

Marine Contemporary

013



Jow
Tourist



A Gesture of Familiarity Eve Wood

Jow is an artist preoccupied with perceptible experience, how the eye takes things in and makes them real, or not, and it is this ambiguity, this moment of stasis between words and thoughts, objects and ideas, or symbols floated delicately on a page that gives her work its power. In her newest body of work, she further exemplifies this vision through a series of large-scale acrylic on panel paintings along with two new neon sculptures and a series of discreetly elegant drawings.

Aptly titled *Tourist*, the recent work describes not so much a literal place traveled to or from as it does the cultural nostalgia associated with a particular city. Jow's approach to this is transitional and/or generational and is in no way direct or literal as she incorporates song lyrics, further interpreted, or compressed into Morse code to suggest both the complexity and intimacy associated with iconic cities like New York, Paris, London or San Francisco, (with Canada added because the artist hails from Vancouver) each with its own cultural referents and suggestibility. Tony Bennett's "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," for example describes a longing for that chilly city high on the hill just as Frank Sinatra rhapsodized about the magic and allure of New York. Jow synthesizes this iconic wistfulness into a series of colored panels that appear to condense the sensibility of each

particular city down to its essence. Jow has chosen a limited color palette of red, white and blue, not necessarily because they are specifically American, but also because these colors are found in the flags of France, Japan and Canada as well, further suggesting a cohesion in regard to human experience, how we perceive the world, communicate with one another or establish cultural identity.

Also included in the exhibition are two neon text based sculptures that like the early work of Bruce Nauman attempt to subvert their own inherent "objectness" with wit and wordplay. Thus, the word "Godspeed" which linguistically means a prosperous journey and good health, transforms with Jow's itinerant flickering S, into the words "God Peed," a bawdy comment that could mean anything from God is also susceptible to human weakness to religion, like everything else is simply another tool used in the service of commerce. This linguistic gesture represents another kind of transformation wherein the artist, rather than transposing song lyrics into visual language, i.e. Morse code, breaks down that language, creating new and often socially critical meanings that are also humorous.

Neon lighting became a popular fixture in outdoor advertising in the early 1920s. Visible even in daylight, people would stop and stare at the first

neon signs dubbed "liquid fire." Technology has obviously far surpassed the age of neon and yet it has come to be associated with American commerce and the thriving industry of the early 1920's and 30s as well as the gaudiness of certain American cities like Las Vegas and Los Angeles. The other sign "Wish You Were Beer," also subverts language to create a humorous statement, though this piece also deals with nostalgia and sentimentality as well as referencing travel and the "picture postcard," itself an idyllic and romanticized phenomenon of the late 19th century.

Even the drawings, made on hotel stationery and culled from around the world, suggest their own kind of subversion and delightful ambiguity. Using glitter and the same comical linguistic twists and turns, Jow further contemporizes the idea of travel as a gesture of familiarity, the collecting of stationery from different parts of the world, a way for the artist to mark both time and experience. Whether or not she has actually traveled to those places is irrelevant as it is the impulse to take ownership through mark making, creating a residue of personal experience, real or imagined, that is ultimately the most lasting expressive impulse.

Jow

Jow studied fine arts at Capilano College and the Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design in Vancouver before relocating to the United States. She has previously exhibited her irreverent and witty drawings about contemporary life in Vancouver, New York and Los Angeles. Jow's 2011 solo show, *A California Minute* at Marine Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA was reviewed by Leah Ollman in the Los Angeles Times and Susan Michals in the Wall Street Journal. She presently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

Solo Exhibitions

2013

— Tourist, Marine Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA

2012

— Seriously... WTF! Tasty Space, Las Vegas, NV

2011

— A California Minute, Marine Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA

2010

— I'm in the Mood for Love, Marine Art Salon, Santa Monica, CA

2008

— See Line Salon, See Line Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

2007

— Letterhead, Eugene Choo, Vancouver, BC

2000

— Mixed nuts, Trylowsky Gallery, Vancouver, BC

1999

— B season, Zinc Gallery, Vancouver, BC

Group Exhibitions

2012

— The Janet & Janet Shop, For Your Art & See Line Gallery in conjunction with Museum of Temporary Art, Los Angeles CA

— Summer of Jack, Katherine Cone Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2011

— If These Walls Could Talk, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA & Marine, Santa Monica, CA

2009

— Salon No.4, Works 092-140, Marine, Santa Monica, CA

2008

— Salon No. 2, works 030-065, Marine, Santa Monica, CA

2007

— The Great American Store (age), Spring Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2006

— Well rounded, Spring Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2005

— Illuminated, Spring Gallery, Brooklyn, NY



NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB

May 8, 2012

Hi Darling,

Greetings from NYC!

Presently playing tourist since I put my life in storage + offered a studio space out here in Brooklyn au gratis for 2 months.

So here I am sipping a glass of wine, S+G's 'The Only Living Boy in NY' plays appropriately in the background ...a nice welcome...thanks guys. Just got in from the west coast of Canada...an almost 6 hour flight stuck in the worst seat in economy... first class bad ass I ain't.

I did see a great movie on the plane... 'Hiro Dreams of Sushi'...have you seen it? I want Hiro to serve me sushi...+ go to Tokyo...

+ London

+ Paris

+ back to Marfa. was lucky enough to be there last month...got to know Donald Judd's minimalism, caught a Peat show and read bicycles (high) under the Texas stars...I love Marfa!

