

writing instructions / reading walls

curated by Susan Johanknecht and Redell Olsen

A visual poetics project initiating verbal / visual crossovers in relation to a specific site; a wall in The Poetry Society Café. Artists / writers from a range of disciplines have been invited to explore text as a visual, performative entity and the page as an expanded architectural space.

Each artist will submit a proposal of instructions. The sequence of wall-page exhibitions will be installed from January until May 2003. These will form the basis of a Gefn Press publication, developing the project further through essays, documentation, and artists' pages.

JANUARY 18 - FEBRUARY 13

Les Bicknell's 'Watching' is concerned with loss and trivia. "In the 1970's there was a children's TV programme called Why Don't You Switch Off Your Television Set And Do Something Less Boring Instead. I never really subscribed to the idea".

Peter Jaeger's 'Asanas' parodies the instructions of a yoga class by presenting the viewer with a text which connects breathing, reading, and the potential of physical movement. The sheer excess of the sequence threatens as well as invites bodily participation.

FEBRUARY 15 - MARCH 13

Gillian Wylde offers a digital font lovingly recreated by the faulty hand from a text sent via email "which may or may not include a delightful image, of say, a bird in a cat's mouth". She will be performing a version of the work at the Poetry Society on the evening of February 28.

Sally Alatalo's 'Unforeseen Alliances' "addresses romance readers compulsive dispositions" and recycles titles of extant romance novels into new love poetry. She will also be giving a Theatrical Poetry Reading in the personae of Anita M-28 on the evening of February 28. Elegant dress strongly encouraged.

MARCH 15 - APRIL 10

Asa Andersson's 'A Hothouse For Words' links architectural plans of stairwells and corridors with the generation of text drawn from reference manuals such as encyclopedias and dictionaries.

Brigid Mc Leer's 'Freeze (Work Halted In Progress)' recreates a "loosely rambling, tightly engineered sculptural image-text narrative of the city" that plots spacial and textual translations.

APRIL 12 - MAY 1

Sharon Kivland describes her embroidered piece 'On Peut Prendre Un Meme Mot Dans Une Meme Langue' as "a useful work for the intelligence of authors, and which may serve as an introduction to rhetoric and logic."

MAY 3 - MAY 29

Allen Fisher's 'R E S I S T E N T' is a site-specific work which involves a strict series of processual instructions for the overlaying of letters and colours.

Robert Hampson's 'Scene of the Crime' includes texts, exploded maps and collage to invite the viewer / reader to explore in forensic detail the scene of THIS crime.

Performances by Sally Alatalo (as Anita M-28) and Gillian Wylde at 8pm on February 28
The Poetry Society Café, 22 Betterton Street, Covent Garden WC2H 9BX
exhibition opening hours are Monday - Friday 11am to 11pm Saturdays 6:30pm to 11pm

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