

Twelve Suggestions / Work in Progress

Twelve Suggestions / Work in Progress (2010), was a show of twelve paintings of twelve copies of twelve books on twelve tables with twelve lamps, created over twelve months.

Beginning this series with a found book, *Advanced Techniques of Hypnosis*, published on Wilshire Boulevard in the late Nineteen Forties, I sat at my drafting table, peering through my magnifying lamp, attempting to make a watercolor copy of exactly what I saw. I was very familiar with this book – working, as I do, in the used book trade. I found it interesting that this curious, outdated book has currency and circulation still. The image on the cover is like something from a film noir - three disembodied faces floating in a swirling vortex. At the beginning of the project, I was confident that I could acquire twelve copies. As it transpired, I was only able to find five, so I chose to copy other similar titles. At the end of each month for a year, whether the picture was complete or not, I sent the book and the painting of the book to the gallery. This accumulation culminated in the installation of twelve tables - one for each book and painting - displacing and mimicking the circumstances of the studio, with its generic furniture and equipment (the *Alvin* drafting table that I use, for instance, is familiar to any art student or artist working today). Wandering through the installation, the viewer could peer through the lens of the magnifying lamp and see what I saw. Also, listening to spoken word and watching moving image videos contained in three black boxes, the viewer could, perhaps, catch glimpses of my state of mind. The exhibition, *Twelve Suggestions/Work in Progress*, examined the hypnotic image through the magnifying lamp and suggested resemblances, associations and worlds without and within - *the labyrinth of the visible*.

