Gary Hill
Language Pit

bitforms gallery

Language Pit
Gary Hill
February 1–March 16, 2024

Opening reception: Thursday, February 1, 6–8 PM
Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday: 11 AM–6 PM

Language Pit is Gary Hill's second solo exhibition with bitforms gallery. Through an ongoing investigation of language, Hill offers works that explore the physicality of language in a multiplicity of ways through silkscreens, watercolors, sculpture, and video installation. Exhibited works probe both the visual and auditory components of the spoken word.

The *Engender Series* is a project that conjoins personal pronouns using logic. Boolean logic is a binary system that produces either a true or a false output, and is the foundation of computer programming. Hill applies this process to personal pronouns, which he interprets as a kind of analog element of identity. After each function (XOR, AND, OR, A-B and B-A) has been applied, the pronouns cease to be pronounceable but can be read, or visually decoded. Sculptural works from this series show all five logical functions, highlighting the similarities and differences of implemented gates. For example, a XOR function of she/he produces forms where only the parts of either "she" or "he" exist unto themselves, whereas an OR gate merges both into one form. Hill's visualization of pronouns explodes the binary conundrum, mirroring the complexity and depth of inquiry concerning gender identity as well as linguistics.

None of the Above continues Hill's obsessive parsing of language and its myriad of possibilities. A large video projection installed in portrait orientation depicts the artist performing a bricolage of words and syntax. Uncannily, the work parallels a similar terrain to the pronoun landscape for its runaway of complexity. Hill enunciates each word while moving his hands in tandem with his discourse. The poetics playfully feeds back on itself, enveloping and unraveling with each line like an ouroboros that builds upon itself in an evolving loop. The artist's hand gestures continue alongside his monologue in an allusion to the idiomatic triad—see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil. Hill's longtime engagement with language confronts the limits of speech, writing, and gesture, situating language as a physical form with an integral relationship to the body.

Language Pit is a two-channel video installation with a set of raw speaker cones presented on a plinth. A loud acerbic voice delivers a dialogue that alternates between the speakers, utilizing short phrases derived from political sound bites and idiomatic expressions. Micro-cameras wired to small circuit boards lay upon the speaker skins in sinusoidal positions like a pair of undisturbed snakes. Each happenstantial burst of speech awakens the "eyes" and live video feeds become momentarily dynamic. As percussive elements of the dialogue occur, pinging back and forth between speakers, the onscreen imagery makes radical abrupt shifts that reveal slivers of the site, familiar details, and glimpses of viewers present.

bitforms gallery

b. 1951, Santa Monica, CA
Lives and works in Mallorca, Spain and Seattle, WA

Gary Hill has worked with a broad range of media – including sculpture, sound, video, installation and performance – since the early 1970's. His longtime work with intermedia continues to explore an array of issues ranging from the physicality of language, synesthesia and perceptual conundrums to ontological space and viewer interactivity.

Exhibitions of his work have been presented at museums and institutions worldwide, including solo exhibitions at the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York; Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel; Museu d'Art Contemporani, Barcelona; and Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, among others. Commissioned projects include works for the Science Museum in London and the Seattle Central Public Library in Seattle, Washington, and an installation and performance work for the Coliseum and Temple of Venus and Rome in Italy. Hill has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Rockefeller and Guggenheim Foundations, and has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, most notably the Leone d'Oro Prize for Sculpture at the Venice Biennale (1995), a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship Award (1998), the Kurt-Schwitters-Preis (2000), and honorary doctorates from The Academy of Fine Arts Poznan, Poland (2005) and Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA (2011).

Gary Hill
Language Pit, 2016/2021
Video (color, sound), micro-video camera, speakers, projectors or displays
Dimensions variable
Edition of 2, 1 AP

$ 110,000.00,
hardware included,
screen additional

Gary Hill
None of the Above, 2021-22
Video (color, sound)
Dimensions variable, portrait orientation
6 min, 2 sec
Edition of 3, 1 AP

$ 75,000.00,
screen additional

Gary Hill
Whisper Room, 2022
Video (color, sound), acoustic paneling, 7" HD industrial flat panel display,
microphone stand, headphones, media player with activation switch
Dimensions variable, portrait orientation
3 min 10 sec
Edition of 2, 1 AP

