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# 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

Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
School of Graduate Studies and Research  
Department of Art

We hereby approve the thesis of

Peter A. Mullen

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Title: The Johnny Cash Abduction: A Visual Narrative

Author: Peter A. Mullen

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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?