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Works from *On: The New Art of the Essay*
Ben Miller

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Works from *On: The New Art of the Essay*

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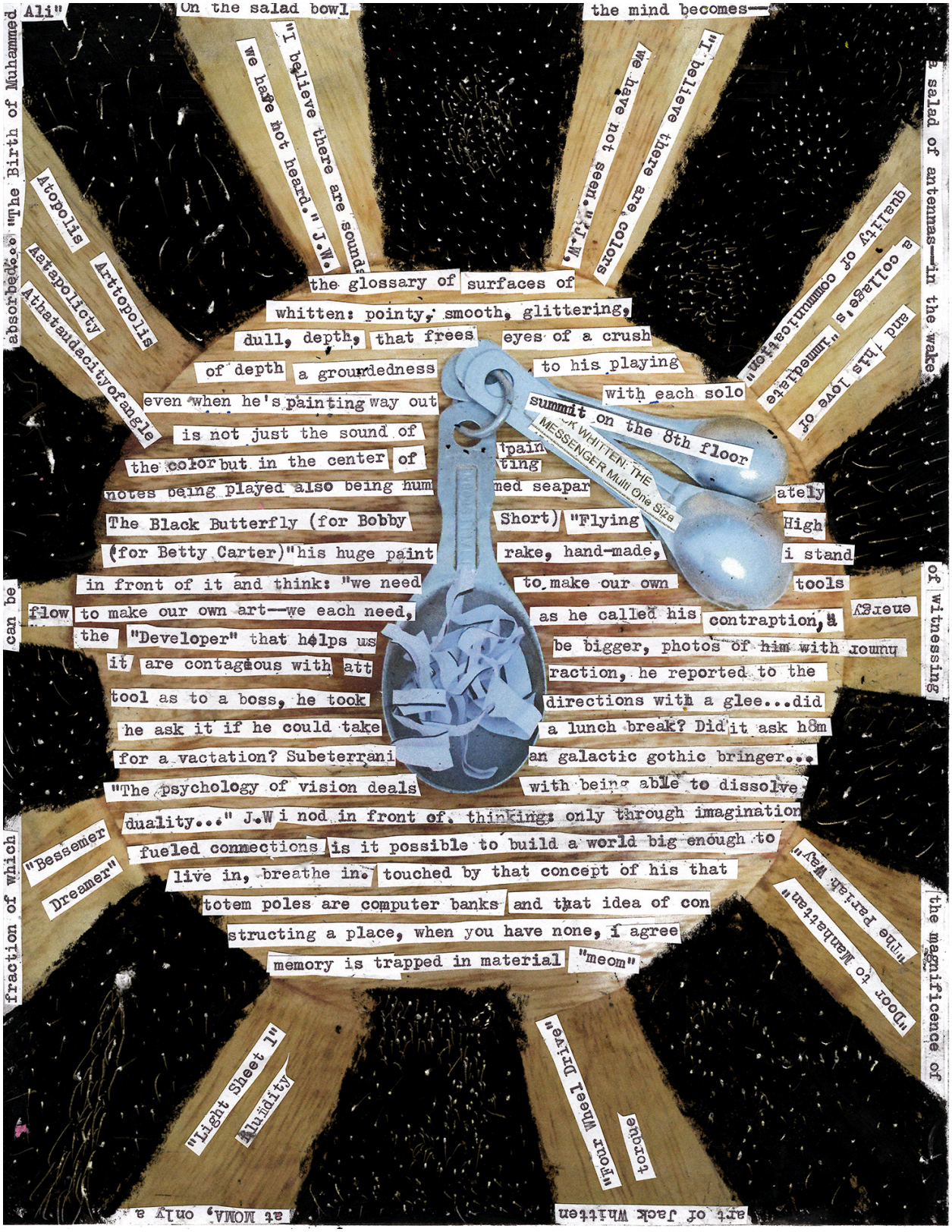
These pieces are part of an on-going series entitled *On: The New Art of the Essay*. Each project segment is hand-crafted without the use of software. Here a collaboration between the languages of word, color, texture, and shape, concoct an evolving dimensionality to explore a theme not merely intellectually, but also in a fashion that cites emotional and spiritual ways that beings sift through, and absorb, a confounding world of dark and light, incredible beauty and incredible ugliness.