$ 50,000.00

Gary Hill
SHE HE Logic Set, 2023
PVC
Dimensions variable
Edition of 1, 1 AP

$ 50,000.00

Gary Hill
SHE OR HE, 2023
PVC
7 1/4 x 17 1/4 x 7 in / 18.4 x 43.8 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP

$ 11,000.00

Gary Hill
SHE XOR HE, 2023
PVC
7 x 14 x 4 in 17.8 x 35.6 x 10.2 cm
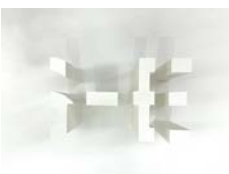Edition of 2, 1 AP

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Gary Hill
SHE-HE, 2023
PVC
7 x 17 3/8 x 7 in / 17.8 x 44.1 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP

$ 11,000.00

Gary Hill
SHE AND HE, 2023
PVC
7 x 11 1/4 x 7 in / 17.8 x 28.6 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP

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Gary Hill
HE-SHE, 2023
PVC
7 x 9 3/4 x 7 in / 17.8 x 24.8 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP

$ 11,000.00

Gary Hill
HE THEY Logic Set, 2023
PVC
Dimensions variable
Edition of 1, 1 AP

$ 50,000.00

Gary Hill
HE OR THEY, 2023
PVC
7 x 20 1/8 x 7 in / 17.8 x 51 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP

$ 11,000.00

Gary Hill
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PVC
7 x 20 1/8 x 7 in / 17.8 x 51 x 17.8 cm
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Gary Hill
HE-THEY, 2023
PVC
7 x 10 5/8 x 7 in / 17.8 x 27 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP

$ 11,000.00

Gary Hill
THEY-HE, 2023
PVC
7 x 20 1/8 x 7 in / 17.8 x 51 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP

$ 11,000.00

Gary Hill
PER ZIE Logic Set, 2023
PVC
Dimensions variable
Edition of 1, 1 AP

$ 50,000.00

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Gary Hill
PER OR ZIE, 2023
PVC
7 x 18 1/8 x 7 in / 17.8 x 46 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP

$ 11,000.00

Gary Hill
PER XOR ZIE, 2023
PVC
7 x 17 1/2 x 7 in / 17.8 x 44.5 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP

$ 11,000.00

Gary Hill
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PVC
7 x 14 x 7 in / 17.8 x 35.6 x 17.8 cm
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PER-ZIE, 2023
PVC
7 x 17 1/2 x 7 in / 17.8 x 44.5 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP

$ 11,000.00

Gary Hill
ZIE-PER, 2023
PVC
7 x 14 1/8 x 7 in / 17.8 x 35.9 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP

$ 11,000.00

Gary Hill
SHE/HE (liminal #5) , 2023
Silkscreen on Rives BFK paper
29 x 41 in / 73.7 x 104.1 cm
Edition of 5, 2 AP

$ 4,000.00

Gary Hill
SHE/HE (liminal #6) , 2023
Silkscreen on Rives BFK paper
29 x 41 in / 73.7 x 104.1 cm
Edition of 5, 2 AP

$ 4,000.00

Gary Hill
SHE/HE (liminal #7) , 2023
Silkscreen on Rives BFK paper
29 x 41 in / 73.7 x 104.1 cm
Edition of 5, 2 AP

$ 4,000.00

Gary Hill
SHE/HE (liminal #8) , 2023
Silkscreen on Rives BFK paper
29 x 41 in / 73.7 x 104.1 cm
Edition of 5, 2 AP

