

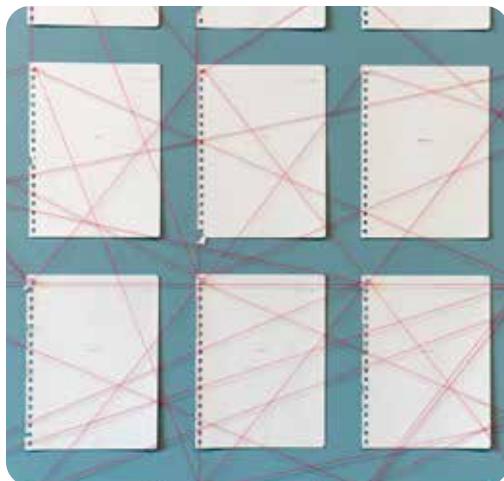


In Fall 2020, several large-scale live and virtual performances of “I Wish to Say” were presented. The University of Michigan, in collaboration with Wayne State University, presented a series of virtual events in which student typists took dictation of postcards to the next President over zoom calls. The Brooklyn Public Library presented a daylong live performance as well as virtual performances.





After typing postcards to the next President at the University of North Carolina Charlotte in March 2020, the messages were included in a solo show at the Projective Eye Gallery. Billboards featuring quotes from messages dictated by students were installed around the city during the show.



Agitype: Changing the World One Letter at a Time

at Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota, FL

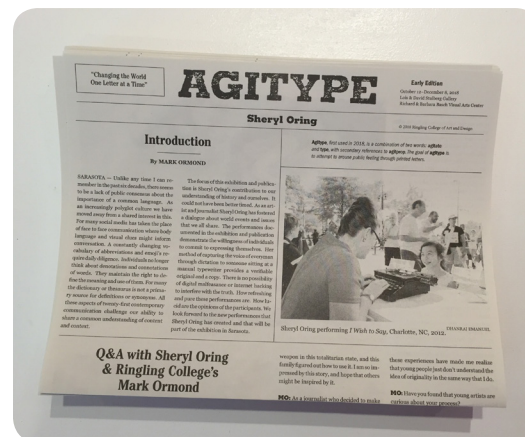
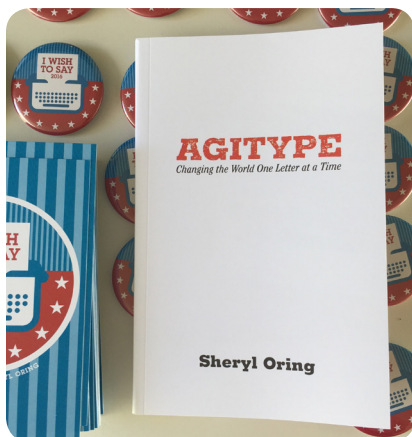
Sheryl Oring



This show, curated by Mark Ormond at the Lois and David Stulberg Gallery, features a collection of ten projects created over the past two decades plus two new works commissioned for this retrospective exhibition.

From *Writer's Block* and its references to the fight for free expression to the *I Wish to Say* prints that feature quotes from postcards people dictated to President Trump, the works in this show demonstrate how art can activate democracy and foster open exchange.

The show's title, *Agitype*, is a word created by the artist that references *agitate* and *type* and refers to the idea of arousing public feeling through printed letters.



Agitype, first used in 2018, is a combination of two words: *agitate* and *type*, with secondary references to *agitprop*. The goal of *agitype* is to attempt to arouse public feeling through printed letters.

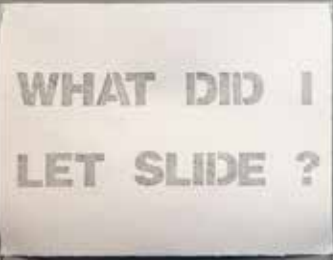
This work draws on news stories about the #Me Too Movement as source material for drawings that are presented in the form of newspaper headlines. Chef Anthony Bourdain talked about sexism in the restaurant industry after sexual misconduct allegations against chef Mario Batali surfaced. Bourdain talked about reexamining his life, and asking questions such as “what did I let slide?”

