



In Our Hands, Karen Kunc, Drawing, 9.5 x 4.25 inches, 2008

## Memory of the

Questions of speculation on the future of printmaking seem so trivial in the face of the global changes that at one time were so far distant, but have now come to us, in our own time. To me, the daily tasks done now through technological change, meant to ease our lives, actually cause more frustration, disappearing time, distractions, although so much a necessity. Meanwhile my large machines sit unused while my attention and personal space is occupied dwelling in front of the small white box to deal with my broad scope of global projects, contacts, opportunities, and organizations. I personally aim to balance the broad with the narrow, and to achieve a focus 'one of these days' so that I can use my 20 year old paper stocks, increasingly valuable un-etched copper plates, the myriad undone images and wealth of themes that are waiting to say it all so much better than my words can ever do... about the interface of mankind's foolish choices on our future, and the other forces so much larger than ourselves that assert unknown change. The speculation on the future has sparked this drawing of the interlocking networks of worries, implications, values, realities, and complexities. Yet we can dream... and it may be a valu-

able exercise to record our imaginations of the future so that we can see where we land, as we are poised now at this particular time with the crows that have come home to roost from our foolish wants, wilful deaf ears, rudderless wanderings.

My young students and colleagues, who will be the ones to experience the future, and to live with unknown outcomes, fortunately, have optimism, drive, plans, and humour. They make their work now like artists always have, and as the printmakers of the future, I can imagine, will - driven, creative, inventive, re-discovering history and attuned to the allure of the new, with graphic strength, economy of means, visual impact, simple to complex techniques. Printmakers will continue to draw their own place in the broad, self-perpetuating - and self-actualizing - multi-levelled art world. They will blend easily between the machines, large and small, and still want to make things - as we will find in the future that the common rewards with the work of the hand will ultimately be our saving grace and future treasure.

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