

Hugo Pellinen is a visual artist and writer. His creative projects take images and ideas out of traditional contexts and ask audiences to make new meanings. His recent explorations include: The Type Liberation Project (letterpress projects from reclaimed type), La Mora (stories from the heteroglossia of New Mexico), and short, guerrilla theatre piece written for fringe festival performances.

Hugo's creative work began as a writer and theatre performer in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Albuquerque, New Mexico. His artistic inspirations, though, were never confined to one media or genre. As he met more artists and had chances to experiment with new forms, his creative vocabulary expanded.

The collaborative nature of theatre influences all of Hugo's creative work. He often collaborates with his spouse, Ginger Myhaver (the camera operator for these performance photographs), and friends.

The images and objects in this show are parts of a body of work entitled *The Essex Natural History and Typing Society*. The 19th Century natural history organizations, including the Essex County Natural History Society (1833-1848) explored the environments around them and met, shared collections, and published articles about things in their world. The societies were rooted in a belief that scientific exploration and learning was part of a natural human progress. In our contemporary age it is too easy to overlook our relationships within the natural world and too easy to overlook the non-digital systems around us. In this process of overlooking, many have lost their belief in science.

The inclusion of the typewriter in a natural history society, is an obvious anachronism. Commercially available typewriters were not around until 30 years after the Essex County Natural History Society disappeared and were far too heavy to be portable and useful. However, it is analog, industrial, and, now all but, obsolete typewriter technology put to new uses that opens new connections.

Most specifically, the project connects photosynthesis (wherein green plants collect carbon dioxide and harness the energy of light), human breath/words that are made up of carbon dioxide, and the poet Charles Olson's ideas from his manifesto, *Projective Verse*. For Olson, because of its ability to capture a writer's energy and breath, the typewriter is the "...personal and instantaneous recorder of the poet's work." The Essex Natural History Typing Society uses the typewriter in this way and in ways that allow its members to collect words from their environments.

The laws of physics tell us that energy can neither be created nor destroyed. It can only be transformed or transferred from one form to another. The conceit in this body of artwork is human energy (voice, breath, action) can be collected by paying attention to the natural world around us where that human energy now lies in a new state of matter.