

Dreamers Installation

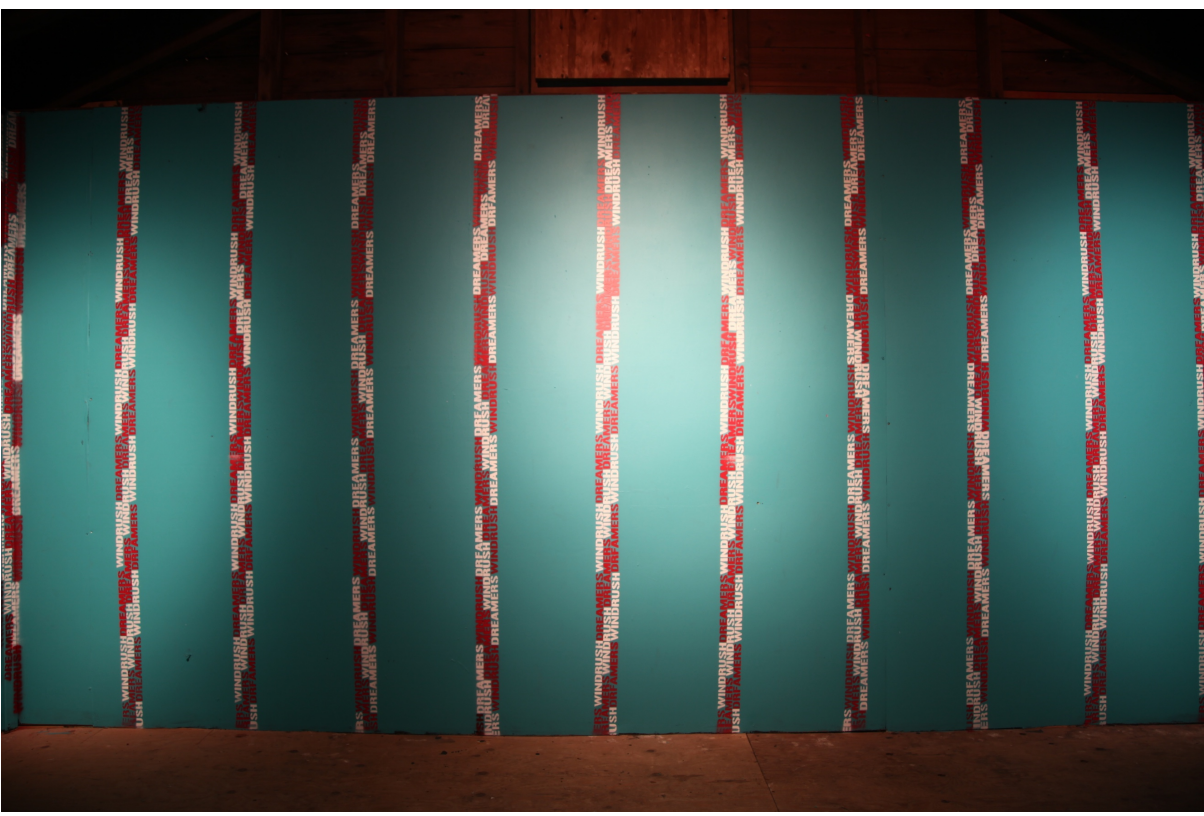
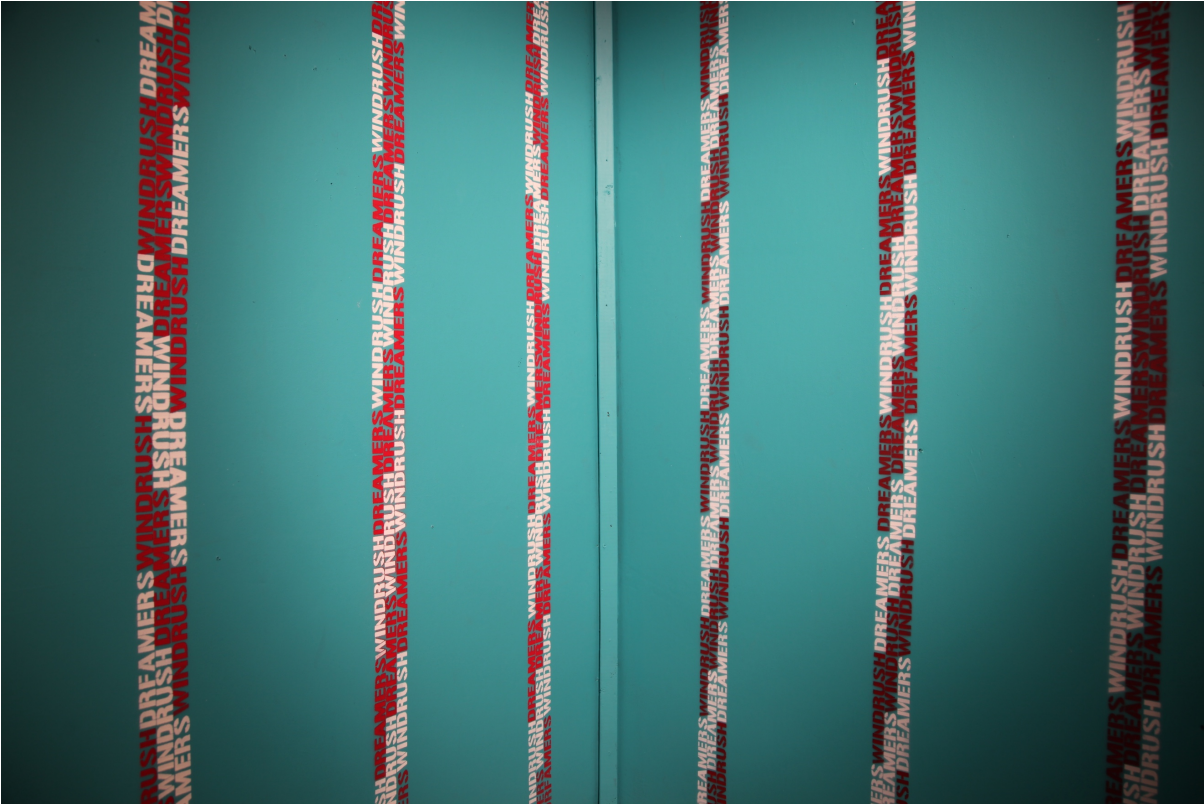
Dawn Woolley and Davin Watne, Wassaic Project, New York, December 2018.

