

REVERSE

For Immediate Release:

REVERSE is pleased to present its first fall exhibition, Words to be Seen & The Sound of Speech, a group show of visual work, installation and sound performance focused on text and speech as distinct from their everyday communicative functions. Featuring the work of FAMED, Nathan Gwynne, Bonnie Jones, nicoykatiushka (NyK), David Schoerner, Andrea Wolf, and Audea Wolowiec.

Words to be Seen & The Sound of Speech seeks to flesh out the contradictions that exist between words and images, and thus between description and representation. By emphasizing new and experimental approaches of expression within a curated setting, Words to be Seen & The Sound of Speech promotes the gallery's mission of providing an alternative space that fosters innovation and exploration. The artworks included represent a contemporary take on the use of text in multiple mediums, exhibiting the aesthetic properties within them. Some works portray the rhythmic translation of speech as visual or sound installations. Others use words themselves as visual cues thereby expanding and confounding the boundaries that lie between art, speech and text.

Accompanying these visual works and installations will be a series of sound performances, scheduled throughout the exhibition, entitled The Sound of Speech. This performance series will focus on highlighting the sonant qualities of speaking. A group of sound artists and musicians will interpret the works exhibited in the gallery as well as perform some of their own contemporary sound pieces. They will also enact an interpretation of past speech scores selected by sound artist, Maria Chavez.

These works remind us that language is a fragile and illogical construct, loosely bound to reality by cultural convention. By exploring the latent potential of language and the systems we use to communicate, Words to be Seen & The Sound of Speech aims to separate the message of text and speech and highlight the fascinating nuances that are hidden by their everyday uses.

Korean-American artist Bonnie Jones is a writer, improvising musician, and performer working primarily with electronic music and text. With her text video installation, "We've", she explores writing and language as acoustic, aural phenomena. The video draws largely on text from a longer prose poetry project by the same title. The original source text, written by me, explores contemporary, Asian, urban identity as a set of shifting and interlaced areas of perception linking history, memory, and the present in a non-linear experience. The idea behind much of her work is how we might be able to perceive of language in the way that we perceive of music.

Nathan Gwynne is an artist and musician based in Brooklyn who received his MFA from Hunter College and BA from Stanford University. With his sound sculpture, "Rock and Roll Record", this double LP contains over 20 minutes of vocal recordings. Sides A and C: 'Rock' and sides B and D: '...and roll.' The sculpture aspect of the installation is represented with a typical DJ set up allowing the listener to "play DJ" in order to create one's own absurd Dadaist sound poetry. The last groove of each side is a locked groove with the last utterance playing in a loop until the needle is lifted. Each album side an edition of only 50 copies. "Rock and roll will never die".

David Schoerner is a New York based artist and also the founder of Hassla Books. His work investigates the classical genres of photography, re-photographed imagery and text works. "It's All For You (Returned to Sender)" stems from a news print poster "It's All For You". Prior to sending the poster through the mail it is personalized with the recipients name beneath the text, "It's All For You". The text is at once personal and general. The mass-produced poster contradicting the personal statement and hand writing. The damaged poster that has been returned to the artist offers another poetic layer to the work and its inability to fulfill the statement, "It's All For You". "One Failure After Another (Red, Yellow, Blue)" is comprised of three paintings all with the text "One Failure After Another." The paintings were then unstretched and discarded as if thrown away, allowing the form to mimic the text and also function to create a kind of order of repetition of the text, "One Failure After Another."

WORDS TO BE SEEN & THE SOUND OF SPEECH 9/14-10/7

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nicoykatiushka (NyK) is a Brooklyn based collaborative duo composed of Nicolas Arze and Katiushka Melo, originally from Chile. In the "We" series all words from Yevgeny Zamyatin's book also titled "We", are blocked out except for the words, "you" and "I". The geometric forms created by the blocked out text, into large and small format paintings, unintentionally organizes the compositions. In "We", repetition of a recurrent action let unintended effects come into play, unrelated to aesthetics, psychology and history.

Also from Chile and based in Brooklyn, Andrea Wolf is an artist interested in the subjects of time, memory, and image, the devices of remembrance that we produce, and the tension between remembering and forgetting. "I remember when when I remember" points out the narrative nature of remembering. If we understand memory as a narrative construction, we can say that there is a constant re-writing; there is no final text, but a continuous/infinite non-linear one, endlessly repeated, always reversible. Memory becomes an action that is constantly actualized in the present, because only in the present we construct our memory.

Audra Wolowiec is an interdisciplinary artist from Detroit, MI, based in Brooklyn, NY. Through sculpture, sound, text and performance, her work explores the physical and ephemeral nature of communication, allowing experiences that merge the sensory with the conceptual. In "Private space in a public time", words were removed after reading the essay Public Space in a Private Time by Vito Acconci, leaving a frenetic slur of stops and starts, an intimate cadence of voice without language. The sound portion of private space in a public time contains a condensed series of vocal sounds that explore communication through fragmentation.

The artist collective FAMED, based in Leipzig, Germany make their New York City debut at REVERSE with a looped video installation entitled "The Happy End". FAMED composed a loop according to aesthetical, visual and acoustic aspects by compiling more than 60 different color versions of tape-outs from the Looney Tunes Cartoon series from the 1940es to the 1990es: That's all, Folks! Every sequence of seven to eight seconds shows one end and is an opening for the following sequence at the same time. Sequences are not shown in chronological order which leads to a situation that mixes up 50 years of happy endings: History and childhood, end and beginning looped in a video that releases an emotion or brings back a memory to everybody.

Words to be Seen & The Sound of Speech, curated by Andrea Wolf and Maria Chavez, will run from September 14th until October 7th at REVERSE, located at 28 Frost Street, in Williamsburg, Brooklyn on the ground floor.

For more information, including the full The Sound of Speech schedule of performances, visit the REVERSE website www.reversespace.org

REVERSE is open from Wednesday through Sunday, 1pm to 7pm.

For further information and/or photographs of the exhibition and performance series, please email: info@reversespace.org

Artist Links:

<http://www.audrawolowiec.com/>

<http://bonniejones.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.davidschoerner.com/>

<http://famed.us/>

<http://www.aspngalerie.de/artists/-famed/vita/>

<http://www.memoryframes.org/andreawolfOO>

<http://www.nathangwynne.com/>

<http://www.nicoykatiushka.org/>

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