

Claire Richards
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Pirate Babble: extended works

Pirate Babble is a mixed media series which focuses on the action of painting text over found media objects, thus rendered useless, in order to explore the distortion of language, ownership, and identity that comes from placing one voice atop another's. This excerpt of the series includes pieces comprised of found records, acrylic paint, and acrylic paint pen. Each piece has its own throughline, pieced together based on the record cover imagery. The corresponding prose poetry is written based on the work's individual theme. *Pirate Babble manifesto / epicenter / landing strip* is the largest of the series and features writing that abstractly touches on ideas encompassed throughout each of the works.

While other works in the series feature small devices such as a Nintendo Wii or cassette tapes, records are heavily utilized here due to their large surface area, allowing space to narrow in on a more writing based practice. They also provide room for experimentation, such as the layers of acrylic paint seen on the piece *Chaos Interplay*. By further distorting the original source material, the effect of erasure of the original voice is intensified.

The idea of speaking over the work of others is derived from a lifetime of not taking up space or voicing ideas and opinions. The *Pirate Babble* series allows for me to be seen, heard, and understood. The intent is not to negatively silence others from this process, is it intended solely to be an exercise in making up for a lifelong deficit in taking up space.

Claire Richards is a multimedia artist, working in photography, painting, poetry, & means yet to be defined. Her work is an ongoing attempt to observe & understand the intricacies of the external world while learning how to exist within it. She has a BFA in Photography and Media from California Institute of the Arts and is currently based in Los Angeles, CA. She is co-founder of Avenue A Gallery, who had their inaugural group show A House Show in November 2023. She is also co-founder of Word Art Magazine, launching 2024.