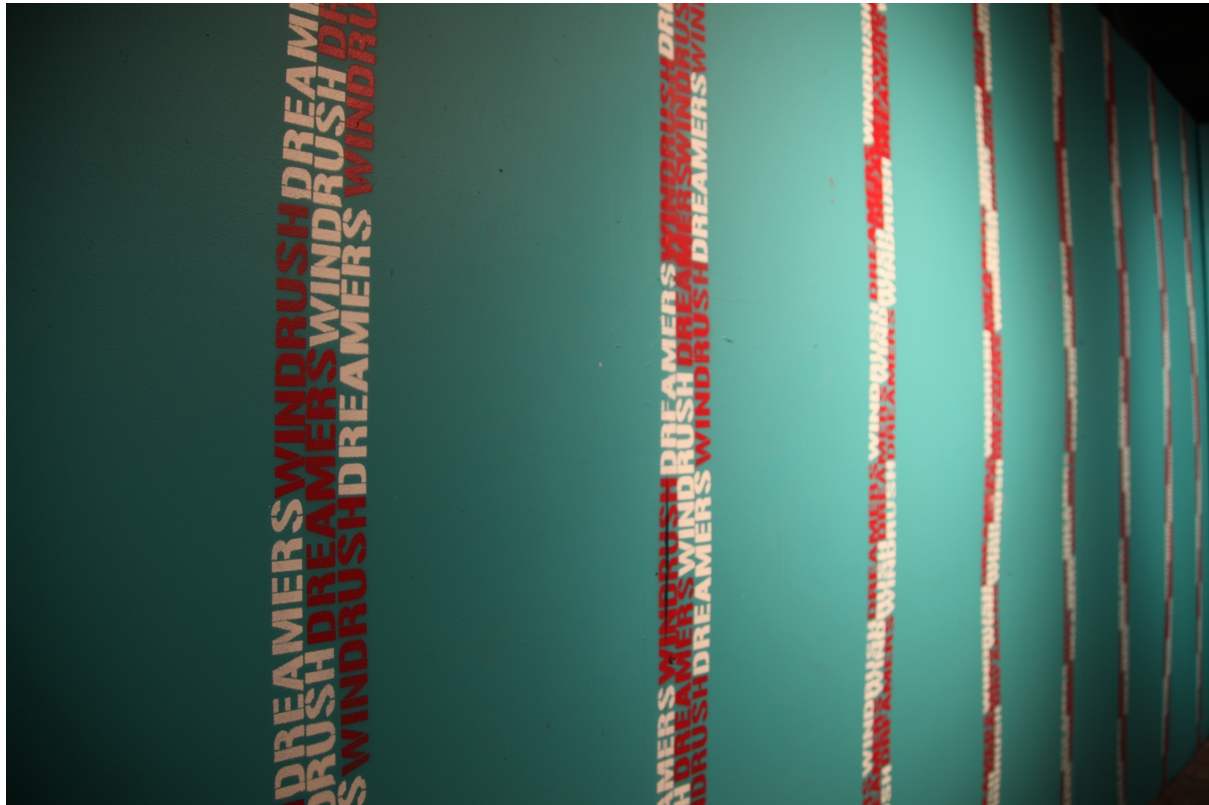
The text in this immersive installation refers to the “Windrush” and “Dreamers” communities in the UK and the US respectively, whose citizenship has been under threat of revocation by current ruling governments.

