Evince

Artist Statement Monique Martin

e·vince

tr.v. e-vinced, e-vinc-ing, e-vinc-es

To show or demonstrate clearly; manifest: to make evident; show (something, such as an emotion) clearly

This series is influence by Shakespeare, Michel de Montaigne and each book page I have ever turned. The turning of pages is important in this exhibition. With the new technology making the turning of pages obsolete, are libraries going to become obsolete as well. The silent study spaces, will they too become permanently silenced? Will the return slot lose the sound of sliding books forever?

Each page that you can touch, feel and smell makes reading more of an experience, it makes it more sensual. A library is a place like no other, with smells and images that are not available anywhere else. Having the books facing backwards in this exhibition shows how we are turning away from the titles and colours on the spines of books and moving towards URL's and weblinks. There is a vicious battle going on in our world, a battle between books and e-books, handwritten letters and text messages; there is a battle going on between intangible knowledge and tangible knowledge.

Creating words without lifting the pencil from the page is like running your finger along a bookshelf in a library, or thumbing through the pages of a novel. The action feels continuous, but there are still subtle instances where you can be halted by the changes in what you perceive.

Writing perpetuates emotions; it carries them forward into the future for other generations to experience. Shakespeare subtly acknowledges this fact in Sonnet 18 when he writes:

When in eternal lines to time thou growest: So long as men can breathe or eyes can see, So long lives this and this gives life to thee.

When you look closely, you can see that the eternal lines are the poem he is writing and that he believes that as long as there are people alive, there will be people that will read his poetry. His lover's existence and his feelings for this lover will be perpetuated into the future because he wrote them down, because he knows that writing can last forever. Human emotions and experiences are timeless, they are universal and they are meant to be shared; they are meant to be acknowledged.