

christian berst art brut

klein & berst

95 rivington street
new york, ny 10002
+ 1 917 525 5939
contactnyc@christianberst.com

www.christianberst.com

3-5, passage des gravillers
75003 paris
+ 33 (0) 1 53 33 01 70
contact@christianberst.com

Photo: Fred Dott. Courtesy of Galerie der Villa.



When I was a child, I would spend hours copying letters and words from magazines and books—a self-motivated attempt to read before ever stepping foot into the classroom. The realization that these lines meant something was earth-shattering, and I thought that copying their forms would eventually reveal the coded secrets that only grown-ups and older kids understood.

Language, one of the most basic methods of human communication, is, of course, imprecise but does afford us a common and conventional way to engage with one another. This luxury is not equally afforded to everyone, but seems to engage us all; the desire to communicate is trumped perhaps only by the desire to survive. *Do the Write Thing: Read Between the Lines* is an invitation to decipher the hidden meaning from works whose authors use language in various visual forms to express any number of thoughts, emotions, secrets, frustrations, or even otherworldly knowledge.

The artists in this exhibition employ the written word toward a variety of ends and use a wide range of techniques. Indeed, they are united only in their portrayal of the symbols and lines of language. Some works, like those by Yuchi Saito and Beverly Baker, are created through the obsessive layering of text, a process that renders the majority of letters and words indecipherable. Others, like Howard Finster or Royal Robertson, use language as it was intended, but express messages and visions composed in trance-like states or under the direction of a higher power. Patricia Salen and Jill Gallieni produce automatic writings, acting as mediums between worlds, and Harald Stoffers' letters to his mother weave language into the framed structure of musical staves that undulate like waves across the page.

All of these works invite us to contemplate the reality that every communication, filtered through the prism of language, is inevitably perverted from its original essence. The struggle to effectively communicate transcends geographic and temporal boundaries, affecting every human being across the globe and across time, perpetually uniting and dividing us in the process.

—Phillip March Jones, Director

Christian Berst, Daniel Klein, and Phillip March Jones
are pleased to announce the inaugural exhibition
of Christian Berst Art Brut New York.

Do the Write Thing: Read Between the Lines

October 30–December 21, 2014

Opening Reception:
October 30, 2014, 6–8 PM

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| Horst Ademeit | Zdenek Kosek |
| Z.B. Armstrong | Kunizo Matsumoto |
| Beverly Baker | Oscar Morales |
| Giovanni Bosco | Royal Robertson |
| Anibel Brizuela | Yuichi Saito |
| Howard Finster | Patricia Salen |
| Pepe Gaitán | Milton Schwartz |
| Jill Gallieni | Harald Stoffers |
| Josef Hofer | Carlo Zinelli |



Joy Drury Cox : Stranger

Joy Drury Cox's *Stranger* (2008) is a drawing punctuation study comprised of 125 ink drawings on Mylar that map out each period in an English translation of Albert Camus' *The Stranger*. For the opening of Workshop, Cox has revisited the project through a new series of photographic prints. These enlargements, displayed alongside the original drawings, become new translations of each chapter-heading page in the original Camus text. Further removed from the original book, each print becomes a seemingly random combination of points and numbers, playing off the existential themes of the book.

WORKSHOP

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Workshop is devoted to the exhibition of recent discoveries, immersive installations, and contemporary artists engaged with the artists or ideas present in the gallery's program.