



ZOLTOG 99

An exhibition by **Ryan Foerster**
November 14, 2019 - January 19, 2020

hello again! I am ZOLTOG99 welcome to my show! I started doing zoltog works in 2013. It was a joke that became serious. This was the height of my decision to try and only re use materials and if I did create something new I would use every excess element of it to try to create something else. which i still kinda do but it's hard— packaging piles up. I started picking up more stuff from the streets. mostly stuff from the beach area because it really stands out on the sand and a lot of the trash you find there is just so good looking. I was also making lots of videos..making documentaries. so this all came from not wanting to use so much new material to create stuff. when I was a kid I made a fort in my backyard out of a ton of doors taken from the trash with my mom on my mental health days off from school. I would spray paint on it GILMOUR 93, ANDERCHUK 89. my favorite hockey players. I guess that led to me coming up with the name ZOLTOG99...or was it from ZOLTAR my favorite fortune teller in Coney? what does the future hold? I dont know. ha. so i thought as a joke i would make works on canvas as an opposite or unexpected thing that people would think i would do. and it was meant to be under this fake name. the joke grew into me liking them. I decided I would just actually try to make my best ones. my parents were also moving and I saw the paintings I made from my photos in high school and I thought maybe I was onto something. I painted the sunflowers in the garden. no yellow paint here so I used red. I remember thinking this feels good I should do more. so I did a lot more. I painted, collaged, stapled as ideas came to me. they came from dreams I had, nightmares remembered, feelings I felt, air I tried to breathe, my ear I panically tried to unclog, floating in the ocean after running, shadows on the canvas I saw as I tried to do something else, patches I had, a painting I saw and tried to re do, things I read and from things like that. the memories of different things are not completely unlike the documentary photos I take or my thinking that led me to incorporate the different materials I considered as valid form of documents worth showing to tell a story. if it felt good to do one I would try to do it again and I would have two. the video helps to give more of a time and place to all this happening. I shoot footage most days of things I see when I go about my life. nothing is staged. this goes from about end of 2014 to now. its a collection of a bunch of scenes that in the end express better how I feel and think than I can get across in words. thats why I made it and you can really start watching it at any point but it does work well from beginning to end. also there are the original benches I made in 2010 with my grandpa in Sudbury that have never been shown and I've made a lot of different versions since. A couple things from family court as well, my studio is still behind it. the sculptures you see grew from that thinking at the beginning but took place mostly in the past few years. can these things overlap? I make them out of existing materials nothing bought. The air circulation grate from my old fridge has been hanging on my fence for a few years as plants slowly grew through it I just cut it down. That tape measure is mine I used to work on the house after the flood. It's broken by me and I kept using it and the sunflower was growing outside i ripped it out of the ground in the fall..not sure where the plastic piece came from. the bamboo string wire structure is based on the ones I make to support plants growing the garden. So everything kinda comes from stuff like that. I used to want to be a hot dog stand guy when I was kid I thought that was the best job possible.. my sisters gave away hot dogs outside my last show at this space. ha it was great. josh and I made the filling cabinet bbq and fed 100 people hot dogs one night. now I have a hot dog umbrella hanging from the ceiling of the gallery. you know it says US Govt Inspected? so am I just got my green card last week.