Ann Hamilton: pages 2017-present



pages

We know a cloth by its hand, the way it might drape and fall, the tightness and structure of the weave, the fineness of the thread, the animal, plant, or man-made fiber from which it is made. While its color and surface may catch our eye, we only know a cloth's weight, its texture and warmth, by touch.

Whereas cloth surrounds us whole, alphabets unfurl in lines. They give us words, and words give us sounds and sentences and meanings. We use them to ask our questions and describe our experiences, to hold our thoughts and memories. Cloth and words are of two hands, two ways of knowing.

In the ongoing series pages, cloth fragments and words meet on paper lifted from a book's frontispiece or endpapers. The work is the felt sense of this meeting—the size and color, opacity and transparency, the facticity of the cloth, the color and wear of the paper, the abstractness of the language sifted from loose fragments of sliced books, themselves the residue of another project.

The individual word and line fragments lift from the chaos of other fragments, untethered from sewn or glued binding or narrative order, into another relationship, a felt relationship between a particular phrase or word a cloth fragment and a single paper that we might recognize as, "ah, yes, it is like that." - AH