Heading to San Fran in the fall for a show otherwise I am as free as a bird until then. Hope all is well in LA! I'll send some images of my new work soon. . kind of thinking all this travellin' might be the theme for my next show... red, white + blue... I heart you.

wish you were beer,
O X
Jow

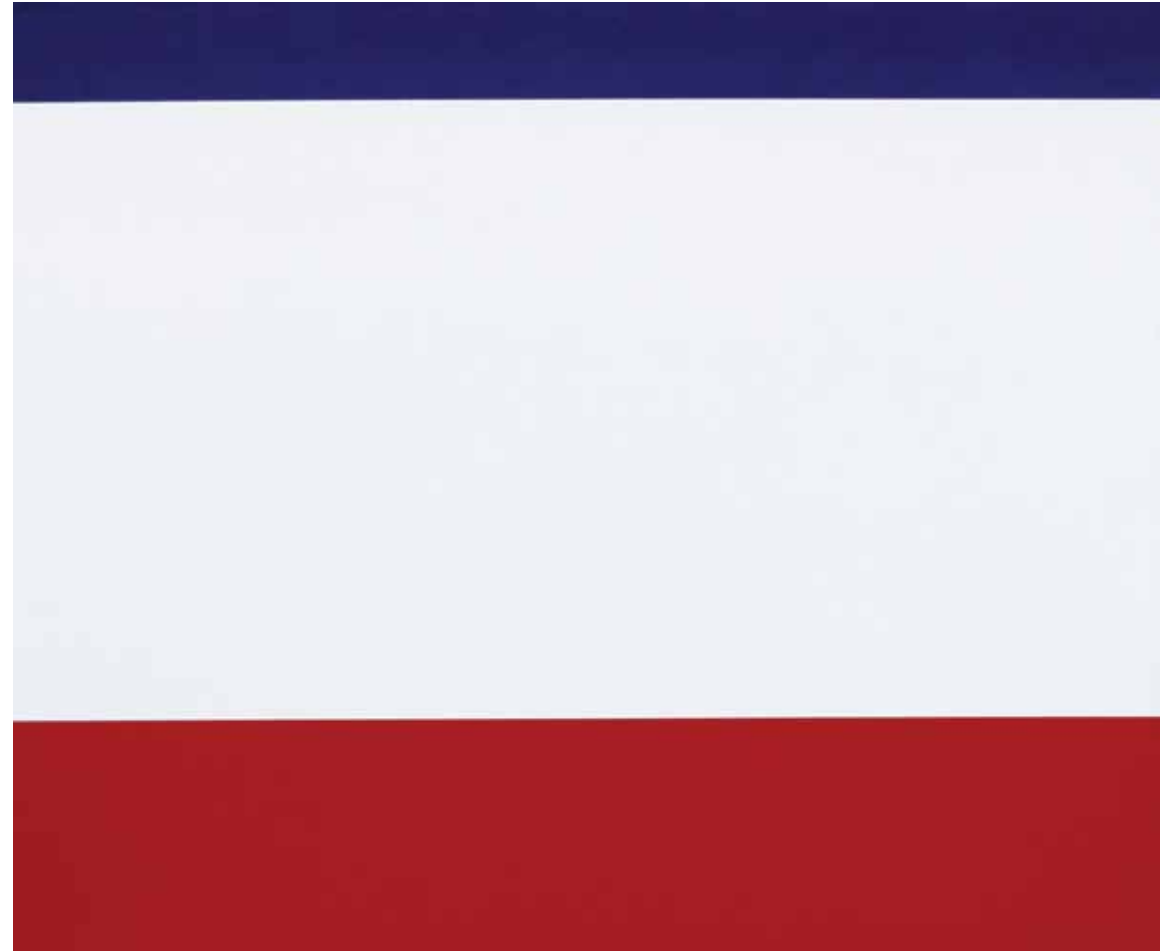
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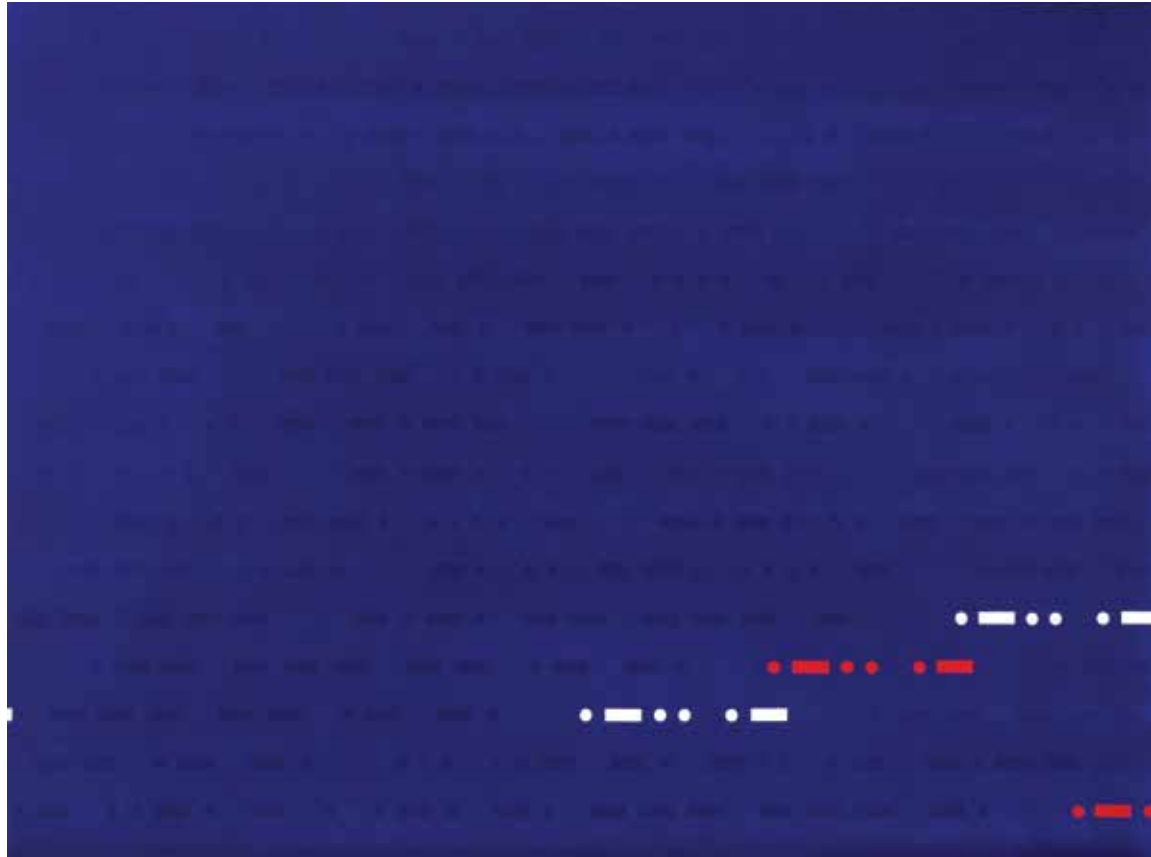
Canada
Acrylic and polyurethane on panel,
36" x 48", 2013



