
Senior Projects Spring 2017

Bard Undergraduate Senior Projects

Spring 2017

The Lost Department

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THE LOST DEPARTMENT

Senior Project submitted to
The Division of The Arts
Of Bard College

By Clara Glassman Harlow

Annandale on Hudson, New York
May, 2017

What have you lost?
What is missing?
What are you looking for?

Upon entering the waiting room of The Lost Department, the client is encouraged to pull a number, fill out a form classifying their loss into fourteen categories specific to The Lost Department, and linger until their number is called. When it is their time, the client moves into the office to meet with The Lost Department's sole employee and together they unravel the loss, the employee translating the client's fleeting reflections and exchanges into words and images. The collaborative map is then copied and categorized by the client onto bulletin boards labeled: Haven't Been the Same Since, Can't Be Found, Never Said Goodbye, Don't Think Much About it, Wish I Thought About it More, Can't Acknowledge It, Necessary, Predictable, Replaceable, Not Gone, But Changed, Wasn't Mine Yet, Was Never Mine, Intentional, and Collective. Each corkboard is layered with the loss of clients past, compelling the client to acknowledge the universal, interconnected nature of their deeply intimate and specific loss.

The objective of the Lost Department is not to provide the solution or remedy to loss, as this is not possible or genuine. Instead, The Lost Department seeks to offer an external pocket to hold the loss and its corresponding memories, pain, confusion, and change. It is a place to acknowledge, reconsider, and honor the loss in a space that both mimics real world institutional spaces and exists outside of them, perhaps even in opposition to them, allowing the client to be seen and heard in an alternate light. The Lost Department is always changing, much like one's conceptualization and processing of loss itself. Every time the client returns to revise or file an additional loss, the language, imagery, and exchange is altered. The space itself is no different, swelling and shifting to contain the cumulative residue of what will never be had again.



THE LOST DEPARTMENT

CAN'T BE FOUND

LOST

LOST

COLLECTIVE

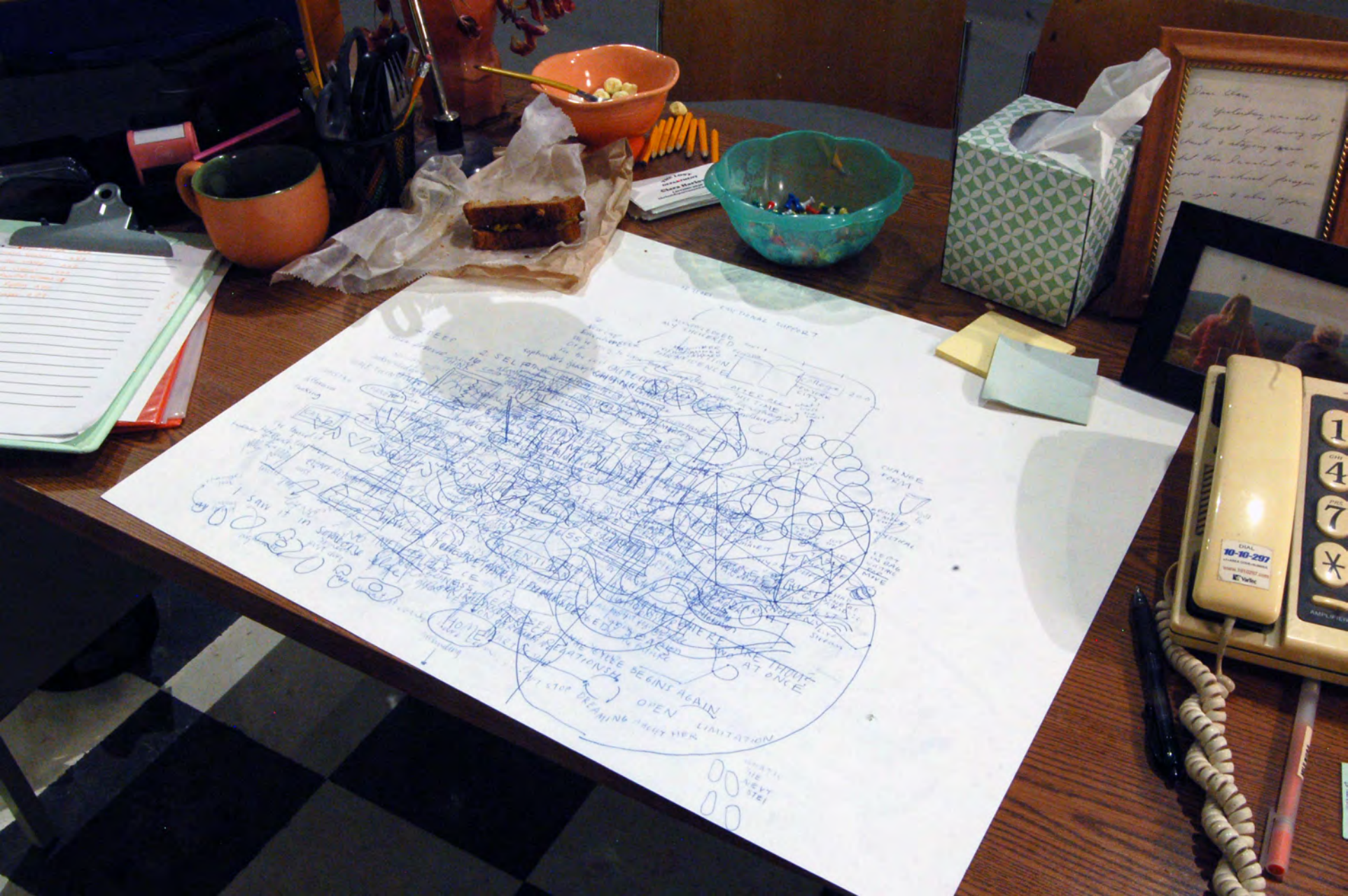
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT MUCH

