brother Jake, my grandparents Savta, Papa John, Grammy, and my late Papa Marty. Without you, I literally wouldn't be here. You help me understand who I am.

And thank you to my amazing and unmatched friends and companions who always bark by my side: Tilly Barickman, Ezra Marney, Riti Bahl, and Shay Spitzer. My Root Cellar babes: Reese Allore and Danni Slawinski. My friends at 39 Broadway: Maeveen "Thorn" Martinez, Niskua "Luna" Medina, Ari Mackoff, and Alec Simmons. Those at the Jewish Student Organization: Gil Messer, Hyazinth Baumann, and Abbey Trincere. And lastly the Women's Squash Team. I look forward to our future adventures. You nourish my soul and protect my heart.

Artist Statement

“Barking With The Dog” got its’ title from a poem by Leonard Cohen:

*I never really understood
what he said
but every now and then
I find myself
barking with the dog
or bending with the irises
or helping out
in other little ways*

“Barking With The Dog” is a series of illustrative collages, linocut prints, an upcycled bench containing personal artifacts, drawings and collage on the walls and floor. These pieces are connected through visual content, physical medium, and artistic intention. The collages are made using upcycled prints and drawings. These pieces represent the early stages of a narrative and a process of world-building through drawings and print. In the final installation, prints from the same plate featured as collaged elements in the larger pieces are hung in accompaniment.

The past year has been challenging for me emotionally and spiritually; I think a lot of this work is about loss, while also gaining a new sense of myself. The items in the bench are a mix of my own and those I inherited from my father, being books and other items. Science fiction appeals to me because it creates a space to imagine completely different or altered realities.

The protagonists are the omnipotent Swirly Dog, and his gender-amorphous humanoid decapitated friend. The details of their origin as a duo are unclear, so it’s a story I hope to excavate. Swirly Dog’s origins are more concrete. In an altered universe, Swirly is the offspring of primordial beasts Leviathan (Lev-eye-ah-thin) and Behemoth (Be-he-muth) who are from the Tanakh¹. While Swirly Dog might have the power to reign chaos and destroy the world, he tries his best not to make too much of a mess. I hope the viewers of this work find it humorous and absurd, as well as memory laden, through the color, negative space, exploring the transparency and weight of paper, textiles and thread, upcycled and recontextualized materials and the use of characters.

¹ <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/monsters-demons-and-other-mythical-creatures-in-jewish-lore/>

Barking with The Dog

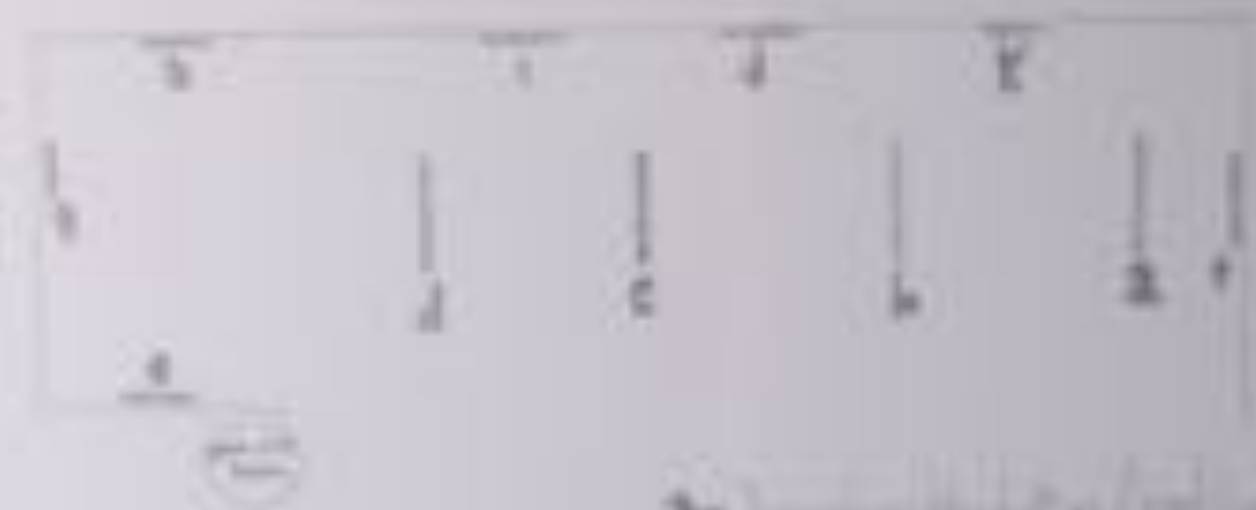
@ UBS
Bard Exhibition Center
7401 S Broadway, Red Hook, NY
April 9th, 2022
3 to 6pm



Me and the Dog (2022)
(measurement)
Mixed media collage on rice paper

Cameron Ott presents...

Barking With The Dog



- 4 - Special Ability (Feel welcome)
- 3 - "No 2 the dog"
- 2 - "Jill"
- 1 - "Stay in the room"
- 0 - Jill E
- + - Jill Doyne
- W - "Stay in the room"
- W - Jill E
- F - "Stay in the room"
- F - "Stay in the room"
- F - "Stay in the room"
- F - "Stay in the room"





























2013







all dogs
go to
Heaven



















