



*Meridith
McNeal*

a *Portrait
of my Mother*

*Kentler International
Drawing Space*

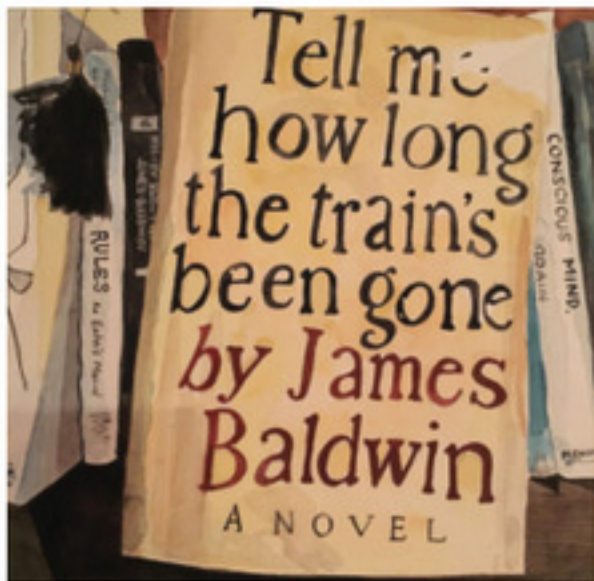
January 4 – February 10, 2019



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.

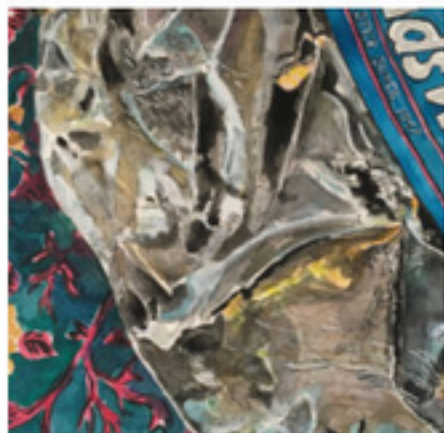
*All images:
watercolor on paper
12" x 12"*



*"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, 2018



*"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