

Language

Themes of Contemporary Art

[http://www.julianneswartz.
com/work_archive/open/open.html](http://www.julianneswartz.com/work_archive/open/open.html)

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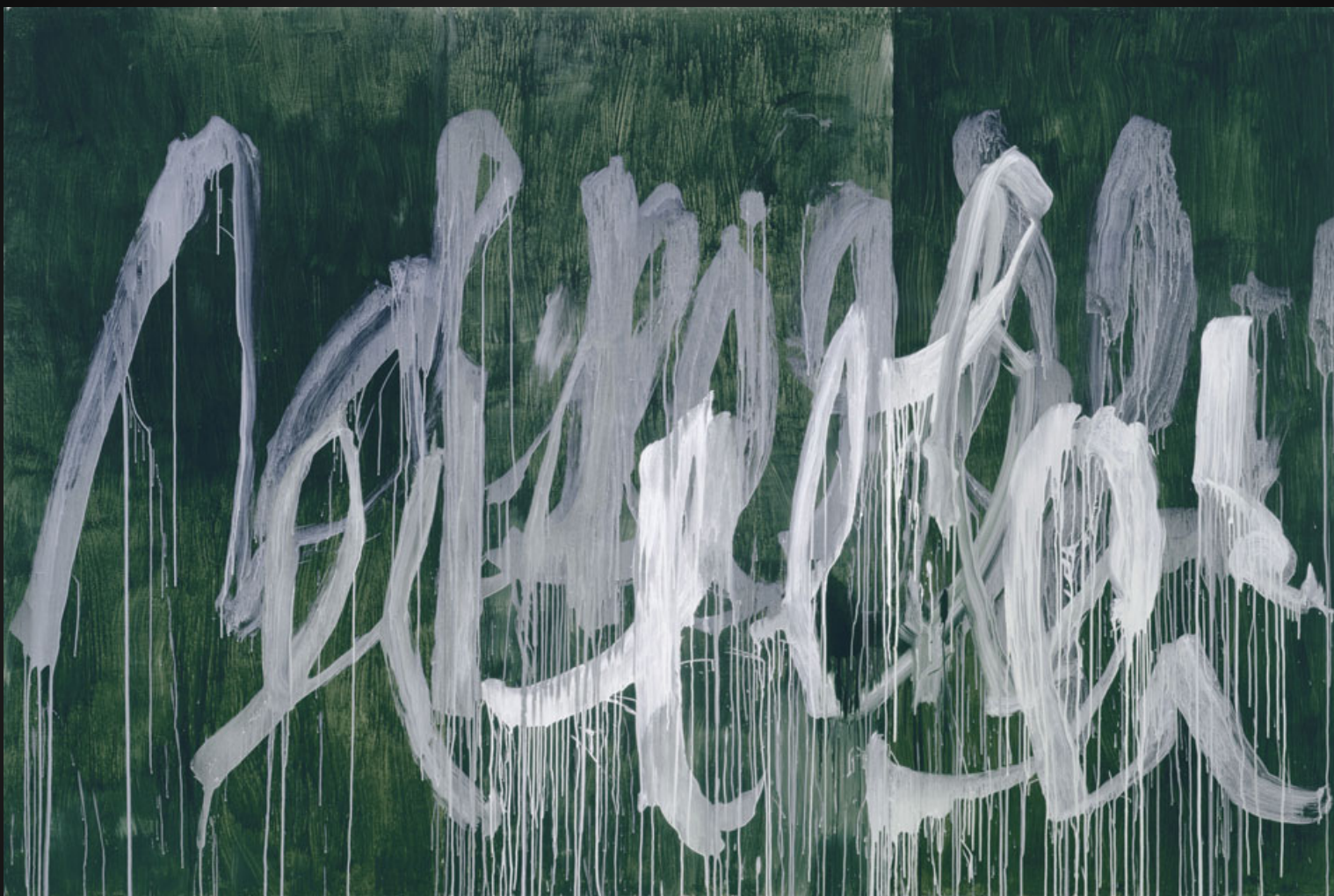
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Kay Rosen
The Ed Series
1992

