SARA CWYNAR ALPHABET

Apple ු ග් රී ජර්ගීර්යී



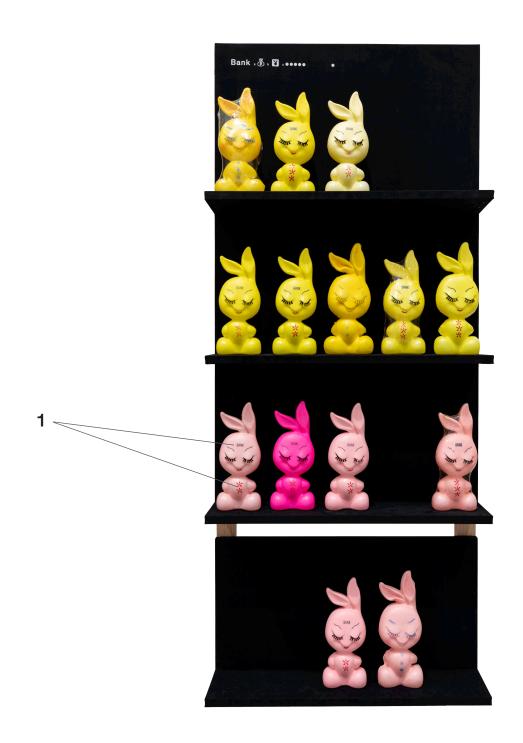
Aby Warburg, panel 79 of *Mnemosyne Atlas*, 1927-29 Courtesy the Warburg Institute, London

- 1 Fuji apple (US PLU #4131, 10x scale) photographed on a printed stock image of a cloudy sky from Getty Images.
- 2 Black artist's frame screenprinted with text including "SUDDEN MACRO VIEW" and "YOU'RE DEMANDING & YOU'RE SWEET, YOU'RE GOOD UR BAD" and icons such as an alphabet, hand-drawn apples, and a rifle.
- The images, objects, and videos presented around the gallery on panels are inspired by German art historian Aby Warburg's *Mnemosyne Atlas* (1925–29). This encyclopedic collection of nearly 1,000 images on black panels was made in an attempt to understand recurring visual themes and patterns across time and cultures.





- 2
- 1 Four shelves with fourteen vintage pink and yellow blow mold bunny banks. The bunnies' eyes are closed with long lashes and pencil-thin eyebrows. The word "BANK" is printed on their foreheads and two red stars are printed on their chests.
- 2 On the wall, a pink bunny bank photographed against a green background at a dramatically enlarged scale.







is it sunny or cloudy there and is it cold



- encyclopedias organized in a grid.
- glaciers, deforestation, wildfires, and a cow.

1 Photograph of a collection of weather-related images cut from The images include cloud formations, hurricanes, tornadoes, In each irregularly cut, found image, the artist's finger is pointing. A yellow triangular architectural ruler indicates scale. Additional images of wildfires, including of the recent destructive fires that affected the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Encyclopedia Grid (Weather), 2024

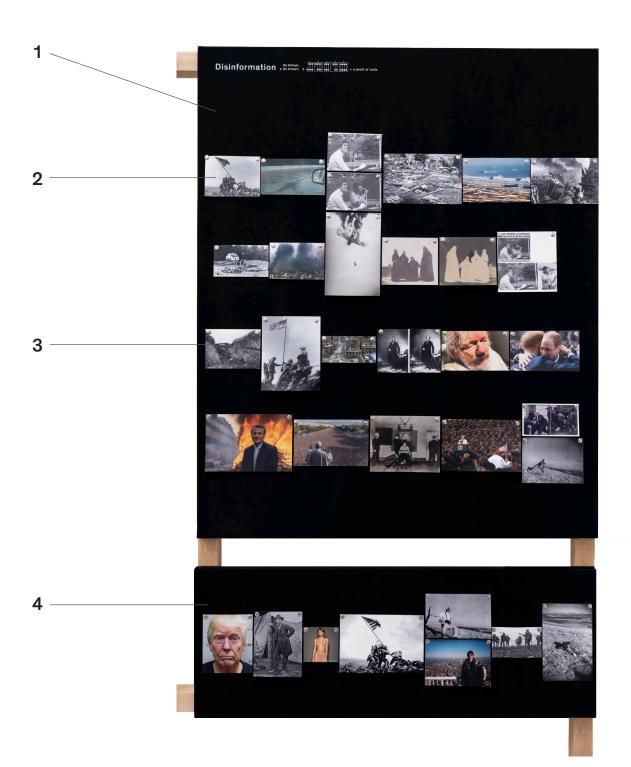
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

UV print on Red Hot car paint mounted on Dibond in metal artist's frame Courtesy the artist; The approach, London; Cooper Cole, Toronto; and 52 Walker, New York

