apexart

SCRAWL
collected & curated by Harley Spiller

September 4 - October 11, 2008

Opening reception:
Thursday, September 4, 6-8pm

Public program:
Thursday, October 2, 6-9pm
with Melissa Rachleff Burtt, Jem Cohen, Luc Sante, Harley Spiller, with a screening of Jem Cohen’s Lost Book Found

SCRAWL consists of close to 100 different handmade pronouncements collected from the streets and subways of New York City over the past 25 years. The works on exhibition range from the haragious to the habromaniacal (from scary to silly), from terse suggestions to indecipherably complex amalgams of mathematical figuring, philosophical posturing, and political ranting. The entreaties tend to the impassioned and visceral. Whether the ideas are impeccably presented in uniquely beautiful calligraphy, or scribbled, illegible palimpsests, the creators all seek to have their ideas recognized, many silently urging their fellow New Yorkers to right wrongs both personal and universal.

An essay by Harley Spiller, the collector and curator, illuminates the work of the 40 or so people represented in his collection, describing what’s captivating about the material, and telling the tales of actual encounters with the “artists.” His essay situates the material as an integral part of the human cultural tissue that connects us all, regardless of circumstances. Spiller saves these works to preserve palpably urgent voices that would otherwise vanish like so much ticker tape after a parade. His intention with SCRAWL is to begin a public dialogue about these heady, provocative, and artful human expressions.

For more information visit www.apexart.org/exhibitions/spiller.htm
*Selected from apexart’s annual Unsolicited Proposal Program.

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