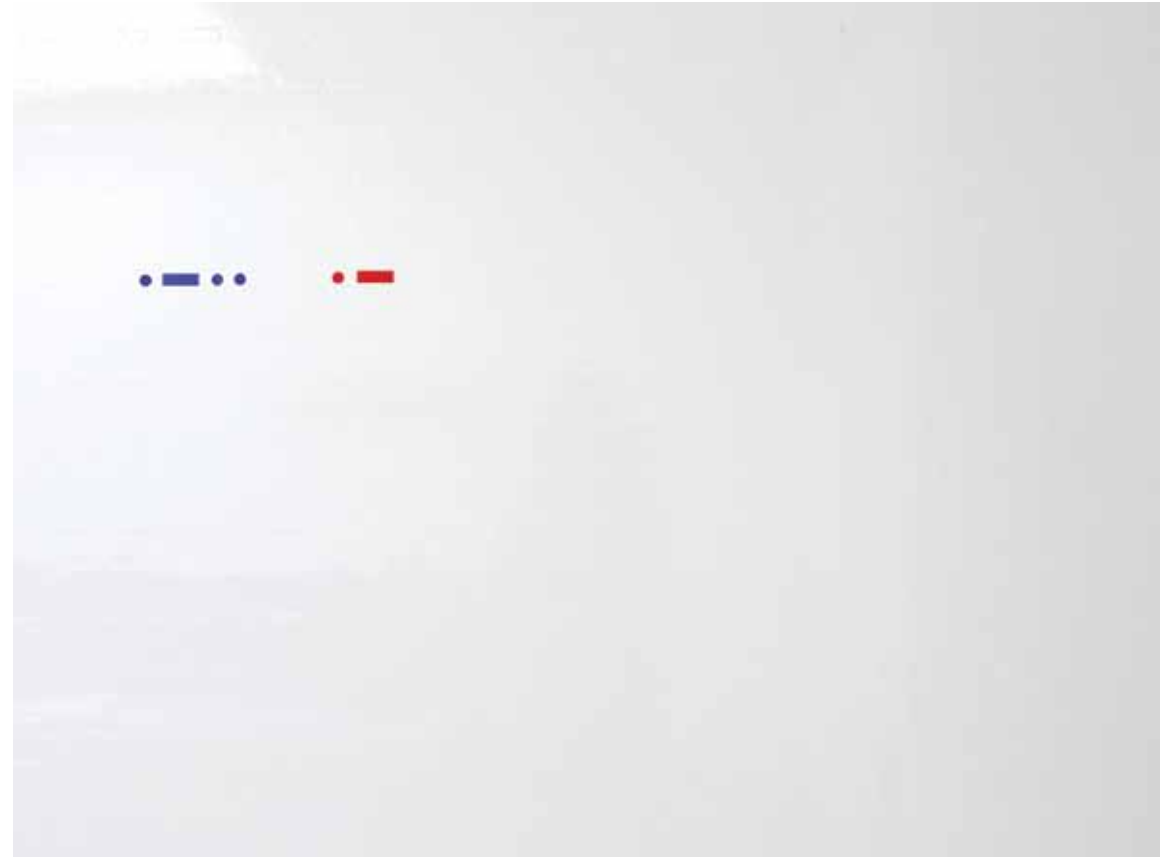
First Class Bad Ass Diptych (PART 1),
Acrylic and polyurethane on panel,
28.5" x 34.5", 2013



