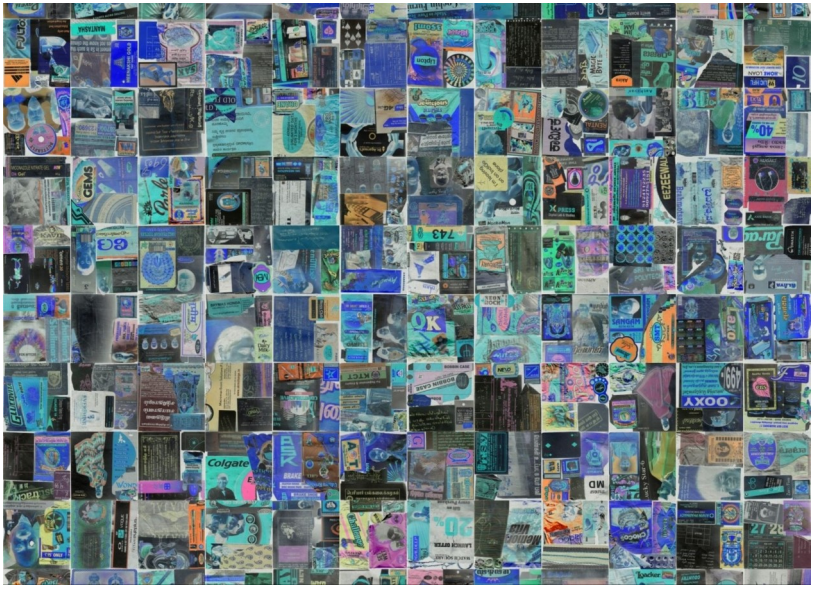


Fig.123 Collages of trash picked during a trip through Southern India. Brought back to Northern Europe, the Indian trash still retained the incense-like smell which can still be appreciated scavenging through my physical archive where a further selection of what I have gathered from the sidewalks of the world is kept.

TRASH 03

My trash collages are representative of the societies I explore. Perhaps more than a scavenger, I am an ethnographer visualizing the status of a particular society. Not only then my trash picking shows the different calligraphies of the world but also the way different societies of the world boost or censure certain content. While on the sidewalk of Tokyo and Prague I might find plenty of pornography, on the muddy sidewalks of Madurai the content of the trash is of a religious nature. The work is in this respect a true radiography of a nation as well as an account of the psychological brainwashing its citizens have to undergo. A careful examination of the gathered trash can in fact reveal certain patterns. For example the Black Lives Matter movement that became popular in the middle of the project had a great impact on the advertisement of Western countries. During this period I collected many fliers representing black people but ironically almost none from other ethnic groups. When it comes to representation I think that the more colours, the better. If it only used to be white, it is by now black and white but far from achieving the palette that only conscious photographers like Oliviero Toscani managed to achieve in the past with his scandal-driven advertising campaigns.