

(Soo Lim) Archive

A book about mold and forgotten things. Inspired by the idea that mold grows from what's left behind, I created all content myself. Each chapter uses textured paper to evoke an organic, tactile feel.

5.5 x 8.5 in
300 pages



FORGOTTEN MEMORIES



Memories left untouched grow soft and obscure, settling into the quiet decay of time.

Chapter Dividers

The first three chapters focus on forgotten things. Like the gradual spread of mold, each divider accumulates more of it.

FORGOTTEN OBJECTS



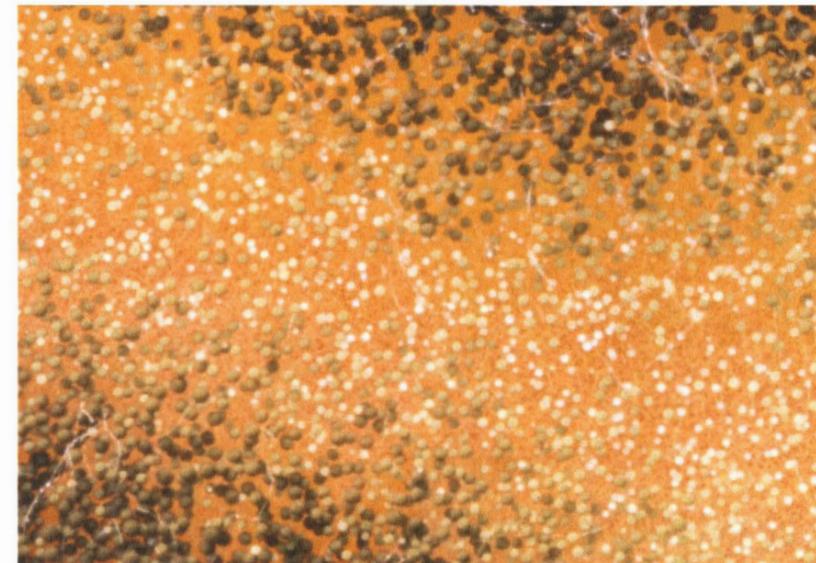
Objects left behind lose their function, yet they linger, holding echoes of the past.

FORGOTTEN SPACES



Spaces forgotten by time remain, carrying the whispers of those who once passed through.

Spores of the Memories



Memory, like a living organism, does not simply vanish into the void when it fades from conscious thought.

Instead, it lingers in the unlit recesses of the mind, waiting—sometimes indefinitely—for the right conditions to be revived. Just as fungal spores drift unnoticed through the air, settling into unlit crevices until warmth and moisture awaken them, forgotten memories lie dormant within us, their presence undetected until something stirs them back to life. What seems lost is often merely hidden beneath the surface of awareness, waiting for the right catalyst to bring it forth once more.

Philosophers and scientists alike have long debated the nature of forgetting. Is it an act of erasure, a permanent wiping away of information? Or is it a process of burial, a temporary suppression of memories that can later be unearthed? Neuroscience leans toward the latter. Memories, even those we no longer consciously access, leave behind engrams—physical traces within the neural pathways of the brain. These engrams, much like the invisible spores of fungi, may remain inert for years, even decades, only to spring to life under the right conditions.

Object as Memory Holders

Objects possess a unique ability to tether us to the past, acting as vessels of memory in ways that are both deeply personal and profoundly universal.

A childhood toy tucked away in a forgotten box, an old letter found between the pages of a book, a photograph curled at the edges from years of exposure—these seemingly ordinary things contain fragments of time, holding onto moments long after they have slipped from conscious recollection.

Objects as memory holders are deeply embedded in the human experience. Our relationship with material things is more than just functional—it is emotional, symbolic, and often



Left: Mold on a tomato
Right: Mycelium

Beyond natural forgetting, there are also intentional and unconscious forms of memory suppression, such as repressed memories. Repressed memories refer to a psychological defense mechanism in which painful or traumatic experiences are unconsciously blocked from conscious awareness.

Repression is commonly associated with experiences of childhood abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other highly distressing life events. While the repression of traumatic memories can serve as a short-term psychological buffer, these memories may resurface later in



life through triggers, dreams, or therapeutic interventions. When repressed memories emerge, they often carry intense emotional weight, leading either to healing or retraumatization, depending on how they are processed.

Their significance diminishes over time, and eventually, they are discarded, forgotten, or left to collect dust in drawers or basements. But why do we forget objects? What makes some items stay precious to us for a lifetime, while others lose all meaning in a matter of months or years?

