

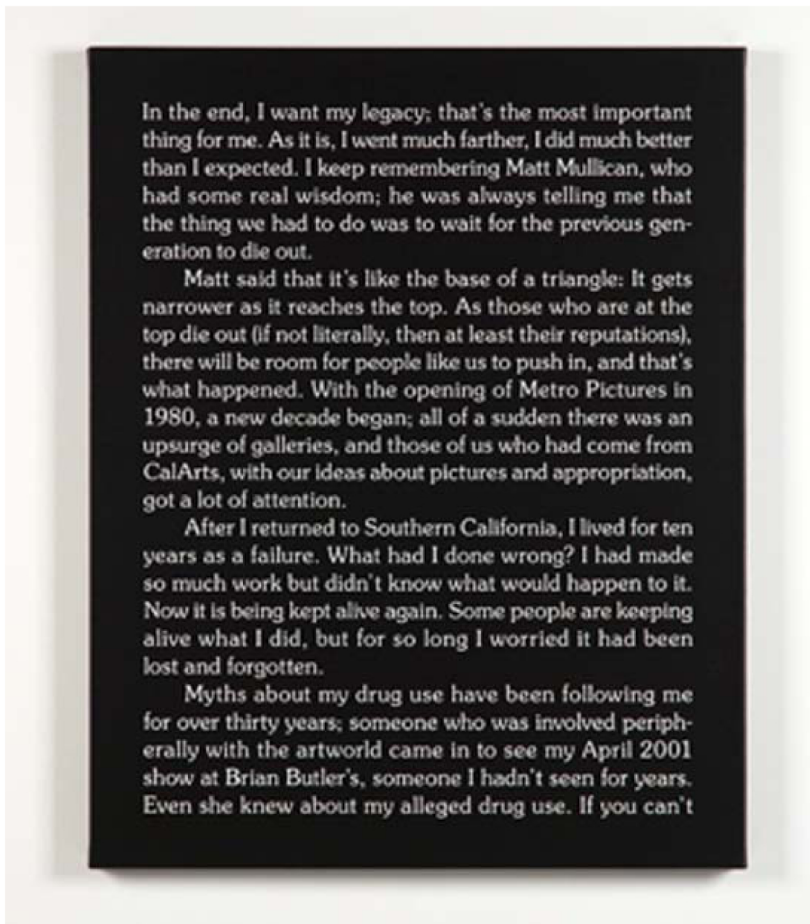
**Ron Terada: Who I Think I Am**

I've been a big fan of Ron Terada since I studied his Artist's Book Project (1996) in class last year. So when I heard that Ron Terada: *Who I Think I Am*, was going to show at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, I was excited to see his work first hand.  
 posted by Johnson - January 24th, 2011.

The opening was busy on Wed. January 19th; I had just finished a meeting and I think I had thirty minutes to look at everything before the gallery would close (but everyone knows those times are lax...). There was a really great turnout of over two dozen people, considering the weather and the many arts exhibition openings and events occurring that evening.

Walking through the east gallery, I just glazed over everything, trying to get through the groups of people to see the art. At this point, many people were locked in conversation as the night unfolded. *Soundtrack for an Exhibition* (2010), a video installation, was located in a room crowded with people, so I decided to continue on and come back if I had time.

In the west gallery, sixteen canvases occupied the entire space, wrapping around three walls -- *Jack* (2010). Uniform white text on black background stood out from each canvas. The paintings retold the story of American painter and conceptual artist Jack Goldstein -- a chapter from his memoirs appropriated by Terada.



Ron Terada, *Jack*, 2010. Acrylic on canvas. Image courtesy of the artist and Catriona Jeffries Gallery, Vancouver

The people and noise around me filtered out; I was left alone with the text. Empathy and emptiness welled up inside of me. I think I spent thirty minutes re-reading each word, savouring some phrases to store them in my mind. Jack's words spoke as if they were Terada's own. The feelings and struggles as an artist described by Goldstein incited all of my deepest insecurities and anxieties as an emerging artist.

I had to step away from the piece and leave the space to collect myself. I took a few deep breaths and hoped no one would notice me in the hallway. But then I felt a tap on my shoulder. It was Rebecca Gimmi, the Programme Coordinator and friend, who came to greet me. I turned around and all I could say was, "I'm crying."

For more information,

*Ron Terada: Who I Think I Am* runs from January 19th to March 20th, 2011 at the [Justina M. Barnicke Gallery](#), located at University of Toronto.

This exhibition is curated by Helen Legg, Barbara Fischer, and Kitty Scott, and organized in collaboration with Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK; the Walter Phillips Gallery at the Banff Centre, and the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, University of Toronto, Canada.

<http://www.jmbgallery.ca/exhibitions.html>

*Jack* (2010) was recently purchased by the National Gallery of Canada.