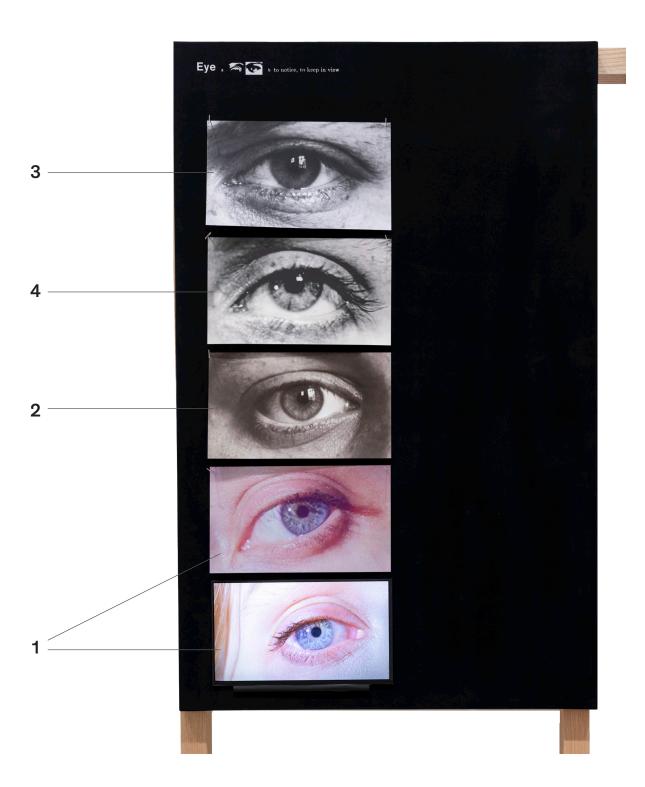
Disinformation As shown. As shown. As shown. As shown. As shown.



- 1 A grid of images related to disinformation, false information purposely spread to influence public opinion or obscure the truth.
- Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima (1945) is an iconic photo of six
 Marines raising the U.S. Flag on Mount Suribachi during
 the Battle of Iwo Jima in the final stages of World War II.
 The photograph was taken by Joe Rosenthal of the Associated
 Press and won the Pulitzer Prize for Photography in 1945.
 It is regarded as one of the most recognizable images of World
 War II. While many believe that Rosenthal's photograph depicts
 the moment of U.S. victory in the battle, it actually depicts
 the raising of a second, larger U.S flag to replace the smaller
 one raised earlier in the day. The raising of the first flag on
 Mount Suribachi was photographed by SSgt. Louis R. Lowery.
- Alex Gardner, Home of a Rebel Sharpshooter, Gettysburg from Gardner's Photographic Sketchbook of the Civil War, 1865.
 Gardner's image is one of the most famous images of the American Civil War, depicting a deceased Confederate soldier in the aftermath of the Battle of Gettysburg. The photograph is notoriously staged. Gardner moved the soldier's body and propped up his head so that it faced the camera. He then placed his own rifle next to the body.
- Deepfakes of celebrities and politicians. A deepfake is a realistic-looking video, image, or audio recording that has been manipulated using artificial intelligence.



- 1 Video of the artist's eye blinking (color, silent; 00:25 minutes) and an image of her eye.
- 2 August Sander, The Right Eye of My Daughter Sigrid, 1928
- 3 August Sander, Eye of an Eighteen-Year-Old Young Man, 1925–26
- Man Ray (Emanuel Radnitzky) photograph of American photographer and photojournalist Lee Miller's eye featured on *Indestructible Object (Or Object to Be Destroyed)* (1964 replica of 1923 original), a metronome with the cutout photograph of Miller's eye on pendulum. Originally made in 1923, Man Ray transformed it a decade later after a devastating breakup with Miller—who had also been the artist's assistant and model.



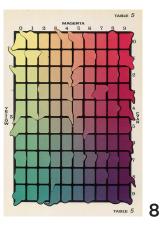


- 1 Photograph constructed of hundreds of images centered on a red Ferrari race car.
- 2 John Bernard, *Ferrari S.p.A.*, *Maranello, Italy. Formula 1 Racing Car* (641/2), 1990. From the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York. This Formula 1 car, the Ferrari 641, can withstand lateral forces of up to 4 g on turns. It has a carbon fiber composite chassis, a 3.5-liter V-12 engine, a curb weight of 1,105 pounds, and a top speed of 215 miles per hour.
- 3 A 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR, the most expensive car ever sold at auction, and the subject of Cwynar's recent video *Baby Blue Benzo* (2024).
- 4 The Deepwater Horizon oil drilling rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, which caused the largest oil spill in U.S. history.
- 5 Louis Vuitton Master's Collection Limited Edition Jeff Koons Turner Neverfull MM Bag featuring imagery from Koons's Gazing Ball series of paintings, including his recreation of J.M.W. Turner's painting *Ancient Rome; Agrippina Landing with the Ashes of Germanicus* (1839).
- 6 Michelangelo's *Madonna della Pietà* (1498–99), a Roman Catholic Italian Carrara marble sculpture of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary at Mount Golgotha. Located in Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.
- Red artist's frame screenprinted with text including "women + cars" and "what is more seductive than the news? Only advertising" and icons including a Stop sign, a lock and keys, and hand drawn cars.