Predecessors



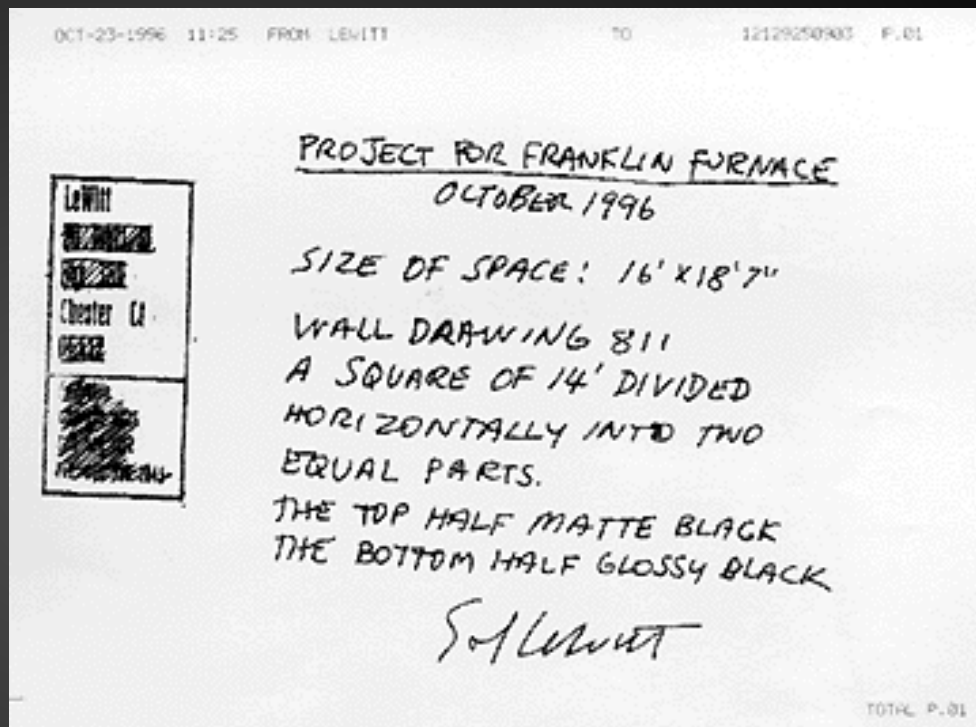
Cy Twombly
Note II
2005–2007



Joseph Kosuth
One and Three Chairs (English Installation)
1965



Lawrence Weiner
10 LBS. MERCURY TOSSED FROM FINLAND TO SWEDEN
1970

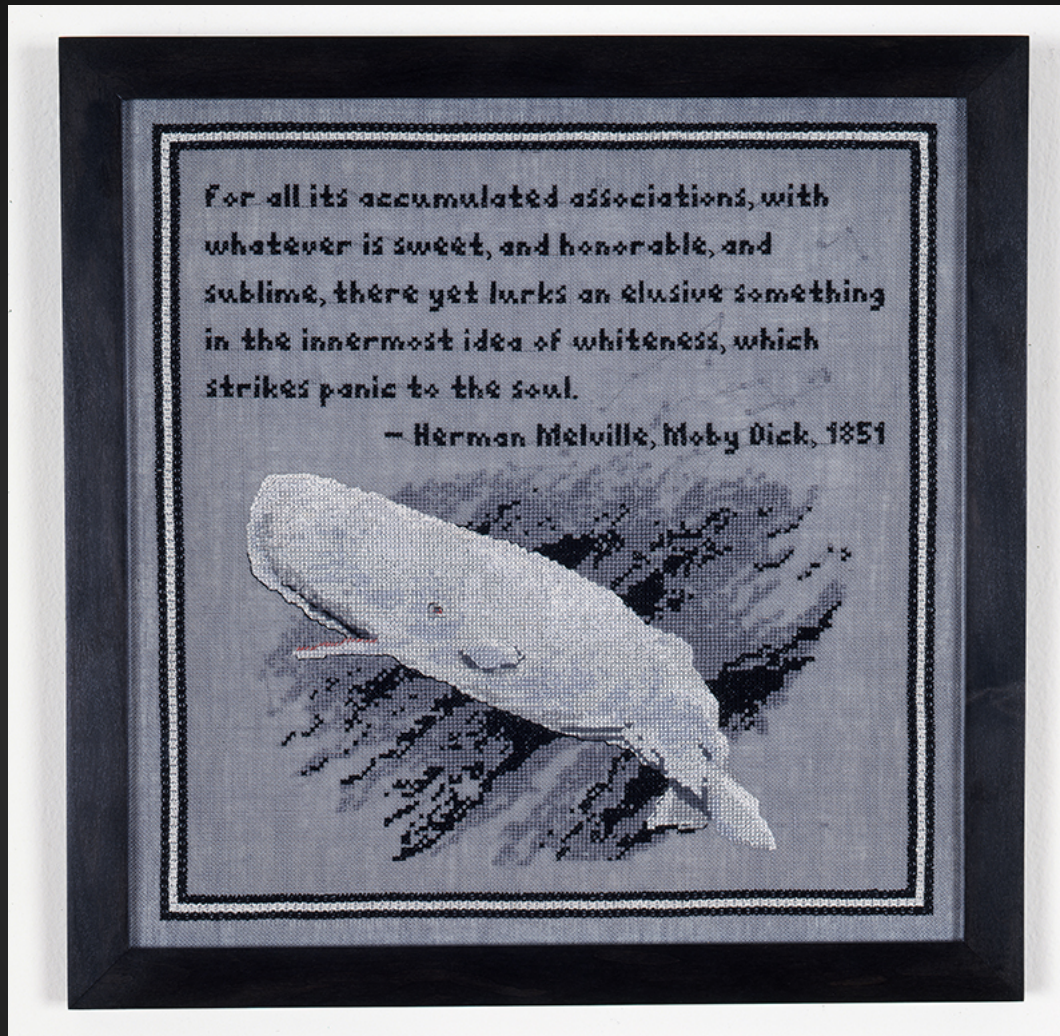


Sol LeWitt
Wall Drawing 811
1996

Language Theories



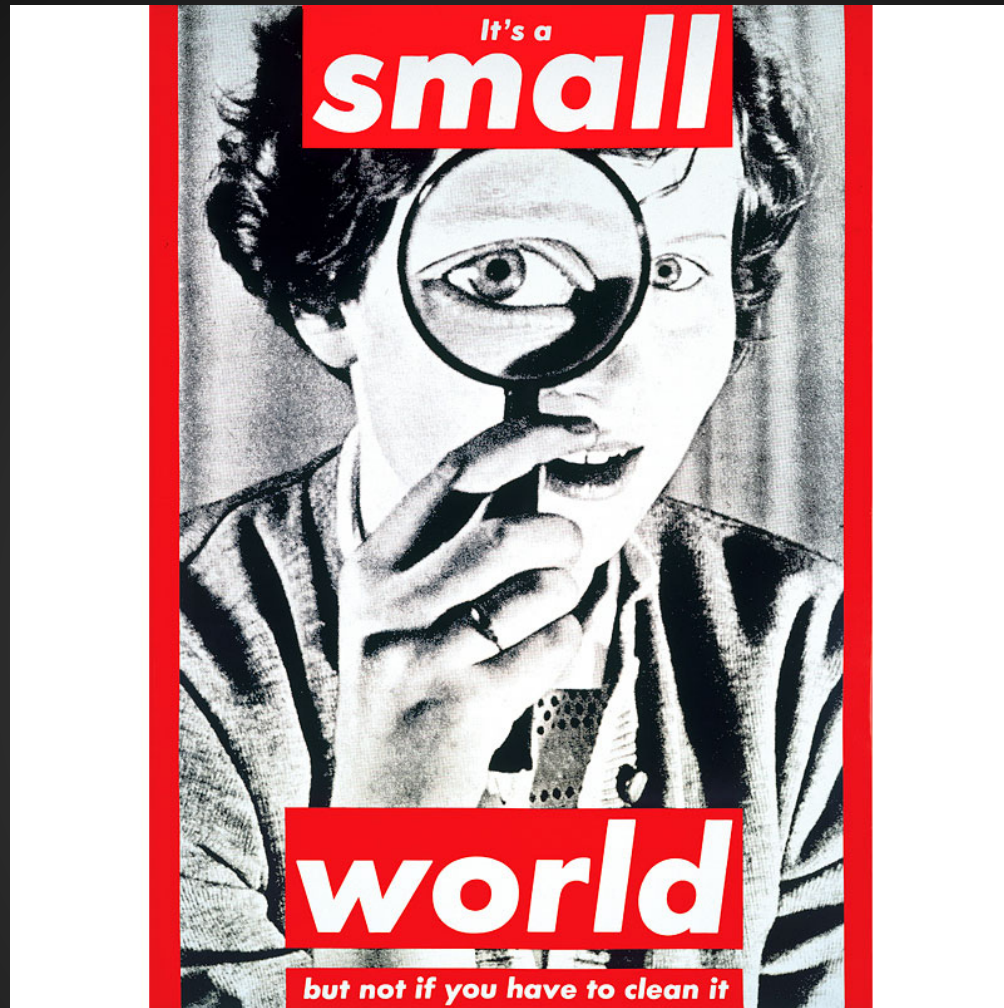
Ken Aptekar
A Reason to Wake Up
2005



Elaine Reichel
Sampler (Accumulated Associations) from series *At Home & in the World*
1999

Reasons for using language

1. Dematerialisation of artwork, language is abstraction
2. Recording temporary events
3. Cognitive content & subverting language
4. Language takes time



Barbara Kruger
Untitled (It's a small world but not if you have to clean it)
1990

THERE ARE THINGS HERE NOT SEEN IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH

My shirt was wet with perspiration.
The beer tasted good, but I was still thirsty.



Some drunk was talking to another drunk about Nixon.
I watched a roach walk slowly along the edge of a bar stool.
On the jukebox Glen Campbell began to sing about "Southern Nights".
I had to go to the men's room. A derelict was walking towards me to ask for money.
It was time to leave.

duane Michals 1/11

Duane Michals
There Are Things Here Not Seen in This Photograph
1997



11/9/05

duane michals 1/2

Now that I am old,
I like the company of old things,
old friends, old memories.
They feel cozy, and I am content.

Duane Michals
Now That I Am Old
2005

One day this kid will get larger. One day this kid will come to know something that causes a sensation equivalent to the separation of the earth from its axis. One day this kid will reach a point where he senses a division that isn't mathematical. One day this kid will feel something stir in his heart and throat and mouth. One day this kid will find something in his mind and body and soul that makes him hungry. One day this kid will do something that causes men who wear the uniforms of priests and rabbis, men who inhabit certain stone buildings, to call for his death. One day politicians will enact legislation against this kid. One day families will give false information to their children and each child will pass that information down generationally to their families and that information will be designed to make existence intolerable for this kid. One day this kid will begin to experience all this activity in his environment and that activi-