$ 4,000.00

Gary Hill
ZIE-PER, 2023
Watercolor on paper
24 x 18 in / 61 x 45.7 cm

$ 8,000.00

Gary Hill
PER AND ZIE, 2023
Watercolor on paper
24 x 18 in / 61 x 45.7 cm

$ 8,000.00

Gary Hill
PER-ZIE, 2023
Watercolor on paper
24 x 18 in / 61 x 45.7 cm

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Gary Hill
PER OR ZIE, 2023
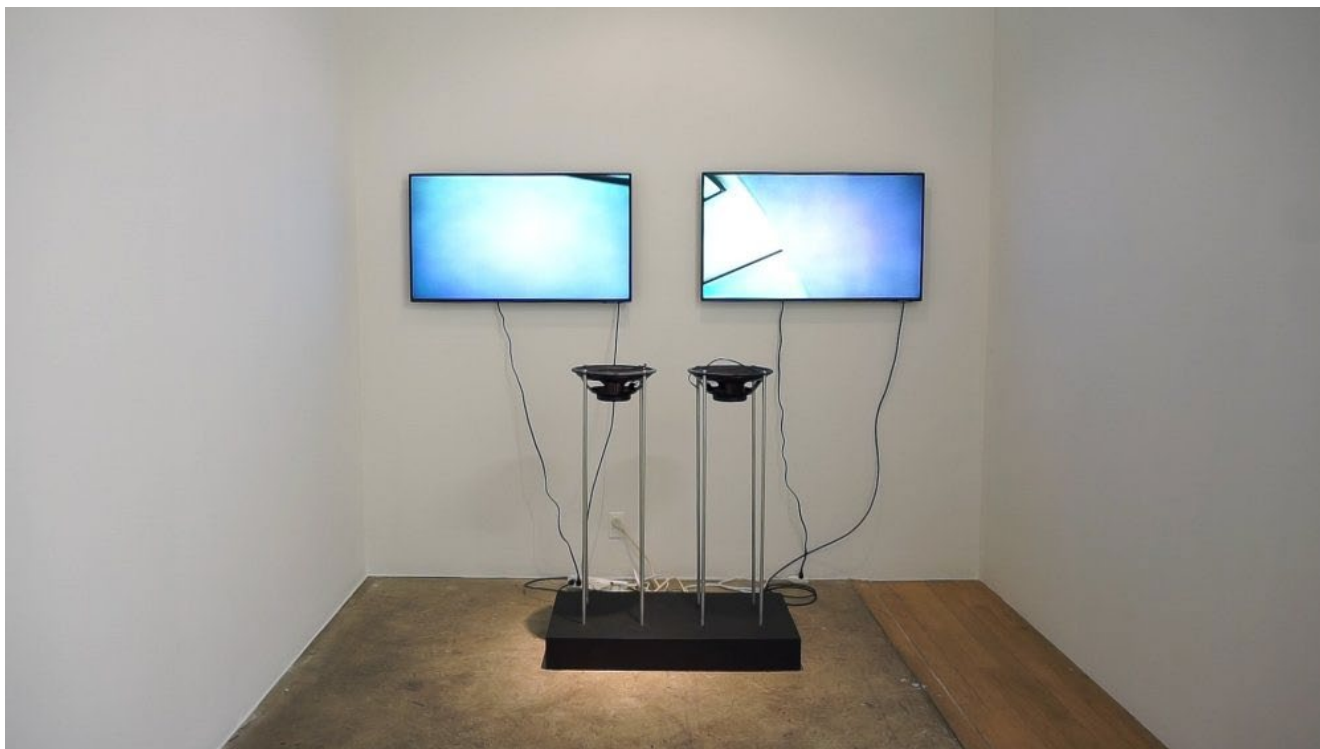Watercolor on paper
24 x 18 in / 61 x 45.7 cm

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PER XOR ZIE, 2023
Watercolor on paper
24 x 18 in / 61 x 45.7 cm

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Gary Hill
Language Pit, 2016/2021
Video (color, sound), micro-video camera, speakers, projectors or displays
Dimensions variable
Edition of 2, 1 AP
$ 110,000.00, hardware included, screen additional