- Images from Cwynar's archive grouped by color with related color printing charts extracted from a photography manual.
- Reproduction of Titian's Bacchus and Ariadne, 1523. Oil on canvas. 2 National Gallery, London
- Archival image of Leadbeater's cockatoos, 15-inch-long Australian 3 birds.
- Archival image of black-necked aracari (a medium-sized toucan) taken in 1975 from New York Public Library Pictures Collection. Reference image for Sara Cwynar, Toucan in Nature (Post it Notes), 2013.
- Archival image of the Vittoriano (1885-1935) in Rome, a monument to Victor Emmanuel II, the first king of unified Italy.
- AT&T Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ, Detail of Microprocessor (CRISP) Diagram, 1986. Ink on paper. From the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York
- A stock night vision image of a military helicopter during a rescue mission with an Adobe Stock watermark.
- On the wall, a digitally manipulated archival CMYK color printing 8 chart (CMYK is a color model used in printing that stands for cyan, magenta, yellow, and black).

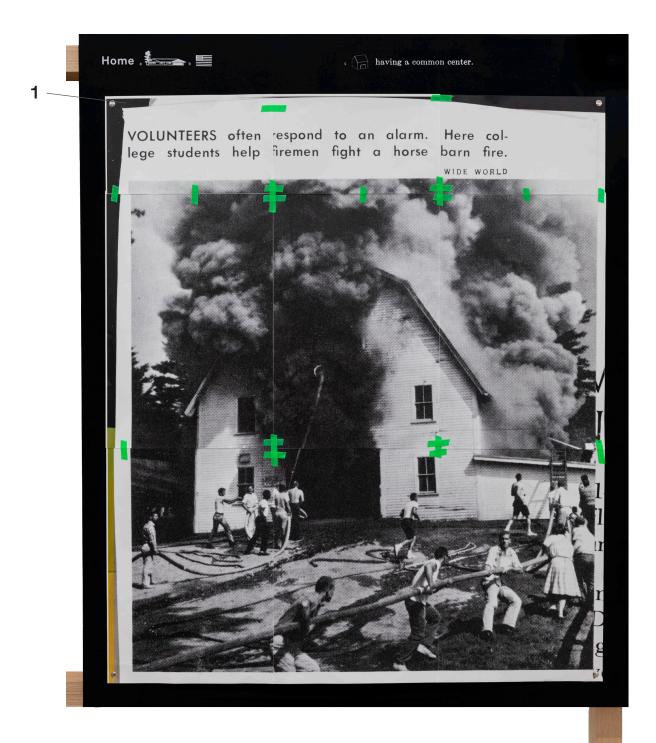




1 An image of a house on fire from an encyclopedia entry for the term "Fire," printed in parts and taped together with fluorescent green fabric tape. The image is constructed through tiling, a process of dividing an image into smaller pieces, or tiles. In printing, tiling allows images to be printed in sections if they are too large for the media.



having a common center.

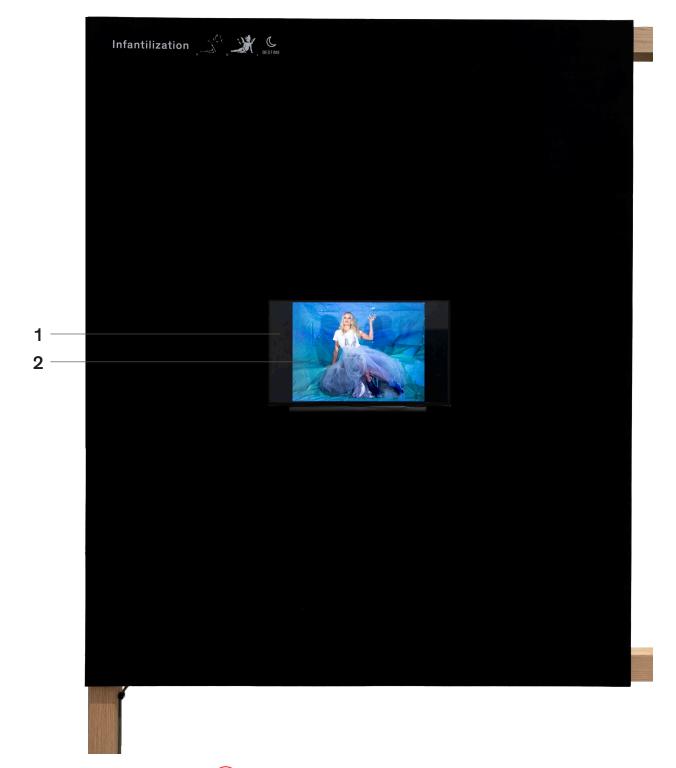


A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z





- Video footage of Canadian American actress and model Pamela Anderson posing against a blue ombre backdrop (color, silent; 19:01 minutes)
- The footage and associated photograph on opposite wall were 2 originally captured by Cwynar for a 2023 New York Times article about Anderson.
- In the photograph, much of Anderson's body is obscured by wrinkled sheets of thick plastic. Part of her face and right eye peer from behind the plastic, as does much of her upper body including her left hand, which holds a dramatic pose.