OPTIONAL

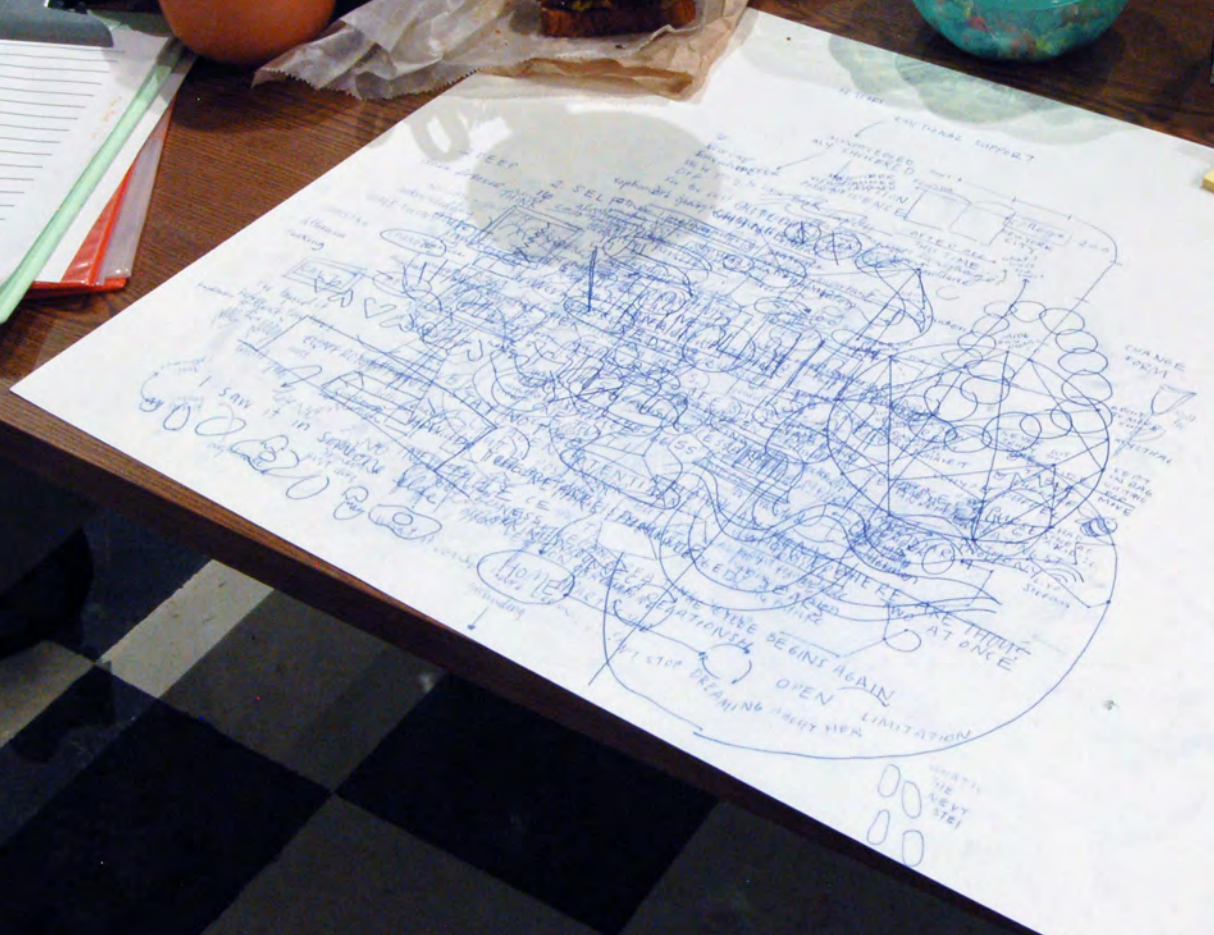
WINE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT MORE

ABLE

CTABLE



Handwritten notes on a lined paper, partially obscured by other items on the desk.



THE LOST DEPARTMENT

Missing
Something?
Take a
Number!



Here at the Lost
Department,
There's a place just for you!

TYPES OF LOSS RECOGNIZED AT THE
LOST DEPARTMENT:

- Loss of Body Function
- Loss of Body Image
- Loss of Control
- Loss of Freedom
- Loss of Health
- Loss of Home
- Loss of Identity
- Loss of Independence
- Loss of Intimacy
- Loss of Job
- Loss of Plans, Hopes or Dreams
- Loss of Relationship
- Loss of Religious Beliefs
- Loss of Role
- Loss of Safety
- Loss of Sexual Function
- Loss of Significant Person
- Loss of Treasured Objects

CATEGORIES OF LOSS SPECIFIC TO THE
LOST DEPARTMENT:

- Haven't Been the Same Since
- Can't Be Found
- Never Said Goodbye
- Don't Think About It Much
- Wish I Thought About It More
- Can't Acknowledge It
- Necessary
- Predictable
- Replaceable
- Not Gone, but Changed
- Wasn't Mine Yet
- Was Never Mine
- Intentional
- Collective

THE LOST
DEPARTMENT

Where do you fit in?
Choose the number that best describes your loss
and take your number to the counter.

There's a Place Just for You!

CRAYONS DE GOLF

