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INMATES + KITTENS

INMATES + KITTENS is a record of every search term I entered into Google during a five month sabbatical in early 2006. It becomes a revealing self portrait in contemporary language. "As a book, [INMATES + KITTENS] begs the questions: how do we encounter without feeling, without touch?" (Tate Shaw, *The Blue Notebook*, vol. 1 October 2006 p.30)

INMATES + KITTENS accompanies *SOUVENIRS FROM HUMAN, MY MAMMAL*, based on animal attraction and famous zoo animals. I spent many days during this sabbatical at petting zoos, farms, traveling circuses, and on YouTube, watching people interact with these animals. I was most drawn to the tigers, the wolves and the cheetahs; animals who could kill me with the swipe of one paw. I was frightened by my desire to reach through the small fence and pet the tigers. I watched their expressions, comparing them to that of my dog. I imagined I understood the tiger's movements, that her flattened ears meant the same as my dog's. Like the imagined relationships with these animals, the language of the Google search becomes a self revealing and intimate portrait of the artist.

The book is published by Preacher's Biscuit Books, illustrated by Chris Pearce with dimensions of 4.25" x 5.5", 65 pages.