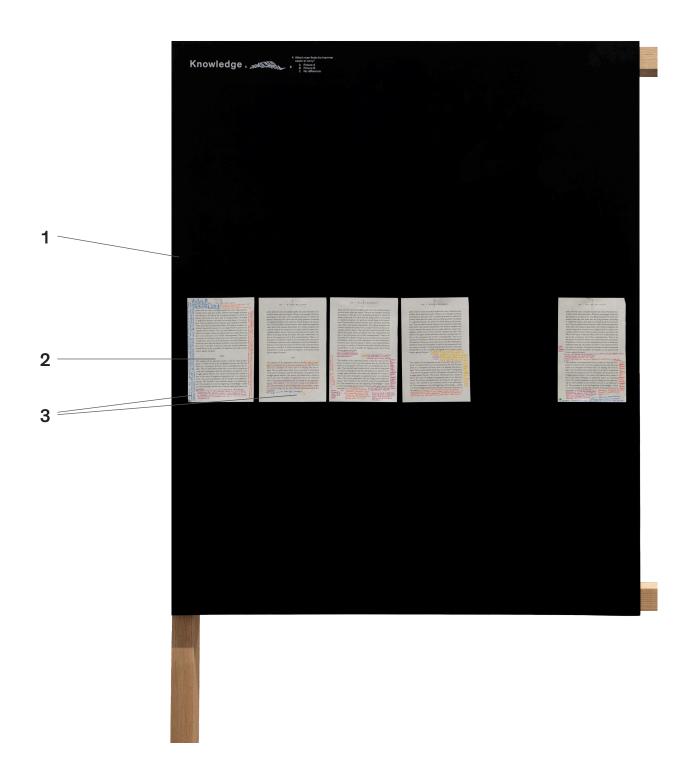
Enlarged x-ray of American actress and model Marilyn Monroe's chest. One of a set of x-ray images taken during a hospital visit in 1954. The x-rays sold at the Hollywood Legends auction at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.



Knowledge

- 4. Which man finds the hammer
 - A. Picture A
 - B. Picture B
 - . No difference

- Five identical pages cut from copies of German Jewish philosopher and cultural critic Walter Benjamin's posthumously published collection of writings *Illuminations: Essays and Reflections* (1968). The pages include the beginning of Thesis VIII from his essay "Theses on the Philosophy of History," the last major work he completed in 1940 before fleeing to Spain where, fearing Nazi capture, he died by suicide on September 26, 1940.
- Thesis VIII: "The tradition of the oppressed teaches us that the 'state of emergency' in which we live is not the exception but the rule. We must attain a conception of history that is in keeping with this insight. Then we shall clearly realize that it is our task to bring about a real state of emergency, and this will improve our position in the struggle against Fascism. One reason why Fascism has a chance is that in the name of progress its opponents treat it as a historical norm. The current amazement that the things we are experiencing are 'still' possible in the twentieth century is *not* philosophical. This amazement is not the beginning of knowledge unless it is knowledge that the view of history which gives rise to it is untenable."
- Bach page includes different handwritten notations Cwynar made on topics ranging from connections between Ancient Rome and the French Revolution; German jurist, political theorist, and prominent member of the Nazi party Carl Schmitt; and Paul Klee's monoprint *Angelus Novus* (1920), which Benjamin purchased from Klee in 1921 and features prominently in this essay to describe his notions of history.



A B C D E F G H I J (K) L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Laughing



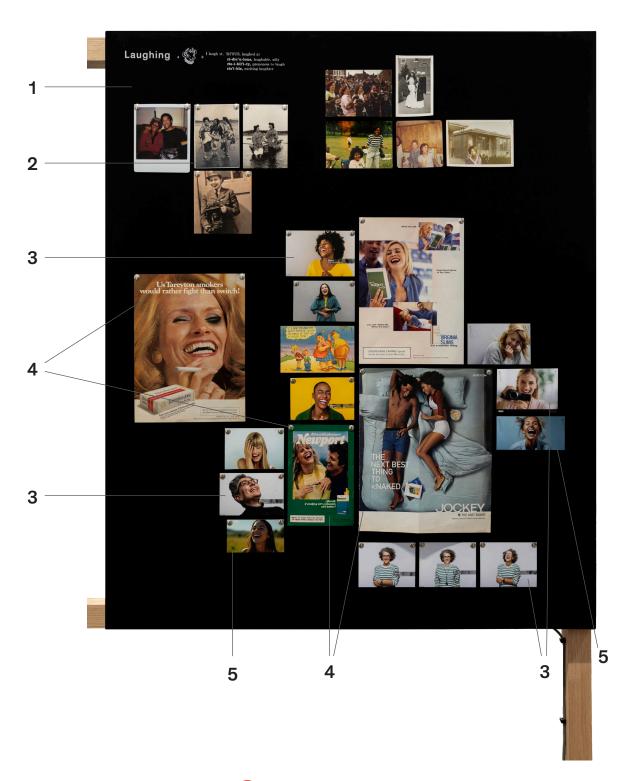
I laugh at. RI'SUS, laughed at.

ri-dic'u-lous, laughable, silly. .
ris-i-bil'i-ty, proneness to laugh.
ris'i-ble, exciting laughter.