First Class Bad Ass Diptych (PART 2),
Acrylic and polyurethane on panel,
28.5" x 34.5", 2013



Los Angeles
Acrylic and polyurethane on panel,
36" x 48", 2013



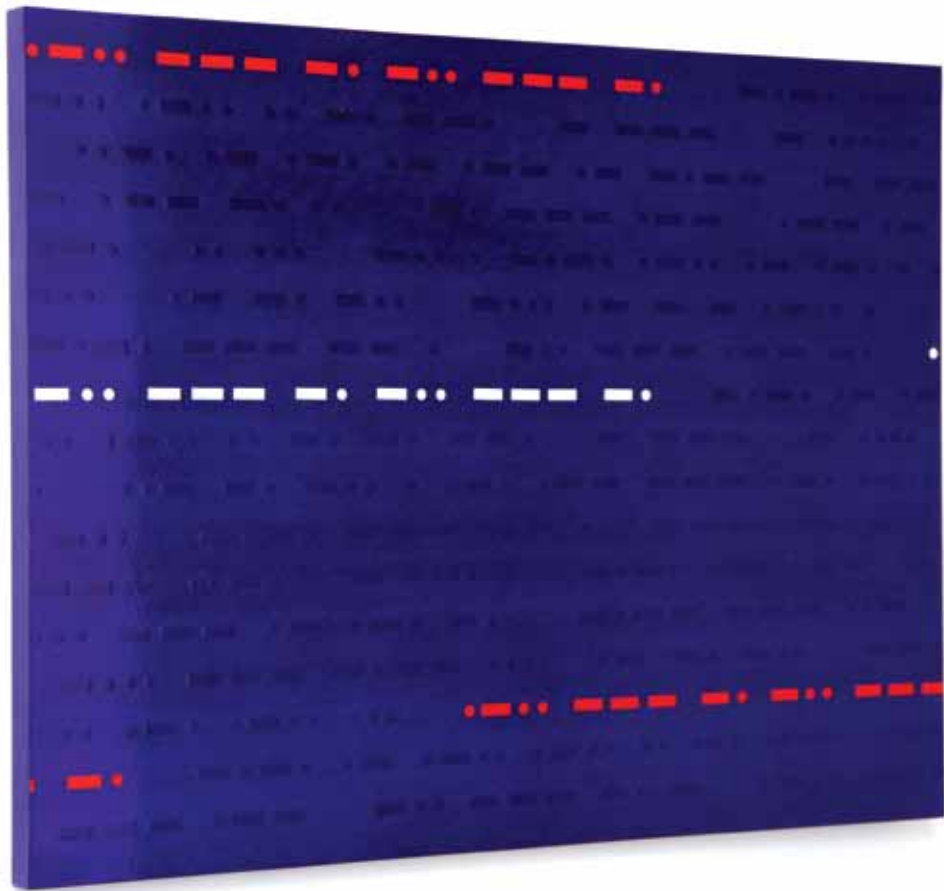
Los Angeles 2
Acrylic and polyurethane on panel,
36" x 48", 2013



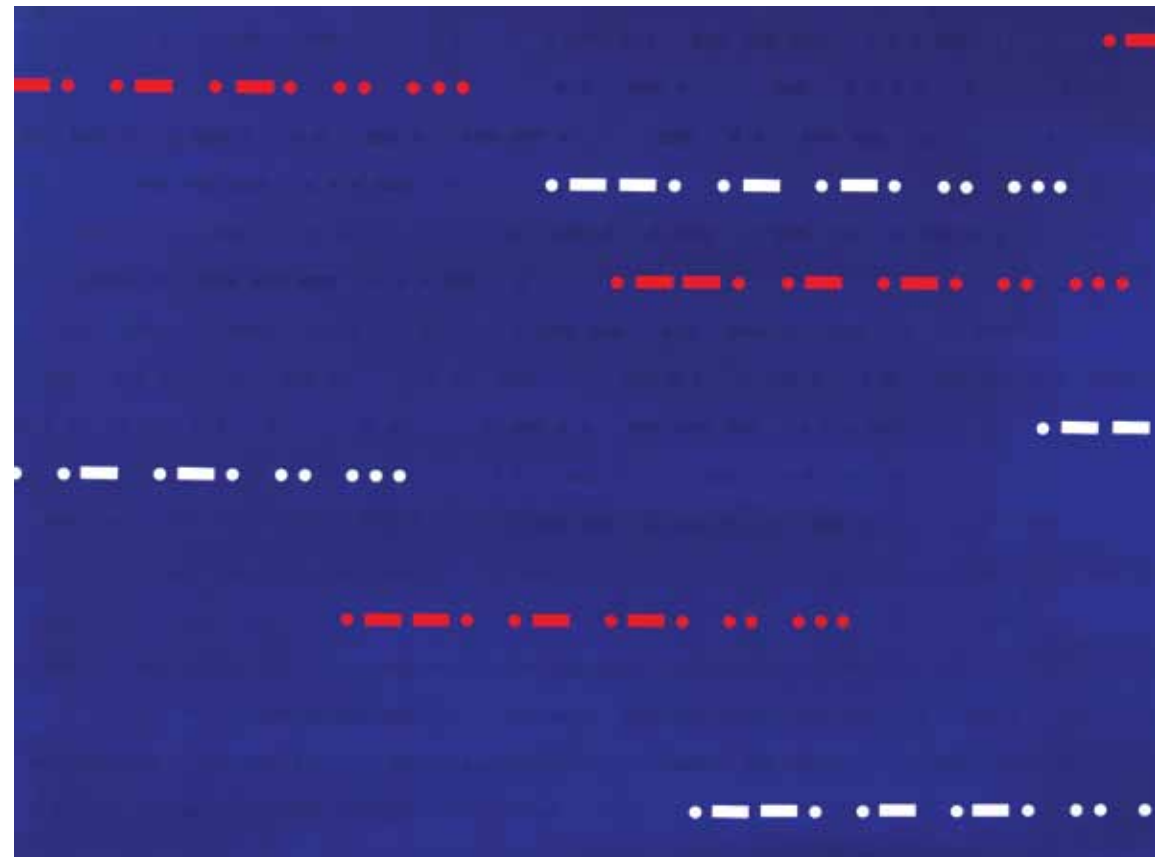
New York
Acrylic and polyurethane on panel,
36" x 48", 2013



