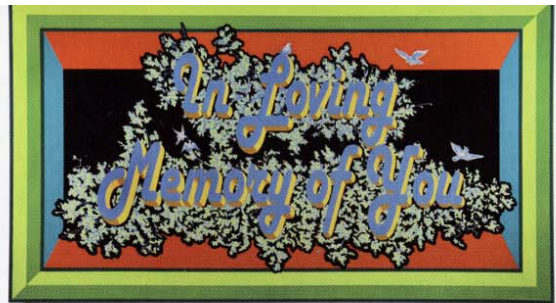


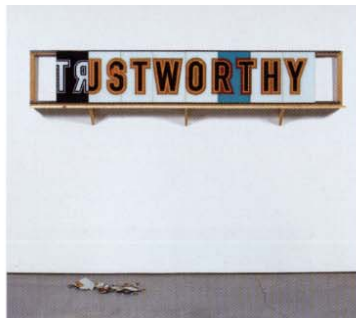
# Review, Inc.

"Elevating KC's cultural significance through visual art"

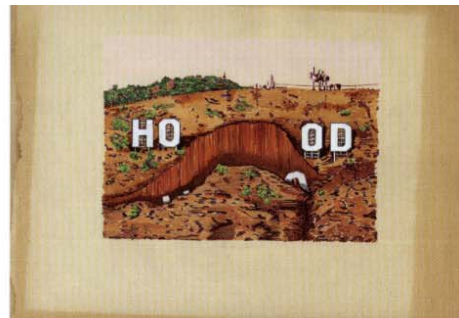
{ review publishing }



*In Loving Memory of You*, 2007, enamel on wood, 80" x 124".



*Trustworthy*, 2007, enamel on glass, wood, metal, 21" x 96" x 3".



*Hood*, 2007, gouache on chipboard, 8" x 11".

## LITERALLY WORDY

Continuing to Take a Look at Physical and Deeper Meaning

by Dana Turkovic

Archie Scott Gobber's most recent exhibition presented an installation of new work: 3-D hybrids that teeter between painting and sculpture and sign painting and street art each adopt language as the core subject. At times, Gobber presents ideas using tactics of charade and cynicism but allows space for the viewers to develop their own conclusions. Gobber describes his work process as an investigation of how phrases evolve, how messages are communicated, and how perception changes based on visual style. His exploration lands somewhere between the nostalgia and imperfections of handicraft and sign painting; it contains a mild social satire, referencing themes explored by the artists Mark Titchner, Lawrence Weiner, and the late Margaret Kilgallen. Found text is a recurring feature — words are lifted from song lyrics and slang or inspired by the simplicity of the addition or subtraction of one letter.

For *Trustworthy* (2008), the exhibition's title piece, Gobber's inspiration came from a computer-initiated dialogue that had asked him, "Was this file sent by a trustworthy source?" He spins off from there into a work that pokes fun at the spectacle of a machine's asking a human for a value judgment. Installed prominently in the theatrically lit cavernous space of Gallery 210, *Trustworthy* is constructed of a cobbled wooden frame that hugs a series of vibrant, painted glass letters that itself has literally shattered and jumped from the structure, leaving some of its delicate remnants in a pile on the floor.

Gobber's new work also alludes to the art of painting, achieving a delicate balance with the art of language. Nestled neatly in the corner of the main gallery, his totem-like sculpture, *Erect* (2007), proposed a physically built construction of the word that literally signs "vertical in position." Traversing between a range of graphic styles and using subdued color, the artist physically plays out and defines the word with oddly shaped stacked blocks that crawl up the wall. While humorously standing up for its various meanings, *Erect* highlights the spatial and structural relationships and the material of its composition to present an examination into the true origin of the word.

Working in a broad range of media, including canvas, glass, and wood, Gobber's work interweaves a collection of disparate references from propaganda to poetry, presenting a slippage of meaning and inducing a drama in understanding from the viewer. For *In Loving Memory of You*, (2007), Gobber stenciled and painted letters set in relief. The panel with the words "In Loving Memory of You" was located on a central wall in the gallery: periwinkle blue letters in a large-brush script font were outlined in complementary orange and layered within a fluorescent framework to constitute a monumental prayer card. Decorated with delicate foliage and birds in flight, *In Loving Memory of You* is a piece in memoriam that uses a traditional romantic phrase stemming from the loss of a loved one, to reach an eventual point that spells out the loss of time itself as each second passes

Archie Scott Gobber is Trustworthy  
Gallery 210, University of Missouri-St. Louis  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-516-5976  
January 24 - March 22, 2008

by. *In Loving Memory of You* illustrates Gobber's ability to transpose phrases that allow his subject matter, borrowed text, and thorny words to employ new meaning.

Gobber's body of work allows for this complex kind of reading, wearing numerous guises, opening up an infinite amount of source material for future laboriously hand-painted slogans and clichés, evoking the sculptural and transforming into pseudo-philosophical decrees. Although it is uncertain whether we are to interpret this series of paintings and works on paper with sincerity or sarcasm, the beauty and relevance of these pieces lies in a combination of the human imperfection of his hand-rendered work, semantics, and subtle wit. *Archie Scott Gobber is Trustworthy* shows a series of axioms, puns, and double entendres, demonstrating the power of language. •

Archie Scott Gobber is a Review Studios artist.

Dana Turkovic has a master's degree in curatorial studies from Goldsmiths College-University of London and teaches at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. She was senior designer for the UCLA Hammer Museum for four and a half years and has organized exhibitions in Los Angeles, California; Athens, Greece; London and Oxford, England, and at Boots Contemporary Art Space, Ellen Curlee Gallery, and White Flag Projects in St. Louis.