The Johnny Cash Abduction: A Visual Narrative

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THE JOHNNY CASH ABDUCTION: A VISUAL NARRATIVE

A Thesis
Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research
in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree
Master of Fine Arts

Peter A. Mullen
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
May 2015
We hereby approve the thesis of

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The central inquiry of my research is the analysis of collecting and its relationship to excessive materialism and its effects on society. The work examines various reasons why people collect; for the acquisition of knowledge and preservation of species, to increase social status in order to show connoisseurship, but also to exert political power over rival factions and even to assert dominance over lesser or inferior organisms/people. This series of drawings opens a dialog with the viewer that addresses questions of ownership, for instance, how does our sense of “self” factor into why we strive to obtain and value the things we acquire?