- 1 A variety of images of people laughing and smiling.
- 2 Candid snapshots of smiling people from sets of photographs purchased on eBay.
- 3 Stock, watermarked images of women laughing from Alamy Limited and iStock, online suppliers of stock images.
- 4 Smiling people in advertisements for Jockey underwear, Virgina Slims cigarettes, Newport cigarettes, and Tareyton cigarettes.
- 5 AI-generated images of women smiling.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z







Photograph of a fake meat prop used in films hanging in a studio from a metal apparatus with the Los Angeles skyline behind it as it appears in Cwynar's video *Baby Blue Benzo* (2024). A gesture about the artifice of Hollywood filmmaking.

New Woman



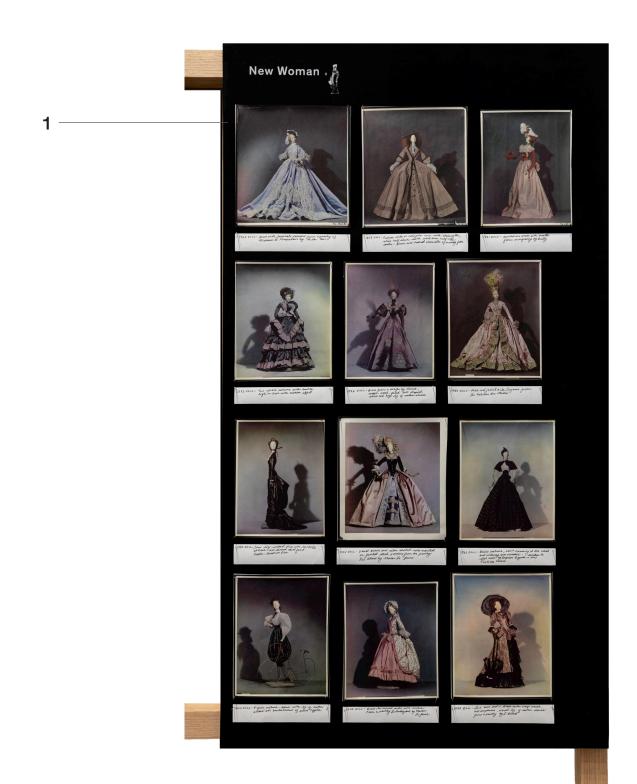


2

- A grid of photographs of a collection of mannequin dolls, created by the Syndicat de la Couture de Paris, which were part of the *Gratitude Train* exhibit sent in 1949 to the people of the United States by the people of France as a token of their appreciation of American assistance. From the Metropolitan Museum of Art Libraries: Digital Collections for the Met's Costume Institute. They portray the character and stylistic changes in French fashions from 1715 to 1906.
- 2 Cwynar's Doll Index series, such as the one on the wall, repurpose these images. *Doll Index*, 1865 features a doll wearing a costume from 1865 overlayed with numerous images, creating a still life by inserting contemporary commercial objects collections of cosmetics, lingerie, Acne Studios shopping bags, hair clips, make-up brushes, and more, some monochromatically organized.

Doll Index, 1865, 2024

Archival pigment print mounted on Dibond in yellow artist's frame Courtesy the artist; The approach, London; Cooper Cole, Toronto; and 52 Walker, New York



continuity.

Com (emphatic) -mend -at -ion (noun) means an authoritative approval.

De (from) -mand (verb) means ask from with





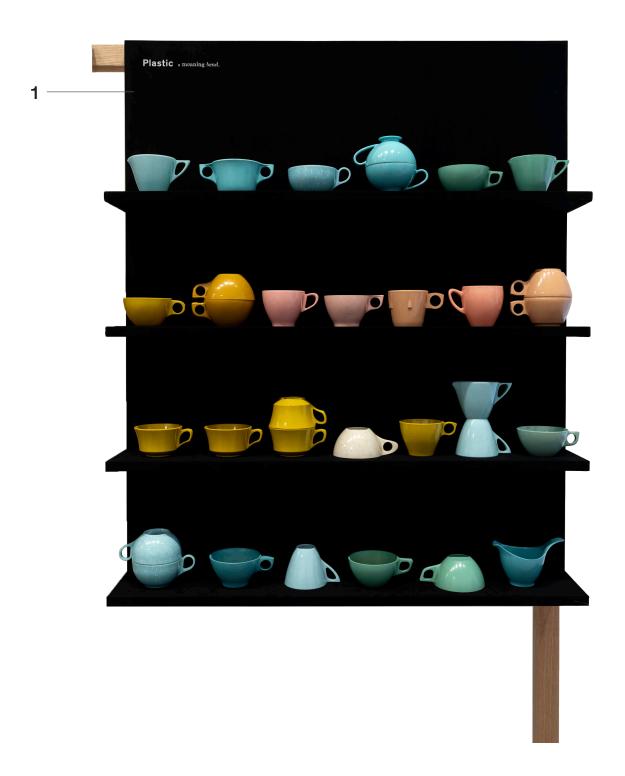


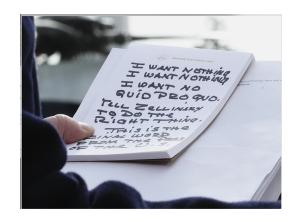
- A collection of gold Avon aftershave bottles from the 1970s shaped like busts of U.S. presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.
- A triptych of staged photographs of Avon aftershave bottles 2 shaped like busts of Washington and Lincoln without their heads, revealing spray tops.