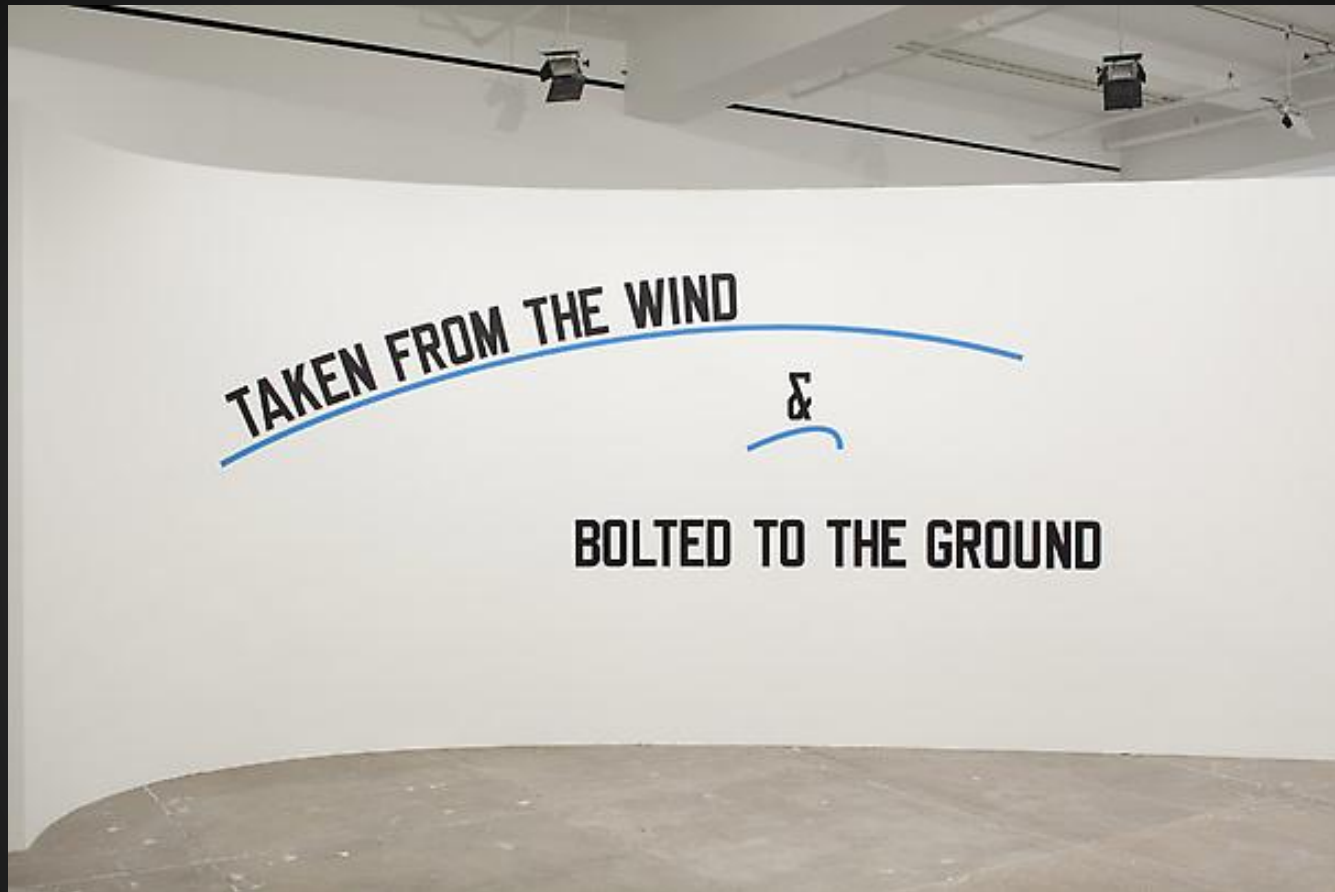
ty and information will compell him to commit suicide or submit to danger in hopes of being murdered or submit to silence and invisibility. Or one day this kid will talk. When he begins to talk, men who develop a fear of this kid will attempt to silence him with strangling, fists, prison, suffocation, rape, intimidation, drugging, ropes, guns, laws, menace, roving gangs, bottles, knives, religion, decapitation, and immolation by fire. Doctors will pronounce this kid curable as if his brain were a virus. This kid will lose his constitutional rights against the government's invasion of his privacy. This kid will be faced with electro-shock, drugs, and conditioning therapies in laboratories tended by psychologists and research scientists. He will be subject to loss of home, civil rights, jobs, and all conceivable freedoms. All this will begin to happen in one or two years when he discovers he desires to place his naked body on the naked body of another boy.

