

JENNY HOLZER: LIGHT STREAM

Exhibition Dates

19 September–2 November, 2013

Monday-Saturday, 10am–7pm

Pearl Lam Galleries, 6/F, Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Central, Hong Kong

Jenny Holzer is one of the most respected contemporary artists working today, best known for large-scale public projections of text. Influenced by literature, society, and politics, her work explores notions of transparency, sexuality, morality, and power. Her texts take the form of declarations, quotes, and statements from many points of view, often inhabiting complex and controversial subject matter.

For **Light Stream**, Holzer selected phrases from her text series *Truisms* (1977–79), *Living* (1980–82), and *Survival* (1983–85), presenting *Truisms* and *Survival* using Chinese text extensively for the first time on electronic signs and stone benches. *Truisms* comprises over 250 single sentence declarations, written by Holzer at the beginning of her career and crafted to resemble existing aphorisms. Originally printed on posters and anonymously pasted on buildings and walls across New York City in the 1970s, *Truisms* was Holzer's first body of text. *Living* references mundane to visceral moments as individuals grapple with life-altering decisions within a fast-paced modern environment. *Survival*, the first text series written specifically for electronic signs, consists of cautionary phrases that instruct, inform, or question in a more urgent tone.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is Holzer's largest LED gallery work to date and comprises over 25 LED elements. *Light Stream* (2013), also the title of the exhibition, was born of Holzer's long-time desire to produce a swarming mass of texts in one work, and is realised for the first time with Pearl Lam Galleries. Using selections from all three series, the result is a pulsating, flashing heap of text with statements layered and wrapped around one another in frenetic light and colour. Chinese and English texts appear alongside each other, reflecting and encouraging dialogue within the exhibition.

Describing the work, Jenny Holzer explains, "Though I rely on minimalist configurations, for decades I have wanted to offer a massive, irrational, unpredictable heap of glittering displays. I am happy about the paradox—what appears wild, chaotic, and spontaneous is a greater technical puzzle and more difficult challenge to realise. Pearl Lam Galleries and years of building precisely configured LED signs have made this new electronic wilderness possible."

Holzer's LED works are individually programmed to pulse at specific rates. By throwing light and colour, the LED pieces map the darkened gallery space.

Alongside the LED works, four white marble benches—the first works Holzer produced in Chinese—are exhibited. With their connotations of monuments or Classical sculpture, the solid and memorial form of these marble works offers a dramatic contrast to the LEDs. Short statements such as "MONEY CREATES TASTE" and "DON'T PLACE TOO MUCH TRUST IN EXPERTS," chosen for their particular resonance and impact, are carved in Chinese into the bench seats.

About Jenny Holzer

For more than thirty years, Jenny Holzer has presented her astringent ideas, arguments, rapture, and sorrows in public places and international exhibitions, including at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Tate Modern, London; the Guggenheim Museums in New York and Bilbao; Fondation Beyeler, Basel; Centre Pompidou, Paris; and the Whitney Museum of American Art. She was the first female artist to represent the United States at the Venice Biennale with a solo exhibition, for which she received the Leone d'Oro. She holds honorary degrees from Ohio University, Williams College, the Rhode Island School of Design, The New School, and Smith College. She received the Barnard Medal of Distinction in 2011. Holzer lives and works in New York.

About Pearl Lam Galleries

Founded by Pearl Lam, the Galleries' mission is to stimulate cross-cultural dialogue and cultural exchange between East and West by establishing distinct and rigorous programming in each of its gallery spaces in Hong Kong, Shanghai and the forthcoming Singapore gallery, opening in November 2013.

Pearl Lam Galleries is dedicated to championing Chinese artists who re-evaluate the philosophy and perception of Chinese contemporary art, whilst also committed to presenting major exhibitions by international artists. Jim Lambie, Yinka Shonibare MBE and Zhu Jinshi are among the line-up of artists who have solo exhibitions at the Galleries in 2013.

Pearl Lam Design shows works by established and emerging international designers including André Dubreuil, Maarten Baas, Mattia Bonetti, and Studio Makkink & Bey. They are invited to push the boundaries of traditional Chinese art and craft techniques and create new works that reflect their experiences in China.

Enquiries

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