Plastic a meaning bend.

An assortment of pink, blue, green, and yellow melamine cups from the artist's collection of more than 400 pieces of plastic tableware. Melamine is an organic compound with many industrial uses, including the tableware marketed to housewives in the 1950s as indestructible. The cups are made by companies including Allied Chemical, Kenro Industries, American Cyanamid Company, Westinghouse, and more.

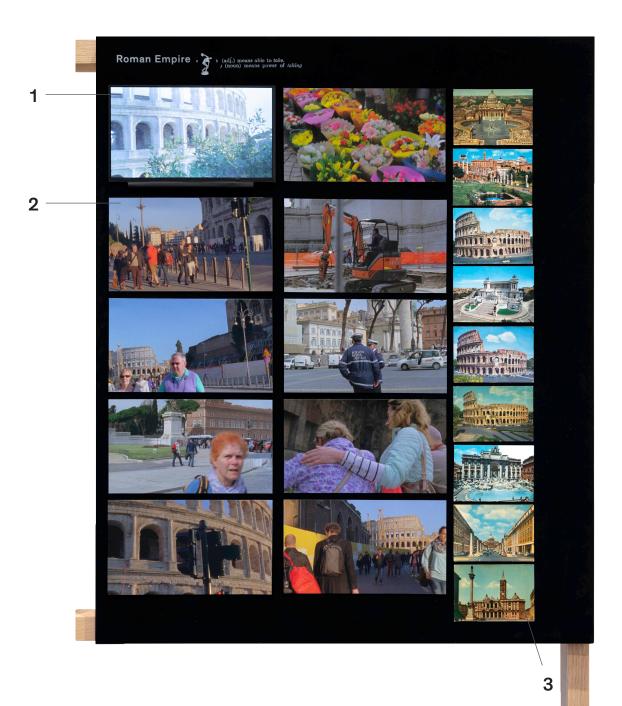




- A grid of images of President Donald Trump from a 2019 press briefing given in response to former United States Ambassador to the European Union (2018–20) Gordon Sondland's testimony during the Trump impeachment hearing. Sondland connected Trump to a "quid pro quo" trade with Ukraine, stating that the President sought to trade Ukranian investigations into the President's political opponents for U.S. aid. Images at the briefing show Trump holding an Aboard Air Force One note pad with notes written in permanent marker reading, in part, "I WANT NOTHING. I WANT NOTHING. I WANT NO QUID PRO QUO."
- **2** Quid Pro Quo means something given or received for something else.



- 1 Video footage the artist shot in Rome, featuring tourists near the Colosseum and at other sites (color, silent; 17:47 minutes).
- 2 A grid of photographs the artist took in Rome.
- Wintage postcards of tourist sites in Rome including St. Peter's Square, Trevi Fountain, Colosseum, Vittoriano, Roman Forum, and Papal Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore.



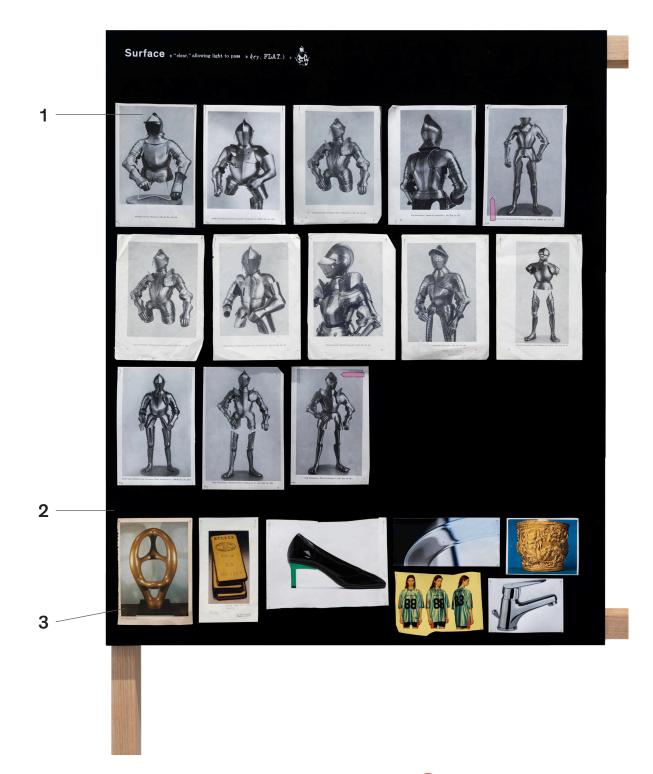
Surface a "clear," allowing light to pass b key, FLAT.)





