

CRISTIN TIERNEY

May 26, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Candace Moeller, candace@crisintierney.com



TEXT BASED

Online Exhibition

May 26 – July 11, 2021

Visit Website

Cristin Tierney Gallery is pleased to present an online exhibition of works that utilize text as one of their key elements. *TEXT BASED* launches Wednesday, May 26th, and continues through Sunday, July 11th.

From the 20th century to today, both the formal typography of text and the content of language have been adapted by artists to explore a variety of ideas. The special properties of words have made possible such significant works as Picasso's and Braque's Cubist

CRISTIN TIERNEY

compositions, Futurist concrete poetry, Rosalyn Drexler's Pop art and Hanne Darboven's conceptual installations.

The works in *TEXT BASED* use language as narrative, signifier, performance guide, humor or sociopolitical statements. Claudia Bitran's drawings and watercolors are based on the Instagram posts of Britney Spears, who has been a longtime subject in Bitran's work. Spears' captions are combined with images either taken from the pop star's feed or created by Bitran in response to the text. Their separation from the Instagram format and isolation on the page creates a neat divide between signifier and signified; like many of Spears' fans believe, it opens the possibility that there may be more to her musings than meets the eye.

Other works in the show employ humor to communicate their message. James Hannaham's neon sign *Not White's Only*—a comeback to the once-ubiquitous signs that enforced racial segregation in spaces—lights up the words in the title sporadically so that different combinations of the text are visible over time. John Wood and Paul Harrison's text paintings center deadpan statements (such as "You will forget these words") in block text on monochrome backgrounds. Dread Scott's poster *White on Black Crime* ("We have to do something to stop white on Black crime") is a retort to racist arguments about "Black-on-Black crime," pointing instead to the real source of injustice. In each of these works, the artist's message is amplified by their chosen medium's formal qualities.

Participating artists in *TEXT BASED* include **Claudia Bitran, MK Guth, James Hannaham, Joan Linder, T. Kelly Mason, Dread Scott, John Wood and Paul Harrison**, and **Tim Youd**. One new work by each artist will be revealed every two weeks.

Image

James Hannaham, *Not White's Only*.

Inquiries

Candace Moeller, candace@crisintierney.com or 212.594.0550