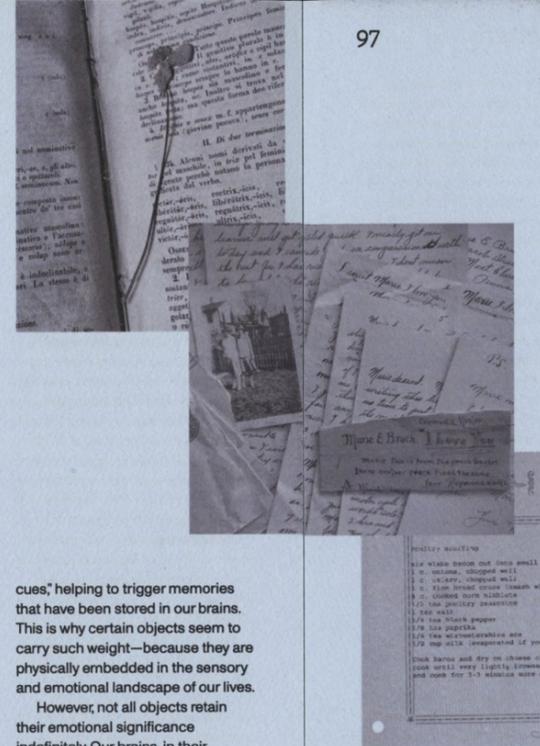
The reasons for this selective forgetting are deeply intertwined with our memory systems, emotional connections, functionality, and the rapidly changing landscape of consumer culture. The interplay between these factors shapes our relationship with material possessions, determining what we hold onto and what we leave behind.

Objects as Memory Anchors: The Emotional Connection

For many of us, objects serve as powerful anchors to our memories. They are imbued with personal meaning because they are tied to significant moments or milestones in our lives. A childhood stuffed animal, a locket passed down through generations, a letter from a loved one—these items carry more than just their material form.

They represent key events, feelings, and relationships that have shaped us. Neuroscientists explain that physical objects can act as "retrieval cues," helping to trigger memories that have been stored in our brains. This is why certain objects seem to carry such weight—because they are physically embedded in the sensory and emotional landscape of our lives.

However, not all objects retain their emotional significance indefinitely. Our brains, in their continual effort to process and prioritize information, filter out what they deem less important over time. As the emotions attached to objects fade or evolve and the events associated with them become more



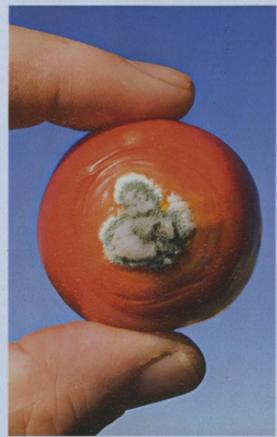
Forgotten

The Decay of Nourishment: How Mold Overtakes Forgotten Food

Food is meant to be consumed, to nourish, to sustain life. Yet, when forgotten, it follows a different trajectory—not into the body but into decay. Left untouched, food does not simply remain static; it transforms, breaking down in ways that are both natural and unsettling.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF TEXTURE AND COLOR
As mold advances, it does not merely sit on the surface—it consumes. The food's texture shifts dramatically, what was once firm becomes soft and collapsing, what was once smooth becomes rough and uneven. Fruits lose their structure, melting into liquid decay.

[Objects]



Silent Witnesses to the Past

The concept of forgotten spaces carries with it the evocative power of time, memory, and the traces of lives once lived. Forgotten spaces, though no longer active or inhabited, stand as silent witnesses to the past, retaining within their walls the essence of those who once filled them.

At their core, forgotten spaces serve as more than just empty structures or vacant lots; they are repositories of memories, histories, and experiences. Abandoned buildings, old schools, shuttered factories, and empty homes are physical manifestations of the passage of time and the inevitable shifts in society, economy, and culture. They hold within them the stories of the people who lived in them, worked in them, or passed through them—stories that may be lost to the greater narrative of history but are still tangible in the very fabric of the spaces themselves.

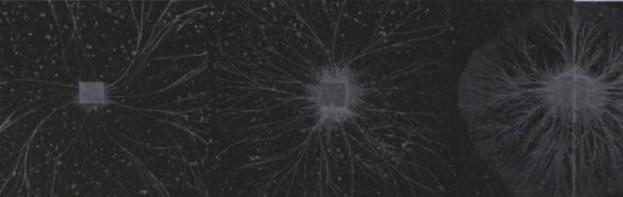


Forgotten

This raises the question: how reliable are our memories, and how can we be certain that what we think we remember is actually what happened?