Other quotes are drawn from personal experience. “Everyone seems to like him,” was something a manager told me about my supervisor as he dismissed my claim of gender-based discrimination.


The most recent quote is from Senator Dianne Feinstein, who was commenting on the hearings regarding Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination when she said: “The Republican strategy is no longer ‘attack the victim.’ It is to ignore the victim.”




IGNORE
THE VICTIM



WHAT DID I
LET SLIDE ?



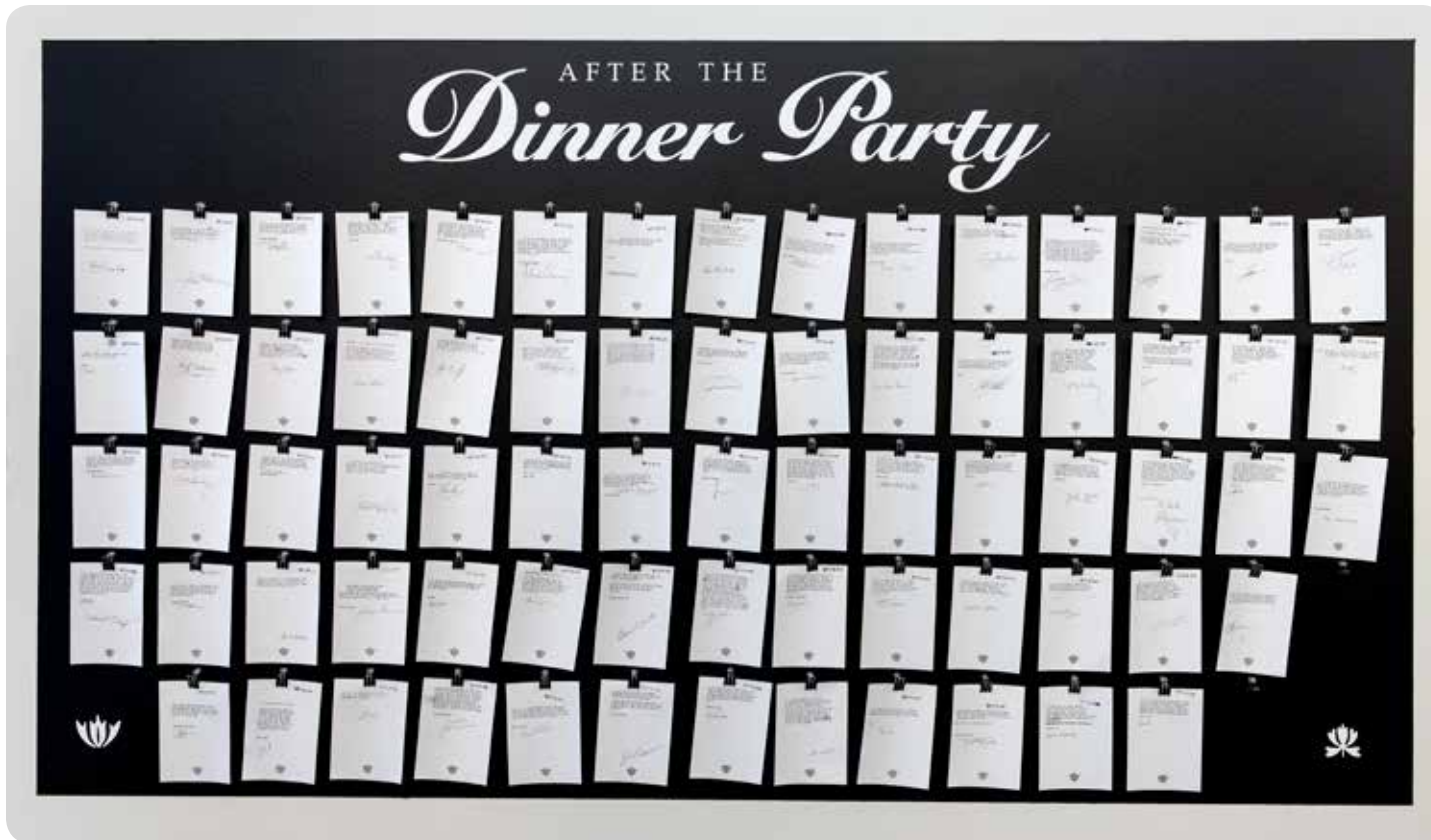
EVERYONE
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IGNORE
THE VICTIM