The use of optical illusions demonstrates the fugitive nature of truth, by aligning the inherent biases in human visual perception with implicit social, political and racial biases in our news media.

The text is installed to replicate a visual distortion illusion in which the segments of different colour text trigger a visual stimulus that is misinterpreted by the brain, leading to the perception that the columns of text and curved. The illusion of a crooked line signifies a broken promise to the Windrush and Dreamers communities.







Davin Watne and Dawn Woolley work collaboratively, under the name Hard Stop, to produce art interventions that question notions of truth in contemporary society. Hard stop is a method used by police to bring a vehicle to a stop, often by shooting the people inside. Despite the violence of this controversial method of control, the idea of bringing something to a violent halt resonated with us. Walter Benjamin writes that the 'ideology of progress' naturalises the idea that the current course of development is an inevitable trajectory that cannot be altered. The consequence of this is conformism and passive acceptance of the status quo. For Benjamin, the crises of 'modern time' are not moments in which violent change might take place, but where existing power structures remain. Real progress will take place when the myth of progress is exposed.

In a world characterised by alt-truth and continuous communication via social media we need time for reflection. With this in mind we appropriated the term 'hard stop' to signify the possibility of bringing to a halt (at least momentarily) the deluge of information we receive. Under this moniker we create interventions in the public realm that invite viewers to pause and critique the images they see.

Our process is informed by Joseph Alber's colour theory, Actual/Factual, in which he distinguishes between the factual colour - what it really is - and the actual colour - how it appears in the context of other colours. The changing appearance of colours and their dual identity as an actual and a factual colour problematises the notion of truth and leads to the philosophical question of whether truth is an essential fact or a malleable thing that is contingent to the context in which it appears. Optical illusions also demonstrate that things

are not always as they appear to be. Drawing on notions of truth, contingency and the repudiation of both - alt-truth - we produce optical illusions as metaphors for the distortion of information that occurs in media presentations of current social, political and economic events.

https://www.instagram.com/hard_stop/

<https://www.a-n.co.uk/blogs/hard-stop/>

Exhibition Invitation



FEDERICA BRUNI
DANIELLE JOY GRAVES
& NICK WITTEN
DIANA HEISE
WILLIAM LENARD
JOSEPH LIATELA
SEAN NAFTEL
HA NINH PHAM
BRANDON SWARD
DAVIN WATNE & DAWN
WOOLLEY
DANIEL ZEESE

 **WASSAIC PROJECT**

DEC 22ND-DEC29TH
OPENING RECEPTION: DEC 22 3-5 PM
THE WASSAIC PROJECT
37 FURNACE BANK RD, WASSAIC, NY 12592