

CIRCLES

Abstract

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In *Circles* I examine how contemporary society's focus on autonomy is fostering isolation. I explore how repetition and ritual can be used for comfort in times of loneliness. I also consider how repetition can be a negative force, such as in the case of addiction. I regard how productive repetitions are culturally sanctioned, while comfort repetitions are generally discouraged. The concept of repetition is used both physically and visually as a thread that unites my digital and drawn work.

In my drawings, the element most often repeated is circular mark making. I have become interested in receipts as a surface for meditative circular drawing exercises. Receipts are a poignant symbol of contemporary ritual and culturally sanctioned repetition. They become intimate evidence of the stores and items an individual relies upon when collected over time.

In my video work, I reflect on commonplace personal repetitions for comfort; chewing gum and taking an evening bath. In *Bathe* you are seeing many nights of bathing in November through December 2006 superimposed over each other. In this way, the footage becomes a record that shows how each night, the same private ritual took place over and over. In the gum performance, *Little Pleasures*, an act that is intended as a simple comfort escalates into an act of self-torture.