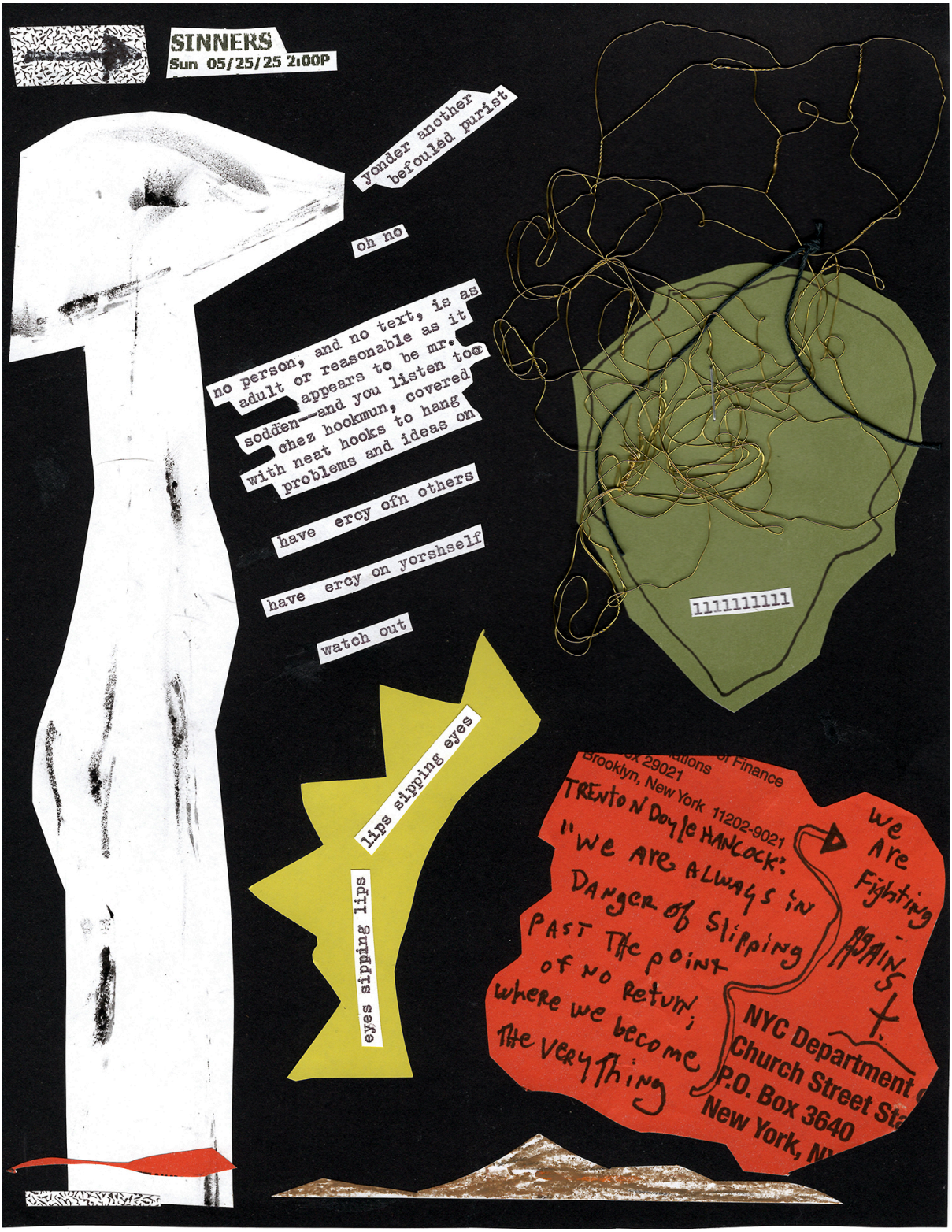
Shifting essay structures encourage a reader to slow down and embrace the physicality of reading, as opposed to gliding over the predictability of an automaton text tattooing a screen. The entire undertaking constitutes a vigorous opportunity to experiment anew with many types of expressive tactile materials and explore the depth of a blank page—the page as a net fit to capture the infinite complexities of American experience.



Ben Miller, *On Jack Whitten's Art of the Arc (Essay 85)*, 2025.
Mixed-media collage on 90 lb. index paper (Ink, pastel, Olivetti typed text, photograph of measuring spoons and salad bowl, crumpled paper…)



Ben Miller, *On Reaching Out to Sun Ra (Essay 86)*, 2025.
Mixed-media collage on 90 lb. index paper (Ink, marker, Olivetti typed text, photograph of vintage WKCR poster in Jazz Record Center in New York City, wrapping paper clips, record album hype sticker, champagne foil, gold stick-on letters…)



Ben Miller, *On the Enemy Within (Essay 96)*, 2025.
Mixed-media collage on 90 lb. index paper (Ink, pastel, Olivetti typed text, wire, origami paper, NYC municipal fine envelope scrap, movie ticket clip, ticket clip, tag string…)