4

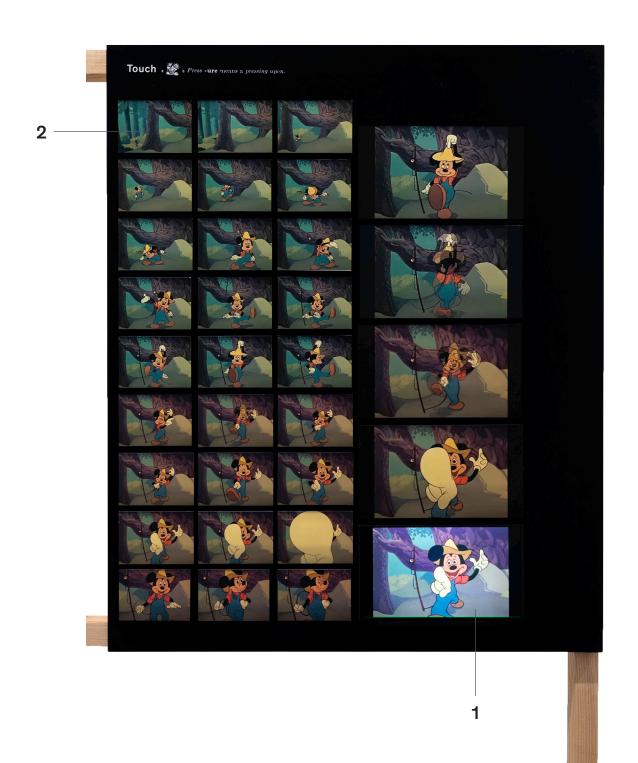
- A grid of images taken in the 1950s of 15th and 16th century plate armor made for noblemen and kings of the Holy Roman Empire. The Holy Roman Empire existed from 800–1806 CE. It spanned Central and Western Europe.
- 2 Assemblage of artworks, clothing, and household items which reflect light.
- Jean (Hans) Arp's *Ptolemy III*, 1961. Bronze. The sculpture is named after the Greco-Egyptian astronomer, mathematician, and geographer Claudius Ptolomy. Located in the UCLA Sculpture Garden in Los Angeles.
- On the wall, a photograph of an assemblage of images on top of a found black-and-white photograph of a dramatically posed suit of armor made by Sebastian Schmid, 1550–60, shot on a large format 8 × 10 camera in the 1950s. The overlaid images, also shot in black-and-white against cut sections of the armor photograph, including the artist's hand manipulating brushes, a vintage telephone receiver, perfume bottles, an iPod, eggs, and more.







- Animation of Mickey Mouse depicted as if he is physically reaching out to touch the screen (color, silent; 00:42 minutes) The clip comes from a documentary about Walt Disney's multiplane camera used in the traditional animation process to create a sense of depth. Several pieces of artwork move past the camera at various speeds and at various distances from one another to create the effect. Cwynar employs an adapted version of the multiplane camera technique in much of her work.
- 2 Sequence of still images of Mickey Mouse from the aforementioned video.





- Staged studio setup of an evening gown, a cheerleader jacket, and a scarlet mozzetta, or capelet, displayed as an outfit on a piece of glass held by a metal apparatus and photographed against vintage images of produce.
- Black artist frame screenprinted with text and drawings including "WHOLE BODICE (EVENING) 1900 WMN'S," "you never look," and "more than is necessary" and icons of a newspaper, clock, and the number 1.

Western Costume, Jacket (Cheerleader), Dress (evening, 1900's), (Capelet Cardinal), 2024 Archival pigment print mounted on Dibond in silkscreen printed artist's frame Courtesy the artist; The approach, London; Cooper Cole, Toronto; and 52 Walker, New York

- 1 Photograph of a storefront in Barcelona featuring five stuffed animals of the cartoon character The Pink Panther alongside other kitsch objects geared to tourists.
- 2 A life-sized stuffed The Pink Panther, propped up and seated on top of two white cages with balls, is slumped over.

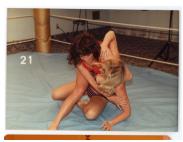


res-er-va'tion, a keeping back. Wrestle a: re-serve', to keep back. un-re-served', not kept back.

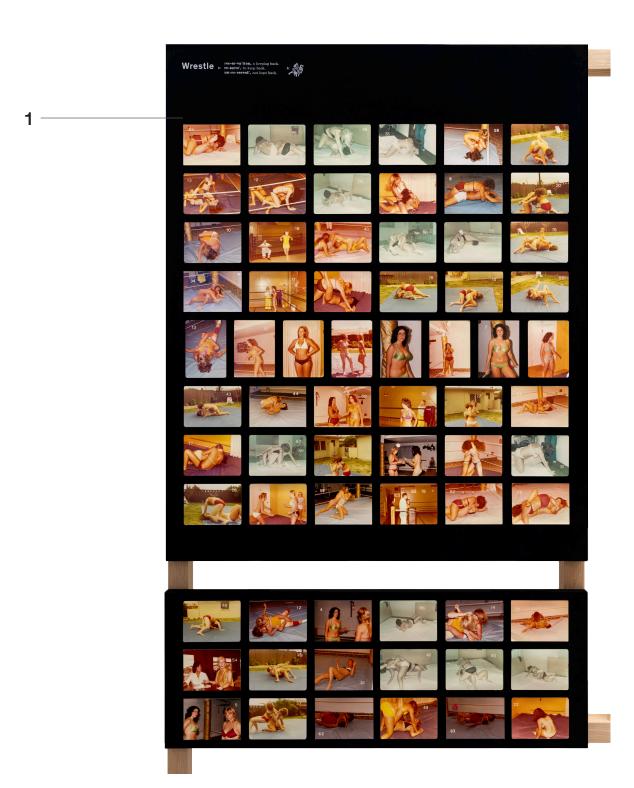








A collection of found photos, including action shots, related to California Amazon, a company founded by the wrestler Judell du Long in 1973. California Amazon was the first video production company focused on female submission wrestling. Between 1974 and 1985, California Amazon released more than three hundred matches on Super 8, VHS, and Betamax. Cwynar sourced sets of images related to California Amazon online.