David Wojnarowicz 1990/91

David Wojnarowicz
Untitled (One day this kid...)
 1990

Language makes meaning

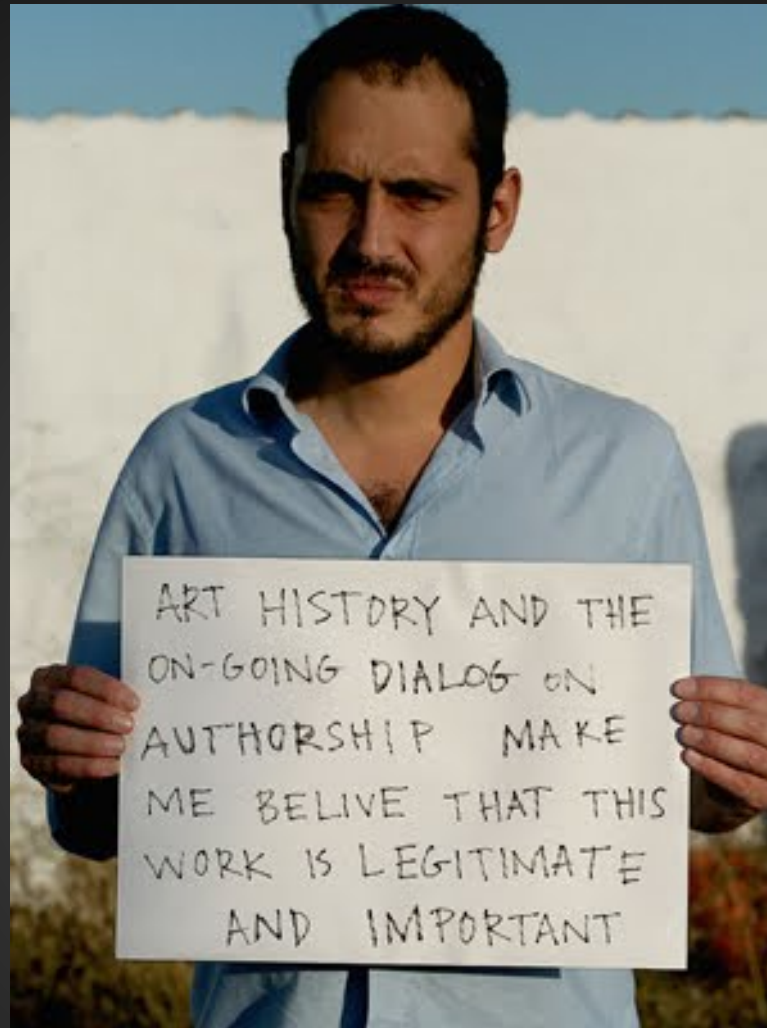
1. Words as signs
2. Words as metaphors
3. Words creating narratives
4. Words decoding language itself
5. Words as titles and captions
6. Words as forms
7. Words as sociopolitical commentary
8. Words in dialogue or text