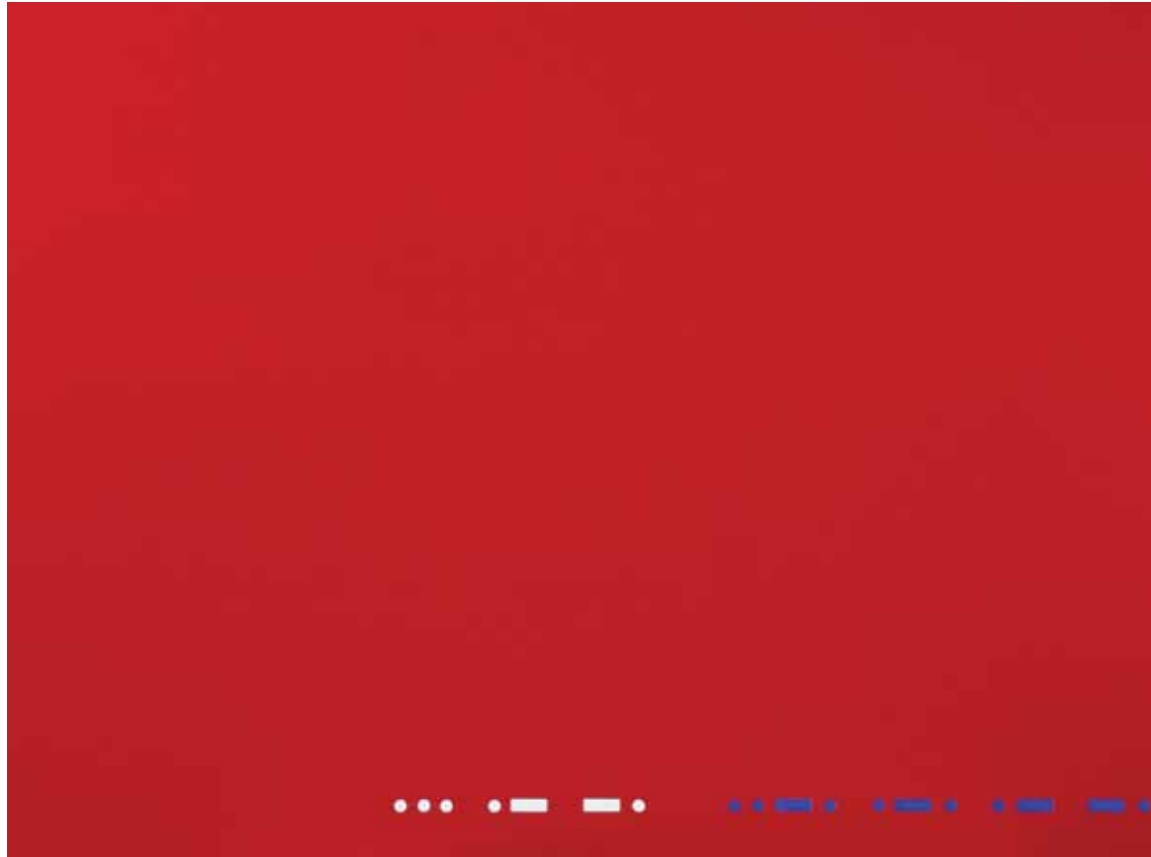
New York 2
Acrylic and polyurethane on panel,
36" x 48", 2013



