

Julianne Swartz

We Interrupt Your Program
Mills College Art Museum
January 16 — March 16, 2008

Julianne Swartz's interactive sound sculpture *Open* is a simple wooden box with a hinged lid that, when lifted, emits a prerecorded sequence of different voices saying "I love you." Swartz conceived this and related "affirmation" projects as fragile counterweights to the general *malaise* she sees pervading contemporary life, reinforced by the negative messages of mass media. Her benign efforts are compromised by the obvious paradox that these messages are recorded electronically, delivered by voices of people with no actual relationship to the listener. It's a real box with imaginary lovers in it.