Lawrence Weiner
TAKEN FROM THE WIND & BOLTED TO THE GROUND
2009

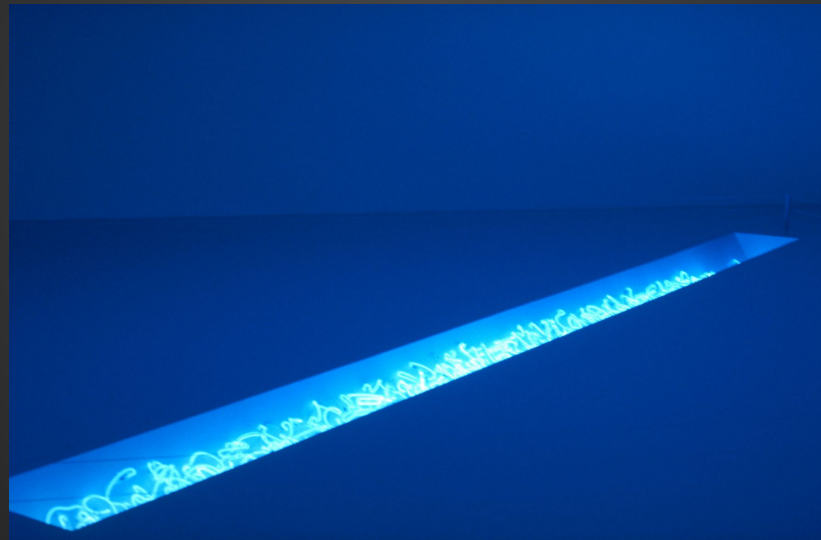
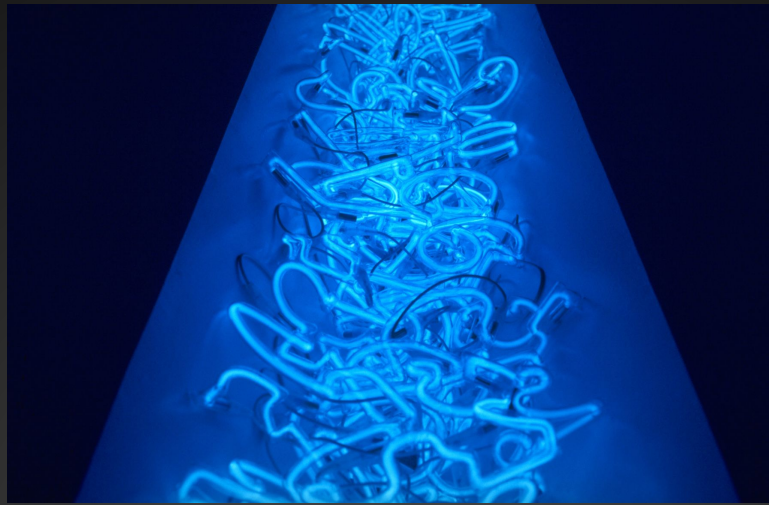


Rimma Gerlovina & Valeriy Gerlovin
Be-lie-ve (left), 1990
Romulus & Remus (right), 1989



Gillian Wearing
*Signs That Say What You Want Them to Say and
Not What Someone Else Wants You To Say*
1992–1993

Language & Form



Von Phaophanit
Azure Neon Body
1994



Robert Indiana
LOVE
1973



Ghada Amer
Love Grave
2003



Xu Bing
Tobacco Project 烟草计划系列
2000

TAMAKO OKAZAKI
 KAZUO OKAZAKI
 MOTOKI ANDO
 SHUNJIRO ANDO
 KYOSUKE SHIMAZAKI
 EIJIRO TAKAHASHI
 KAZUNO NISHIHARA
 NORIKO NISHIHARA
 MOTOBU TAKAYAMA
 KOJI ENOKURA
 TAKASHIRO OKADA
 TOSHIAKI MINEMURA
 KIICHI INATAMA
 HIROSHI FUJII
 MASOTO HANU
 MASCHIEA NASTO
 TEROO FUJIEDA
 ATAKO KANABUCHI
 MAKOTO IIDA
 ATSUKO OHGURA
 REIKO ISHIBASHI
 UTAKO KANABARA
 YUKIO ISHIBASHI
 TOME ISHIBASHI

DEC 20 1970

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DEC 20 1970

On Kawara
I Met (12 volumes)
 2004

Political Language & Art



ACT UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power)
AIDS Is Killing Artists, Homophobia Is Killing Art (left), 1990, sticker
Silence = Death (right), 1987, neon sign