London
Acrylic and polyurethane on panel,
36" x 48", 2013



Paris
Acrylic and polyurethane on panel,
36" x 48", 2013



San Francisco
Acrylic and polyurethane on panel,
36" x 48", 2013,



Tokyo
Acrylic and polyurethane on panel,
36" x 48", 2013





Godspeed
Neon, plexi, 10" x 42", 2013



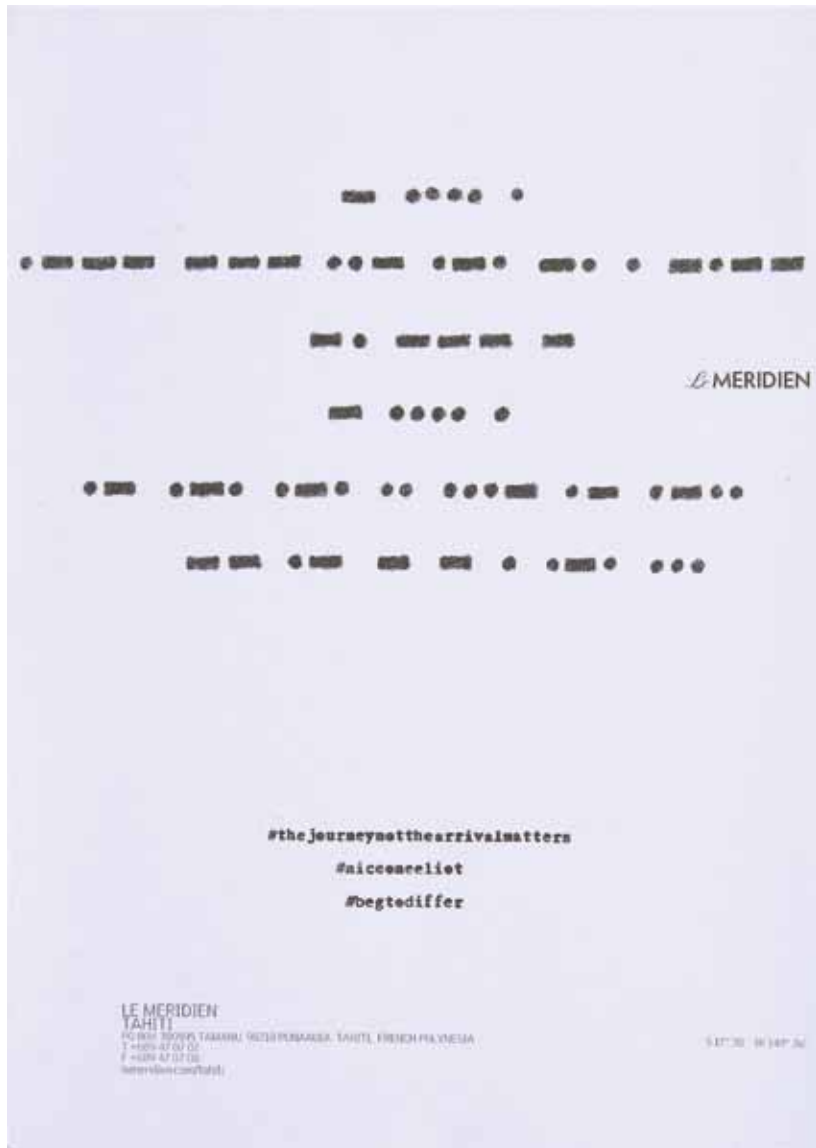
God Feed
Neon, plexi, 10" x 42", 2013



Wish you were beer,
Neon, plexi, 10" x 46", 2013

Beer,
Glitter and ink on paper,
10.5" x 7.25", 2013

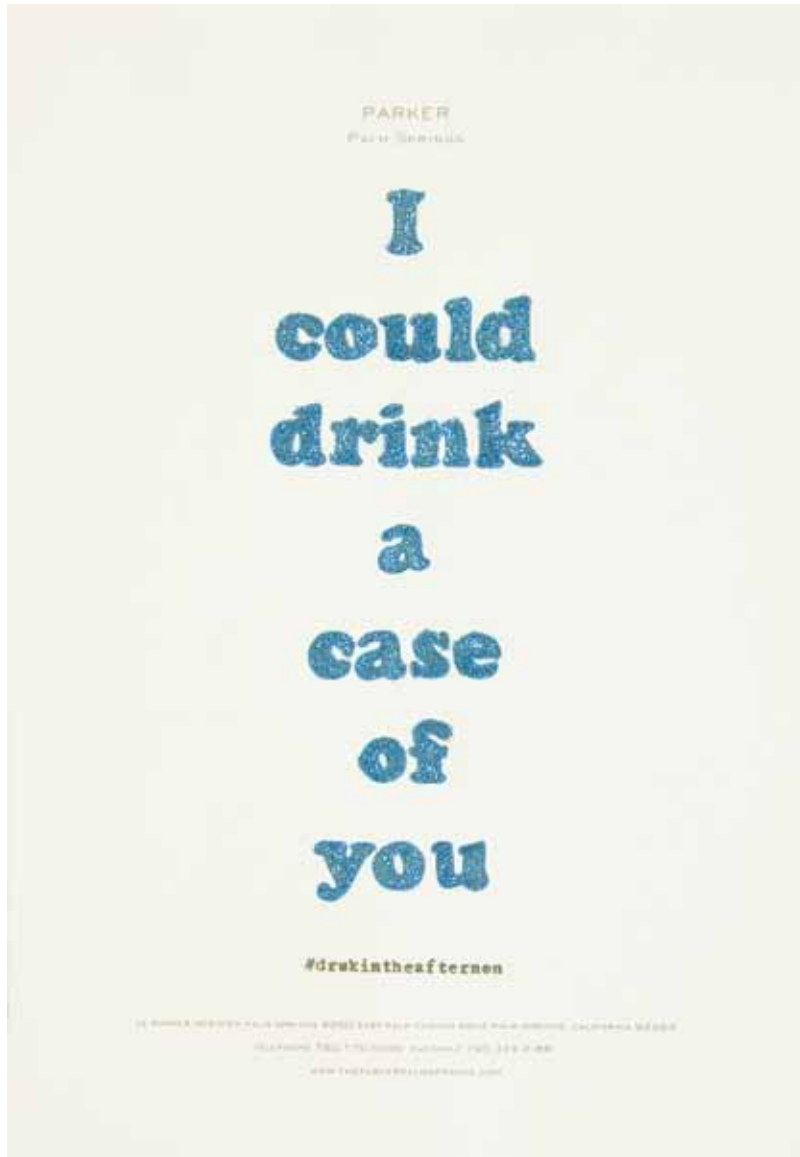




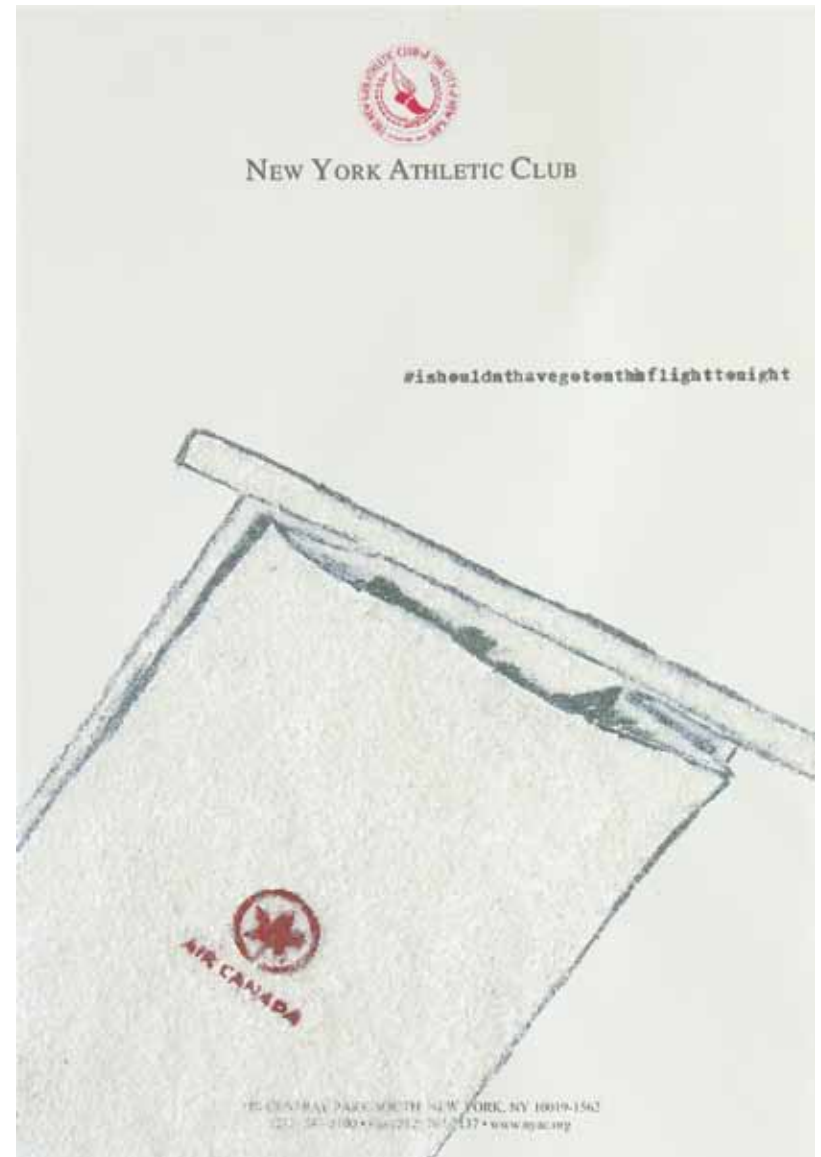
