



"lock", 29.5 X 26.5 X 4", FOUND COMMERCIAL SIGNAGE, VINYL, 2012

CHERYL WASSENAAR

SYNTAX

SHOW DATES
SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 28

OPENING RECEPTION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
6:30-8:00 PM





"parlance", 30 X 33 X 5", FOUND COMMERCIAL SIGNAGE, VINYL, 2012

In *Syntax*, Cheryl Wassenaar continues to construct work from fragments of found and fabricated commercial signage, repurposing the discarded wood and vinyl into abstract works of art – equally familiar and unsettling. Familiar, at first, is the alphabet taught to us since an early age, represented in these pieces in bold and vibrant color. Our first instinct is to start “reading” the artwork, deciphering words and sentences, to help understand their meaning. It doesn’t take long for the letters to become forms, simply elements of composition, eliminating the opportunity for understanding based on language and inspiring the viewer to experience the work on a purely abstract level. Often, Wassenaar presents the letters cut in half, upside down, or in repetition of alternating colors, further abstracting their familiar meaning in language and inviting an appreciation of their form.

Merging aspects of graphic design, painting, and sculpture, Wassenaar’s *Syntax* evokes visual stutters of sounds and ideas. Repetition, shifted grids and horizontal bands allude to structures of communication and organization, made inept through technology glitches, overlapping conversations, acronyms and verbal filler. The work often has a nostalgic tone, as its surfaces carry the residue of accumulated experiences and traces of wear and weather. Scavenged from roadways and the wastelands of commercial sprawl, these wooden signs are the loud voices of city commerce, crowding our urban landscapes with the insistent messages of industry. Others pieces are more ephemeral in reference, evoking airwaves, rhythm, tone of voice and restraint.