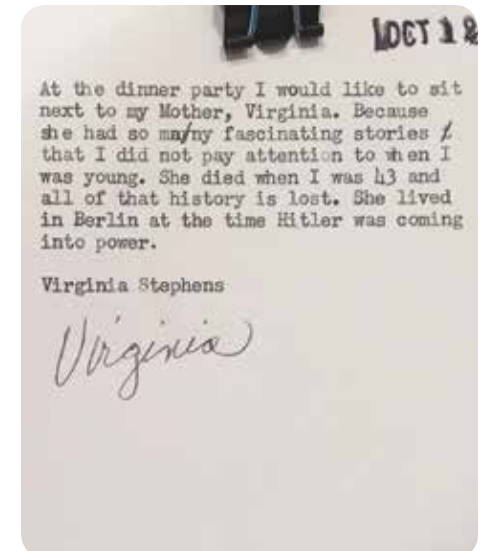
After the Dinner Party
at Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota, FL

Sheryl Oring



After the Dinner Party celebrates feminism some 40 years after artist Judy Chicago created *The Dinner Party*, a massive triangular table with ceramic place-settings commemorating 39 important women from history. At a time when women's rights are under attack, this work asks questions about feminism today.

On two occasions during the *Agitype* exhibition at the Lois and David Stulberg Gallery at Ringling College, three typists asked the public: "If you could sit next to any woman in history at a dinner party, who would it be and why?" They then typed up answers, which were incorporated into the exhibition.





WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY, LEXINGTON, VA

This work, created in Berlin as a tribute to the writers whose books were burned in Nazi Germany, has been shown on Berlin's Bebelplatz (1999); at the Jewish Museum Berlin (1999); at the Lions' Courtyard at the Buda Castle in Budapest (2002); at the Boston Public Library (2003); and Bryant Park in New York (2003). In 2018, the sculptures were shown on three university campuses including the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA; Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA; and Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, FL.

To make *Writer's Block* hundreds of 1930s typewriters were collected in Berlin and around Europe. The typewriters are "caged" in rusty construction rebar, symbolically taking away the writer's voice as a reminder of censorship that existed both historically and today.

Monoprints are made by setting paper underneath the sculptures when they are displayed outdoors.



RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN, SARASOTA, FL



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



MONOPRINTS FROM UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

I Wish To Say: 2016

at Bryant Park during the PEN World Voices Festival, NY

Sheryl Oring



A team of 60 students from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro joined writers from the PEN World Voices Festival to create a daylong public performance at New York's Bryant Park. At 20 typing stations set up throughout the park, visitors were invited to dictate a postcard to the presidential candidate of their choice. Public readings of the cards took place throughout the day. The cards were typed in duplicate; originals were sent to the candidates and the carbon copies were integrated into exhibitions at Smack Mellon in Brooklyn and the Southeast Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, NC.



