

Sara Magenheimer: NOON

Working across a range of media, including video, sound, performance, sculpture, and installation, New York-based artist Sara Magenheimer (b. 1981, Philadelphia, PA) manipulates and defamiliarizes language with bold combinations of image and text. Her videos incorporate traditional filmic editing techniques alongside those inspired by music and collage. In syncopated progressions of pictures and words, Magenheimer pushes against the bounds of narrative, charting circuitous story lines that invite individual interpretations. Through unexpected juxtapositions of language, graphic compositions, and idiosyncratic imagery, she reveals how visual and verbal signs mutate and inspire manifold pathways to understanding.

For the window of the New Museum's 231 Bowery building, Magenheimer presents "NOON," a new multi-channel video installation that explores a rhythmic vocabulary of time. In this work, images and words cycle to a steady beat, fragmenting and recombining to create a multilayered visual poem. The image of a clock with the word "NO" replacing each of the numbers dissolves into variations of its component parts, falling in and out of sync. One video in the installation combines a pair of separate texts, which at times run parallel to one another and interweave much like instruments, appearing alternately harmonious or dissonant. On the right, a looping video of iPhone footage runs counterpoint to the composition on the left, which shows unexpected breakdowns of order in public spaces. As with many of Magenheimer's works, "NOON" reveals the arbitrary yet meaningful structures that underlie our daily rhythms, as suggested by the saying "Even a broken clock is right twice a day."

On the occasion of her project, Magenheimer has also completed "Notes on Art and Resistance A-Z," a downloadable PDF that can be accessed on newmuseum.org/magenheimer. Written by the artist over the course of the past year, following the 2016 US presidential election, the text comprises a sequence of personal meditations on making art in a time of profound political and social change.

"Sara Magenheimer: NOON" is part of a new series of window installations that relaunches the program originally mounted at the New Museum in the 1980s. This program included now-legendary projects by Jeff Koons, David Hammons, Linda Montano, Bruce Nauman, Gran Fury, and others.

In conjunction with this installation, a selection of Magenheimer's films are featured as part of the New Museum's ongoing Screens Series. These films are on view in the stairwell and vestibule leading to the New Museum Theater, from January 24 to February 11, 2018. They will also be screened in the New Museum Theater on April 15 at 3 p.m., followed by a discussion with the artist.

"Sara Magenheimer: NOON" is curated by Margot Norton, Curator.

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