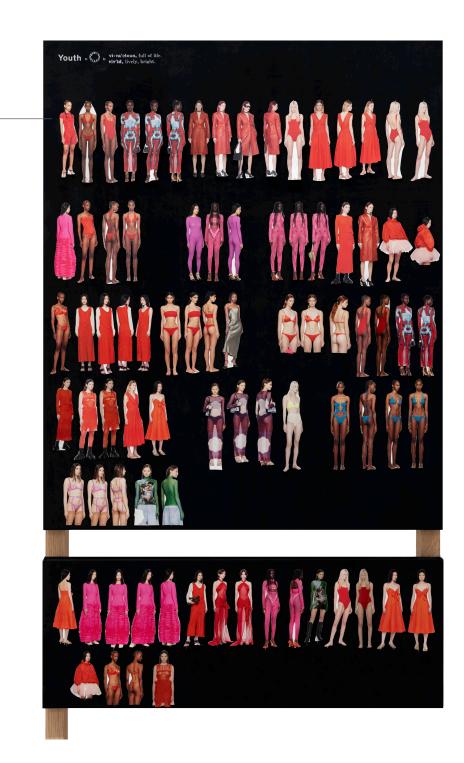


- 1 A drawing of the letter X on a Post-it note.
- In math, "x" typically represents an unknown value or variable. The practice of using "x" as the unknown variable is attributed to the French philosopher, scientist, and mathematician René Descartes, who introduced this convention in his written work *La Géométrie* (1637). Descartes is best known for the philosophical statement "I think, therefore I am."



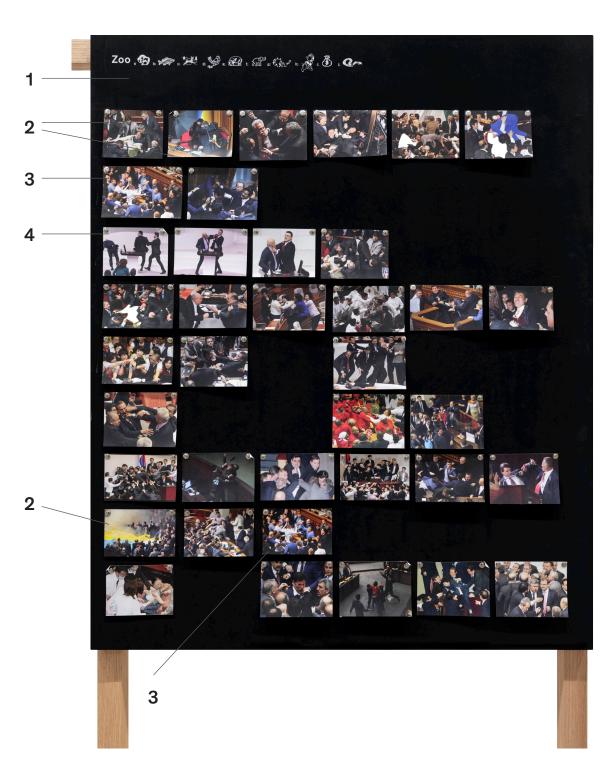


- Selected cut images of women modeling clothing sold by Canadian multi-brand e-commerce retailer SSENSE as found on their website. Cwynar was featured in Issue 3 of the SSENSE biannual print publication and created commissioned editorial work for the retailer, including portraits of the artist and her friend wearing Miu Miu's FW19 Collection featured on the website.
- 2 On the other side of the door, a commercial photograph SSENSE commissioned Cwynar to take that she appropriated as her own fine art photograph.





- A group of images depicting legislative violence, which refers to any violent clashes between members of a legislature, often physically, inside the legislature and triggered by divisive issues and tight votes.
- April 2010 fighting in Kyiv's parliament over Ukraine's decision to extend Russia's lease of a naval base in Crimea.
- 3 Ukranian MPs fight in parliament on October 6, 2017. The fight broke out over a vote in which Parliament extended "special status" under certain conditions to two Russian-backed separatist territories in eastern Ukraine by one year.
- Images in the third row depict an August 16, 2024, fight in the Turkish parliament between MPs Ahmet Şık and Alpay Ozalan. The fight began when Şık, an MP from the Workers' Party of Türkiye (TIP), insulted the members of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's AK Party over the jailing of an opposition deputy before being shoved to the ground by Ozalan.



Sara Cwynar: Alphabet is organized by Jeffrey De Blois, Mannion Family Curator, with Max Gruber, Curatorial Assistant.

Support for this exhibition is provided by the Kristen and Kent Lucken Fund for Photography.

Unless otherwise noted, all works courtesy the artist; The approach, London; and Cooper Cole, Toronto.

