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BEDFORD + BOWERY

Art This Week: Language, Marching Bands, 11 Shows In One

by Dawn Cassidy Graves

A Coded Language

Opening Thursday, April 12 at bitforms gallery, 6 pm to 8 pm. On view through May 20.



As a child, perhaps you tried to invent a new language with your friends, or merely came up with a new phrase so that parents or teachers or what have you didn't get to know the kind of stuff you were actually getting up to. Codenames and made-up, just-for-you languages have made an appearance in nearly everyone's lives, even if yours just consists of you doing a gibberish vocal warmup in an acting class once or something. Technologically-inclined artist Beryl Korot has also created her own language, but it's inspired by something a little more mathematical: the grid pattern formed from woven cloth. Her solo exhibition *A Coded Language* will showcase work made between 1980 and 2017, many of which utilize this language of the grid, initially created in 1980. In addition to this language's presence, she also pays tribute to others who have forged their own way of communicating, such as Dutch Jewish writer Etty Hillesum, who wrote to her friends in code during the Nazi invasion in Holland.

Beryl Korot, *Babel 2* (detail), 1980, Pigment on linen woven by the artist, 72 x 38.75 in (image via bitforms gallery nyc / Facebook)