Greetings From Tampa Bay

Sheryl Oring



TAMPA MUSEUM OF ART

With this two-phase public art project commissioned by the Tampa International Airport, residents of Tampa Bay were invited to share stories about their city during a series of performances in Spring 2017. Performance locations were carefully chosen so that a broad spectrum of the local community could participate in the project. The stories were typed up on manual typewriters and will be printed on aluminum and integrated into a sculpture at the Tampa International Airport. The sculptural installation, designed in collaboration with Toronto-based designer Jonathon Anderson, will also feature photographs of the area's landscape printed on aluminum.



YBOR CITY MUSEUM STATE PARK



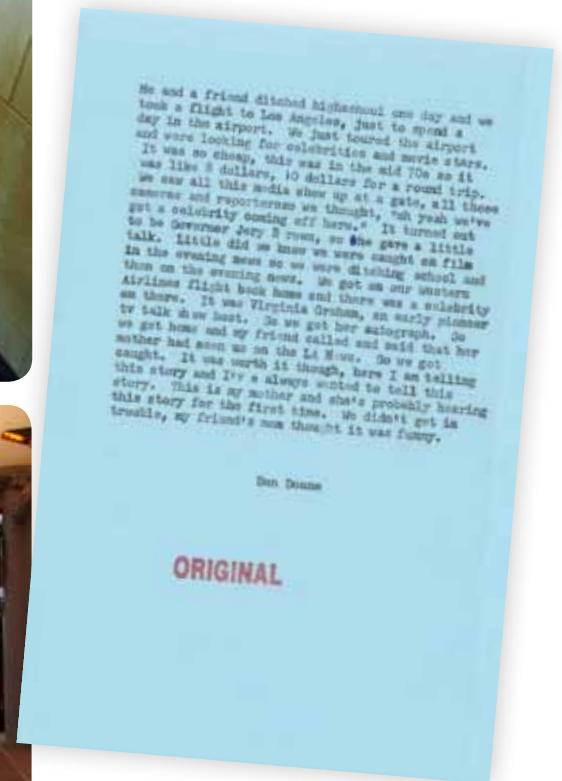
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERBURG

Travel Desk
at the San Diego International Airport

Sheryl Oring



In August 2013, a series of four performances of *Travel Desk* marked the first phase of a public art commission at the San Diego International Airport. Typists dressed in 1960s era flight attendant uniforms took dictation of people's travel stories. The performances took place during the grand opening of one of the airport's new terminals. An art installation inspired by the stories shared during the *Travel Desk* performance is being planned.



We and a friend ditched highschool one day and we took a flight to Los Angeles, just to spend a day in the airport. We just toured the airport and were looking for celebrities and movie stars. It was so cheap, this was in the mid 70s so it was like 8 dollars, 10 dollars for a round trip. We saw all this media show up at a gate, all these cameras and reporters we thought, "ah yeah we've got a celebrity coming off here." It turned out to be Geronimo Jerry B rown, so she gave a little talk. Little did we know we were caught on film in the evening news so we were ditching school and then on the evening news. We got on our Western Airlines flight back home and there was a celebrity on there. It was Virginia Graham, an early pioneer in talk show host. So we got her autograph. Our mother had seen us on the Li News. So we got this story and I've always wanted to tell this story. This is my mother and she's probably hearing this story for the first time. We didn't get in trouble, my friend's now thought it was funny.

Dan Deane

ORIGINAL

Travel Desk at the San Diego International Airport

Sheryl Oring



Initials carved into a tree trunk along a favorite trail or into a wooden picnic table at a beloved spot serve as poignant reminders that we were here, providing an indelible physical mark in an increasingly transitory, digital world. The picnic table - an icon of the San Diego landscape - is the centerpiece of the *Travel Desk* installation. By pushing the scale of the table itself and laser etching the tabletop with excerpts from the travel stories typed during the Travel Desk performances, an iconic meeting place within the airport is created, a place where people return to again and again to trace their own stories and read those of others. The 20-foot table, made from urban harvest eucalyptus wood, was designed by Jonathon Anderson in collaboration with Sheryl Oring. It was installed in the airport in early 2015.

