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## Incendiary Postcard Art

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LOS ANGELES

## Incendiary Postcard Art

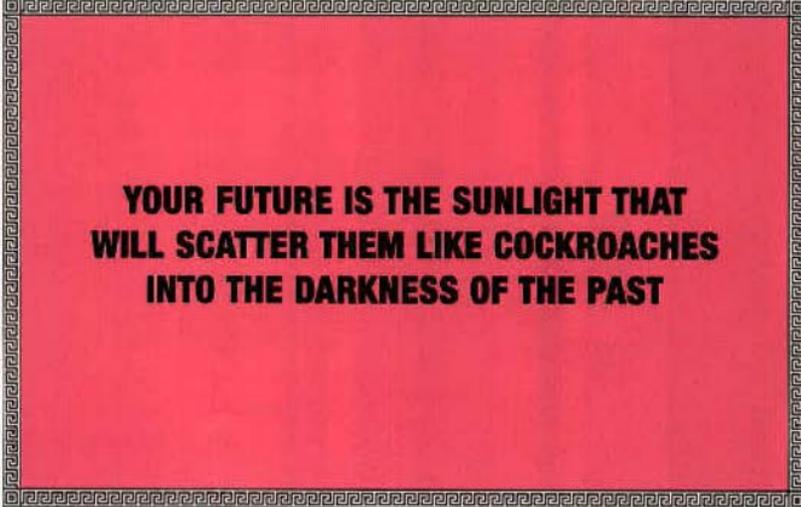
Strange postcards have been showing up in Los Angeles — in mailboxes, gallery desks and as magazine inserts. The cards bring vague yet commanding messages in bold, black, non-serif font: “Where does this coward get his strength from?” or “We can see everything.” LA-based artist Susan Silton is the mastermind behind these ominous missives with her project titled *By Power of suggestion, which in favorable circumstances becomes instruction*, 2006. Over the period of several months she has disseminated a total of five cards with text culled from American Military PSYOP activities in Iraq between 2003 and 2004. The background colors of Silton’s cards assimilate the terror alert levels, though the

**Susan Silton, *By Power of suggestion, which in favorable circumstances becomes instruction*, #3, 2006. Offset Lithography on paper, 12 x 20 cm.**

art-historical precedents for this project lie clearly in the Conceptual art and mail art practices of the ‘60s and ‘70s. The ambiguous, agitprop language of the dictums, citing neither context nor specific protagonists or subjects, seems to parallel the persistent fumbling of lan-

guage, and politics, that has plagued the US involvement in the Middle East of late. One card asking “Is this a stone of a grenade?” recalls the fiasco that ensued in 2001 when the US dropped food packets over Afghanistan that happened to be the same color and size as the un-detonated cluster bombs that still littered the landscape.

—Micol Hebron



**YOUR FUTURE IS THE SUNLIGHT THAT  
WILL SCATTER THEM LIKE COCKROACHES  
INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE PAST**