



**Meridith  
McNeal**

a **Portrait  
of my Mother**

**Kentler International  
Drawing Space**

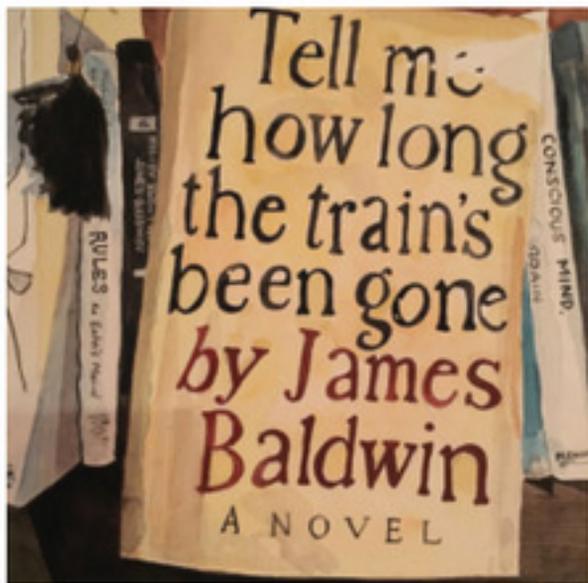
**January 4 – February 10, 2019**



## ***Magical Things***

*This new series of Magical Things (finding beauty in the mundane) is of things I saved after cleaning out my mother's home after her death on September 11, 2017.*

*All images:  
watercolor on paper  
12" x 12"*



*"Well, ain't neither one  
of you much good  
around the house,"  
said our mother with  
finality, 'and that's  
the truth."*

James Baldwin,  
*Tell Me How Long  
The Train's Been Gone*, 1968

*Tell Me How Long*, 2016



*"And because nothing is as present  
as what is absent, mothers outdo  
themselves during the sacred  
month to produce all their culinary  
dreams both savory, and especially  
sweet. Round tables, tablecloths,  
earthenware and porcelain bowls,  
glasses of milk, dates, shebakiya ...  
he who has not visited a Moroccan  
house at this time has seen  
nothing, smelled nothing."*

Fatema Hal  
*Authentic Recipes from Morocco, 2007*



top: **Tin Foil**, 2018  
*Coffee Filters and Dining Room Chair*, 2018

Bren loved Kentler! She was an avid art collector and purchased artworks at Kentler benefits and from the Flat Files.

Visiting Gallery Director Florence Neal's own art studio on the top floor of the building was so exciting for my mother.

I am certain that becoming familiar with Florence's work deepened her respect for Kentler as she made connections between Florence's artistic and curatorial voices.

In most of these paintings, my mother's things are depicted in my house. In setting the scene for this piece, I just had to use the signature red Kentler pencil!



*Pencil Sharpener*, 2018