General Idea
AIDS Sculpture
1989

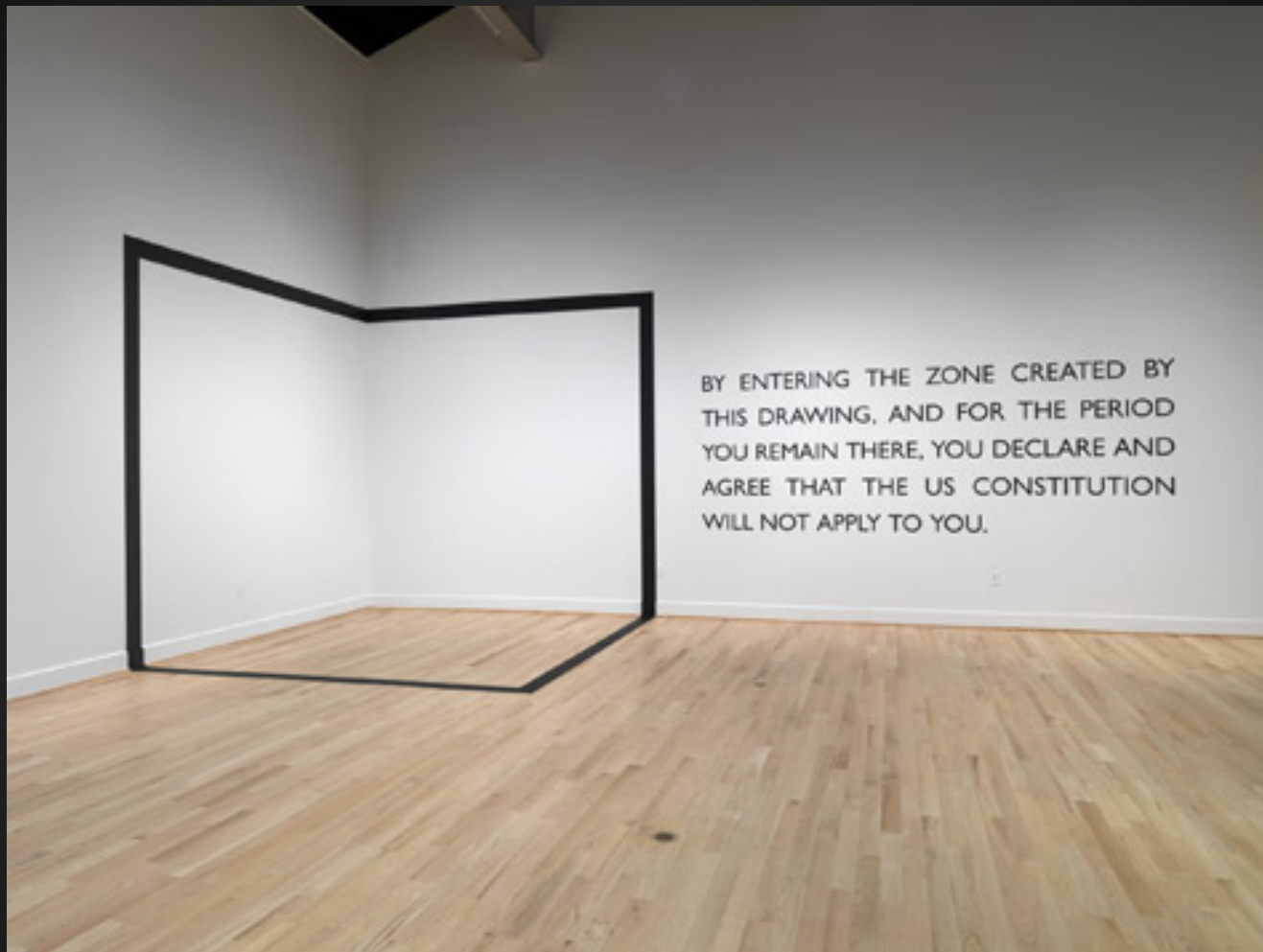


Dread Scott

On the Correct Handling of Contradictions: Women's Room / Men's Room
1990



Dread Scott
What Is the Proper Way to Display the US Flag?
1988



Carey Young
Declared Void
2005

Translation



Xu Bing
A Book from the Sky
1987–1992



Xu Bing
A Book from the Sky
 1987–1992

New Technology



Mark Hansen & Ben Rubin
Listening Post
2002

"The critical reception of all the arts is weighted
toward their analysis in words."

(p. 192)

"[...]

appending language to art slows down the viewing experience; the viewer becomes involved, often with an increased level of self-consciousness, as a collaborator in the production of meaning

[...]"

(p. 201)

"Formats that deliver only one form of verbal or visual communication seem destined to become increasingly outmoded in the future."

(p. 222)