

## Artist Statement - Lies & Redactions

Merriam-Webster defines the term, redact, as: "to select or adapt (as by obscuring or removing sensitive information) for publication or release; to obscure or remove (text) from a document prior to publication or release."

While redactions have, in a sense, always been part of my work (i.e., adding marks to a previously existing document naturally obscures some of the content), it is only recently that redaction, as its own concept, became the focus of my drawing. As the political landscape becomes ever more obscure and documents released to the public are essentially large black boxes, I have begun to respond to not only the lack of transparency on the part of political actors in their dissemination of information, but to the obscuring, or even obliterating, of ideas, people, and cultures. Over the course of history, various ethnic and cultural groups have been marginalized; institutionalized racism persists; China is "re-educating" the Uighurs; anti-Semitism is growing; the list goes on. In addition, the dishonesty in the political sphere, from misrepresentation to outright lies repeated over and over, are aimed at creating dueling narratives, none of which can be viewed as ultimately truthful.

In a minimalist manner, the works are a series of black shapes, some mere lines, and others, large blocks in addition to what appears to be pieces of tape (also paint); thus, redactions and lies. As a progression from my earlier work, rather than the act of creating a 'new' image, this series deliberately removes aspects of the paper from view, thus, highlighting that which we cannot see as a means for consideration of all that is kept from us, what we do not understand, or what we refuse to acknowledge in our own personal narratives and that of the world at large.

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