

John Boone (b. 1951)
In Memory of My Feelings, 2007
Acrylic on mylar
Collection of Artist

John Boone (b. 1951)
My Mind's Eye, 2008
American
Acrylic on mylar
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Brooklyn-based artist John Boone typically presents his “conundrums” in words, not visual images—some stenciled on walls as outdoor murals or presented as LEDs, others printed on brightly colored panels. What interests the artist most about his word portraits is not so much what is unique to himself or another person, but rather notions of identity that are “applicable to everyone.” The two works in this gallery use the first-person possessive--“my feelings,” “my mind’s eye”—but Boone leaves the phrases open by use of ellipses to suggest that we all start from similar premises, or phrases, when we begin to contemplate ourselves. Furthermore, Boone adopts the look of public display, reminding us that our ideas about identity are mediated through advertising. He comments, “As much as any artwork contains features of the artist, my Portraits are an attempt to broaden the scope of the idea of art about me or anyone and turn it into everyone.” Boone’s play with words becomes a kind of visual poetics, familiar yet playfully ambiguous.