Arrival,
Glitter and ink on paper,
11" x 8.5", 2013



Lost,
Glitter and ink on paper,
11" x 8.5", 2013



Case of You,
Glitter and ink on paper,
10.5" x 7.25", 2013



Barf Bag,
Glitter and ink on paper,
10.5" x 7.25", 2013



Raphael
Paris

#frenchletter

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French Letter Diptych 1,
Glitter and ink on paper,
8.25" x 5.75", 2013

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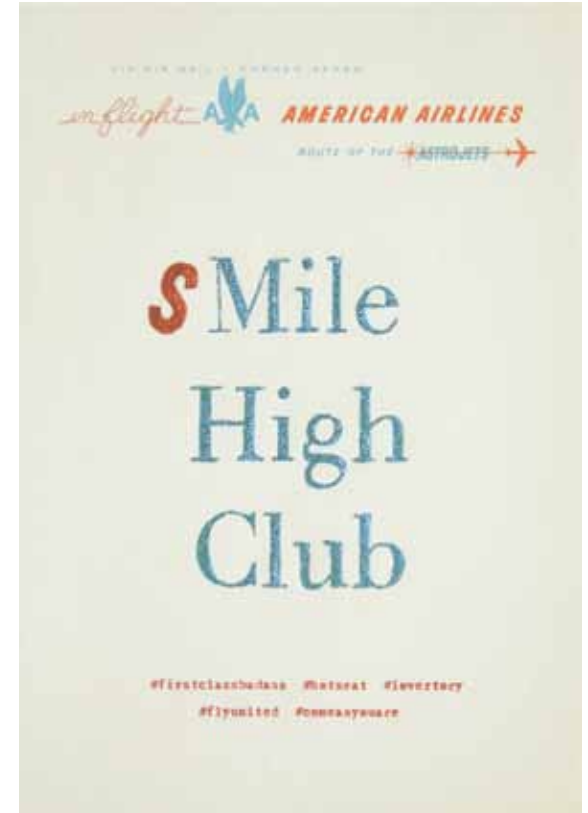
French Letter Diptych 2,
Glitter and ink on paper,
8.25" x 5.75", 2013



