

Project: ARTspace

Notation

annette cords

ilene sunshine

February 29 – April 19, 2024

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 29, 6–8 pm

Artists' Conversation: Wednesday, April 10, 6–8 pm

The artist is a collector of things imaginary or real. The scrap heap and the museum are embraced with equal curiosity.

— Paul Rand

Project: ARTspace is pleased to present *Notation*, a two-person exhibition featuring the work of Annette Cords and Ilene Sunshine. This collaborative installation of Cords' tapestries and weavings along with Sunshine's sculpture and handmade paper constructions is a result of their nuanced consideration of each other's work. In addition, the show highlights the concept of co-authorship inherent in their individual practices.

Cords and Sunshine share a collagist's disposition—a foraging approach that implies alertness to and dependence on their immediate environment. Both artists are passionate walkers through New York's cityscape, photographing and noting in their bodies the forms, textures, and glyphs that become springboards to artworks. For Sunshine, this hunter-gatherer mindset also results in her use of scavenged twigs and plastic bags as primary materials. Cords begins with visual research and an index of images, phrases, word pairs, and fragments as she explores the interrelationship of visual-textual languages.

Both artists employ layering to achieve a density of texture and meaning. Cords' Jacquard tapestries confer a tangible presence to intertwined words and images, linking disparate elements—digital typefaces and drawn forms, visual weave structures and recognizable texts, pixel-based images and tactile surfaces. Sunshine's constructed drawings, comprised of plastic bag fragments sandwiched between cotton and abaca paper, elicit a confounding spatial ambiguity where meaning seems transmitted by vapor. Their mutual interest in language—aural and visual—is ever-present.

Cords and Sunshine also make connections to other fields and disciplines. Cords presents weaving as a language that intersects and augments developments in writing, painting, and abstraction, while Sunshine ponders nature's cycle of growth and decay, including the cultural impulse to alter or arrest these processes. As the artists' works are perceived in relationship to each other, connections extend unexpectedly from form to content.

Notation is a lively dialogue between artists Annette Cords and Ilene Sunshine, highlighting their distinctly haptic responses to the material world.

Annette Cords was born in Northern Germany, raised in Hamburg, and lives and works between New York and Hamburg. She received her M.F.A. in Painting from the University of Pennsylvania. Since then, her practice has evolved to span installation, sculpture, and textiles. Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include 1014 (NYC), Kunsthalle Dessau (Dessau, Germany), Yeh Art Gallery, St. John's University (NYC), The Raft (Buffalo), PS122 Gallery (NYC), InLiquid Gallery (Philadelphia), Kang Contemporary (Berlin), New York Public Library (NYC), Jenaer Kunstverein and Villa Rosenthal (Jena, Germany). Her work has appeared in group shows at venues including the Queens Museum, FluxFactory, The Drawing Center, Kentler International Drawing Space, and Montreal Centre for Contemporary Textiles. She has been the recipient of grants and residencies, including a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, an Open Sessions Residency at The Drawing Center, Arbeitsstipendium, Landeskulturverband Schleswig-Holstein, Innovative Kunstprojekte, BBK, Berlin, and a grant from the ArsVersa Kunst-Stiftung.
www.annettecords.net

Ilene Sunshine is a New York City-based artist who uses an array of cast-off materials—leaves, plastic bags, abandoned toys, scavenged tree branches—to explore the interface of nature and culture. Ranging from large-scale site projects to drawings and sculpture, her work has been exhibited widely in the U.S. and internationally. Solo and two-person venues include: Project:ARTspace (NYC); Metaphor Projects (Brooklyn, NY); Galerie Alfinite (Brasilia, BR); Maison Patrimoniale de Barthète (Boussan, FR); Kentler International Drawing Space (Brooklyn, NY). Her work is in various collections including the Victoria and Albert Museum (London), and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (NYC). She has been awarded fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, Dieu Donné Papermill, The Constance Saltonstall Foundation, MacDowell, and Ucross. Sunshine received her BFA in Sculpture with honors from Boston University.
Website: ilenesunshine.com

Founded in 2011, **Project: ARTspace** is an inter-disciplinary creative project space located at 99 Madison Avenue in Manhattan. The organization programs events and exhibitions where curators and artists have the chance to meet, engage and promote new collaborative projects.

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