THE FADING OF MEMORY: THE TRACES LEFT BEHIND
Even when a memory is completely forgotten, it still leaves traces. These traces are not always explicit memories, but they take the form of emotional imprints, behavioral patterns, and subconscious

forgotten experiences. They may not be consciously accessible, but they shape our perception of the world, creating connections between past experiences and present realities. In some ways, the process of forgetting is akin to erosion—a gradual wearing away of the past, leaving behind only traces of what once was. Like footprints in the sand, forgotten memories may be smoothed over by time, but their impact lingers, even if the original details are lost to the tide of time.



associations. Just as an old house that has been abandoned for years still carries the echoes of its past inhabitants, forgotten memories leave behind remnants of their existence. These traces influence our actions, decisions, and interactions, even if we cannot consciously recall the events that created them.

FORGOTTEN, YET NEVER TRULY GONE

The notion of forgotten memories as being permanently lost is a comforting, yet misguided, belief. Memories may fade, change, or become inaccessible, but they are never entirely gone. They continue to shape who we are, even if we no longer consciously recall them. The forgotten past is not absent; it lives on in ways we cannot

Forgotten

What is Mold and Why does it Love Bread?

You've probably experienced it before—reaching for a loaf of bread, only to find strange patches of fuzz creeping across the surface. Green, blue, black, and gray blotches spread like an invading force, transforming what was once fresh and soft into something unappetizing and strange.

The mold seems to appear out of nowhere, and once it arrives, there's no stopping it. But what exactly is mold? And why does bread, in particular, seem to be one of its favorite targets?

[Objects]

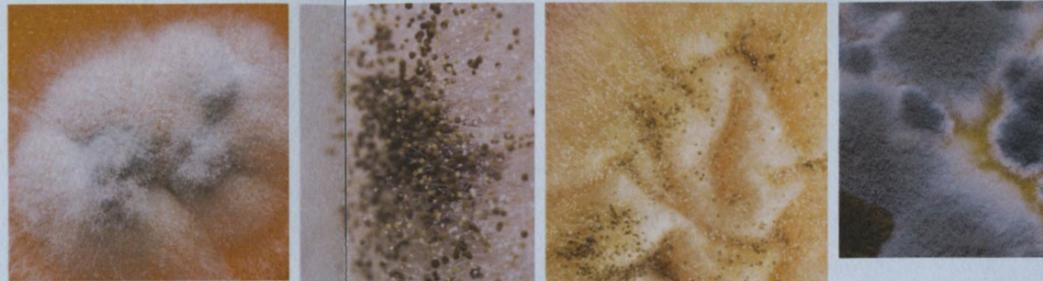


Left 3 Each chapter is composed of 3 sections: White BG: memories Blue BG: mold Black border: article excerpts

process of forgetting is not always a loss. It is a means by which we adapt to our ever-changing environments, creating room for the new and the meaningful, while gently letting go of the old. And in the process, we are able to focus on the objects that truly matter—the ones that hold emotional significance, that serve a purpose in our lives, or that remind us of who we are and where we've been. Through forgetting, we create space for remembering what is truly essential, and in doing so, we continue to shape our lives, our identities, and our relationship with the material world around us.

When Objects Lose Their Meaning

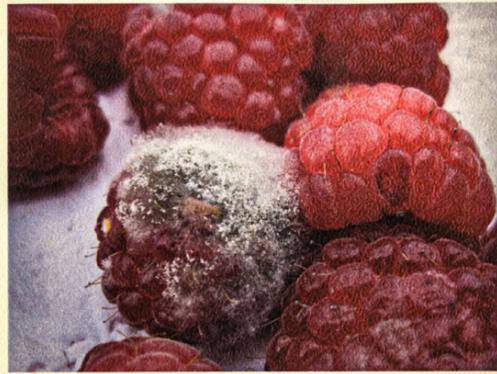
Objects are integral to human life. They fill our spaces, accompany us through different stages of our lives, and serve as symbols, reminders, and physical manifestations of our memories. Whether it's a tool we use every day, a cherished gift, or an item from our past, objects are deeply connected to who we are and how we relate to the world. Yet, despite their presence and significance, many objects eventually lose their meaning and fade from our awareness. Some objects are discarded or forgotten, while others become relics of a past life. But why do we forget objects? Why do some items remain precious, while others are abandoned without a second thought? The reasons behind this



Cover and Binding

Mold spreads from front to back, appearing to grow throughout the book. Perfect binding exposes a pastel-toned spine made from the interior paper.

THE
GARDEN
ARCHIVES
OF MOLD



Last Chapter
Archives of Mold presents a literal fungal garden. Leather-textured paper adds a moldy, organic feel to each image.