Coke,
Glitter and ink on paper,
10.5" x 7" 2013



Heart,
Glitter and ink on paper,
10.75" x 8.25", 2013



Smile,
Glitter and ink on paper,
10" x 7", 2013

The Standard

ALL THAT
GLITTERS
IS GOLD
USUALLY FAKE

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Glitters,
Glitter and ink on paper,
11" x 8.5", 2013



#joyride #feelingfeisty #godspeed
#gotmykicks #lifeinthefastlane

Devil,
Glitter and ink on paper,
11" x 8.5", 2013

THE PENINSULA
HONG KONG

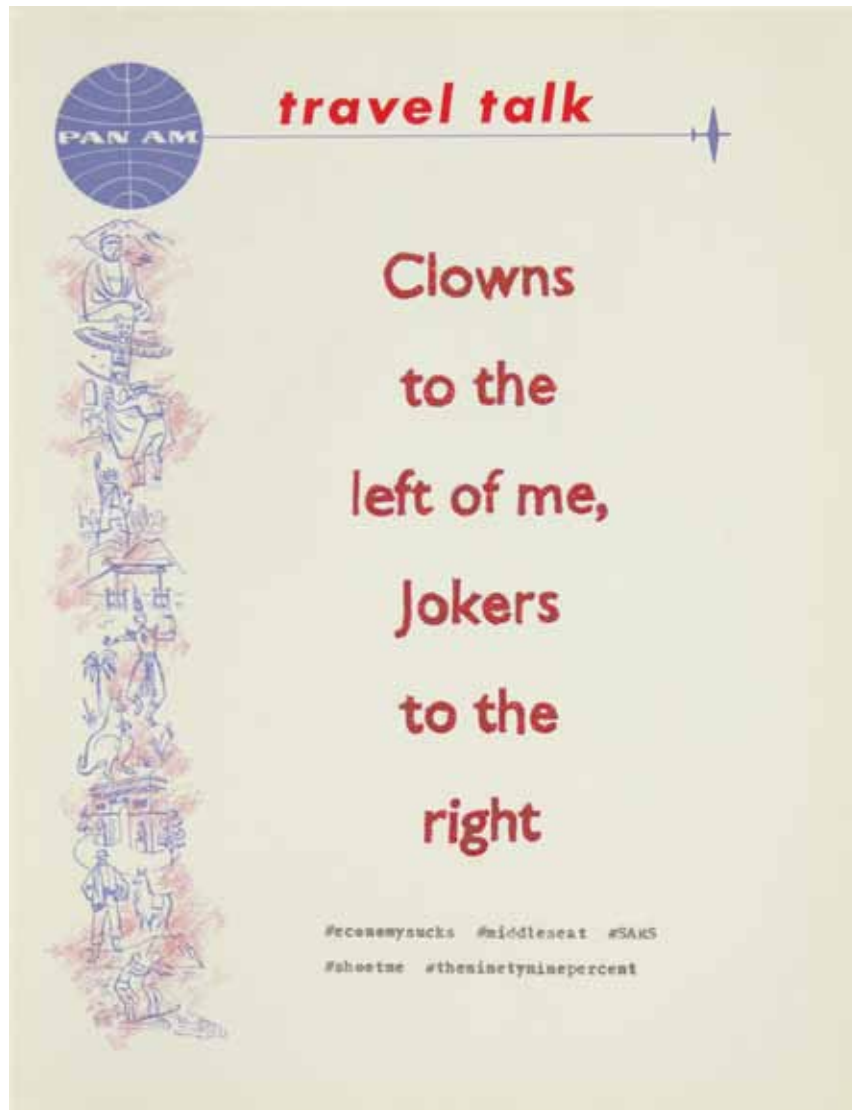
Hong Kong
Shanghai
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New York
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**STREET GIRLS
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IN ADVANCE**

#heysailor #brantyyoureafinegirl #theycomeandgo
#scandandnsenen #whamdanthankyounaam

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Glitter,
Glitter and ink on paper,
11.75" x 8.25", 2013



Stuck,
Glitter and ink on paper,
11" x 8.5", 2013



Tourist
Installation



Songs

— Red
Canada
A Case of You — Joni Mitchell

New York 2
New York New York — Frank Sinatra

San Francisco
I Left My Heart in San Francisco —
Tony Bennett

— White
Los Angeles 2
All I Wanna Do — Sheryl Crow

Tokyo
Tokyo — Bruce Cockburn (fellow Canadian)

New York
The Only Living Boy in New York —
Simon & Garfunkel

— Blue
Paris
I love Paris — Ella Fitzgerald

London
London Calling — The Clash

Los Angeles
LA Woman — The Doors

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First Edition Apr 11, 2013
Los Angeles, CA

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Design: October
octoberdesign.co.uk

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