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Beyond Pattern and Chaos

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Zoë Mendelson, *Dirty Rearranger* (2017)

Ruin and Raccoon-feeding: collages of constantly shifting temporal matter, from Merzbau to Grey Gardens.

The impermanent and destabilising nature of a hoard could be said to create a narrative skin – a personally constructed variable space within a more logical, physical realm. This paper looks at two hoard-like environments and questions the pathologising of over-collection. Using the examples of Kurt Schwitters' 'Merzbau' (1938) and the eponymous home at the centre of the Maysles Brothers' film *Grey Gardens* (1976), the psychopathology of hoarding will be examined through the lens of collective perceptions of chaotic space. Zoë Mendelson's research engages disorder as a culturally produced phenomenon, in parallel to its clinical counterpart.