Video documentation: https://vimeo.com/904162071

Language Pit is driven by short phrases derived from the general drift of political sound bites as well as gender politics and the complexities thereof. Forms of Identity and language structures give way to wordplay, scrambled pronouns, and idiomatic expression. The spoken exchange, riddled with percussive phonetics, "plays" large visible speaker cones that are mounted facing up--one voice per speaker. Wired through the skin of the speakers are fingertip size circuit boards complete with video cameras and integral microphones. They've been given a short leash on which to run amok in their own private sphere of sound; speech provides a dynamically oscillating and challenging surface. The cameras' speech-driven movement is seen projected or on mounted displays.
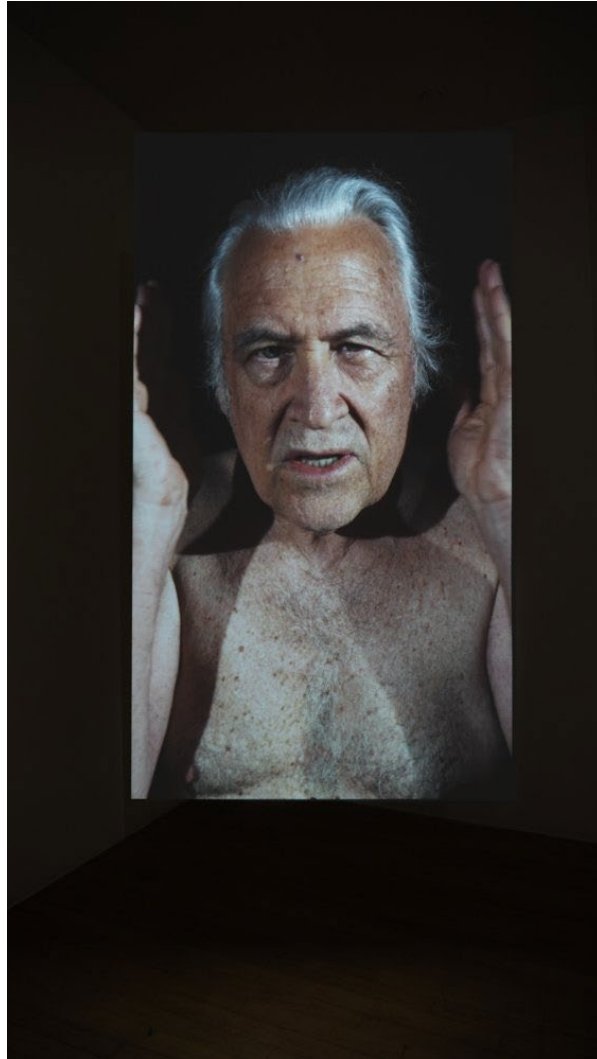
Gary Hill
None of the Above, 2021-22
Video (color, sound)
Dimensions variable, portrait orientation
6 min, 2 sec loop
Edition of 3, 1 AP
$ 75,000.00, screen additional

Video documentation: https://vimeo.com/904805616
Pswd: GaryHill2024

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Gary Hill
Whisper Room, 2022
Video (color, sound), acoustic paneling, 7" HD industrial flat panel display,
microphone stand, headphones, media player with activation switch
Dimensions variable, portrait orientation
3 min 10 sec
Edition of 2, 1 AP
$ 50,000.00

Video documentation: https://vimeo.com/908800806

The Whisper Room is a close encounter through an intimate recital by the artist to each individual viewer. The installation mirrors the site of the recording—that being a narration booth. One viewer at a time finds a microphone stand with a small video display mounted upon it as well as a pair of headphones. The video begins from the point of view of one slowly opening a door and stepping into a small space (the narration booth) with a single microphone on a stand. The camera slowly approaches the microphone and frames the spherical grille. The sphere takes center stage as if it were floating for the duration of the video. It's as if the viewer is softly requested to speak, to be there, to remain, as a disembodied voice taps into a kind of imaginary place that is oddly nearby wherein contact may occur.

Gary Hill
SHE HE Logic Set, 2023
PVC
Dimensions variable
Edition of 1, 1 AP
$ 50,000.00

Gary Hill's *Engender Project* examines language through a range of personal pronouns. On display as both sculpture and screen prints, the series combines two pronouns using logical gates. Logical gates, typically referenced within electronic circuitry, receive two incoming currents, compare them, and then return a new, outgoing current. The works utilize Boolean Logic upon sets of pronouns as written on the page. A digital system/language is being applied representations of gender which could be viewed as an "analog" element of identity. Hill works with pairs of pronouns taken from the spectrum, including SHE HE, PER ZIE, and HE THEY. Within his sculpture series, each pair is laid out using a bold font and all in capital letters. The two words are always centered and then are processed using a set of 5 logic functions: XOR, AND, OR, A-B and B-A.

No longer are the "pronouns" pronounceable per se, they can only be "read" or perhaps decoded is a better word. After the mathematical procedure, the combined words/pronouns begin to take on a Hieroglyphic appearance. In a rather strange way, the visualization of the pronouns through gates begins to mirror the complexity and depth not only of questions concerning gender identity but also of language and linguistics.

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PVC
7 1/4 x 17 1/4 x 7 in / 18.4 x 43.8 x 17.8 cm
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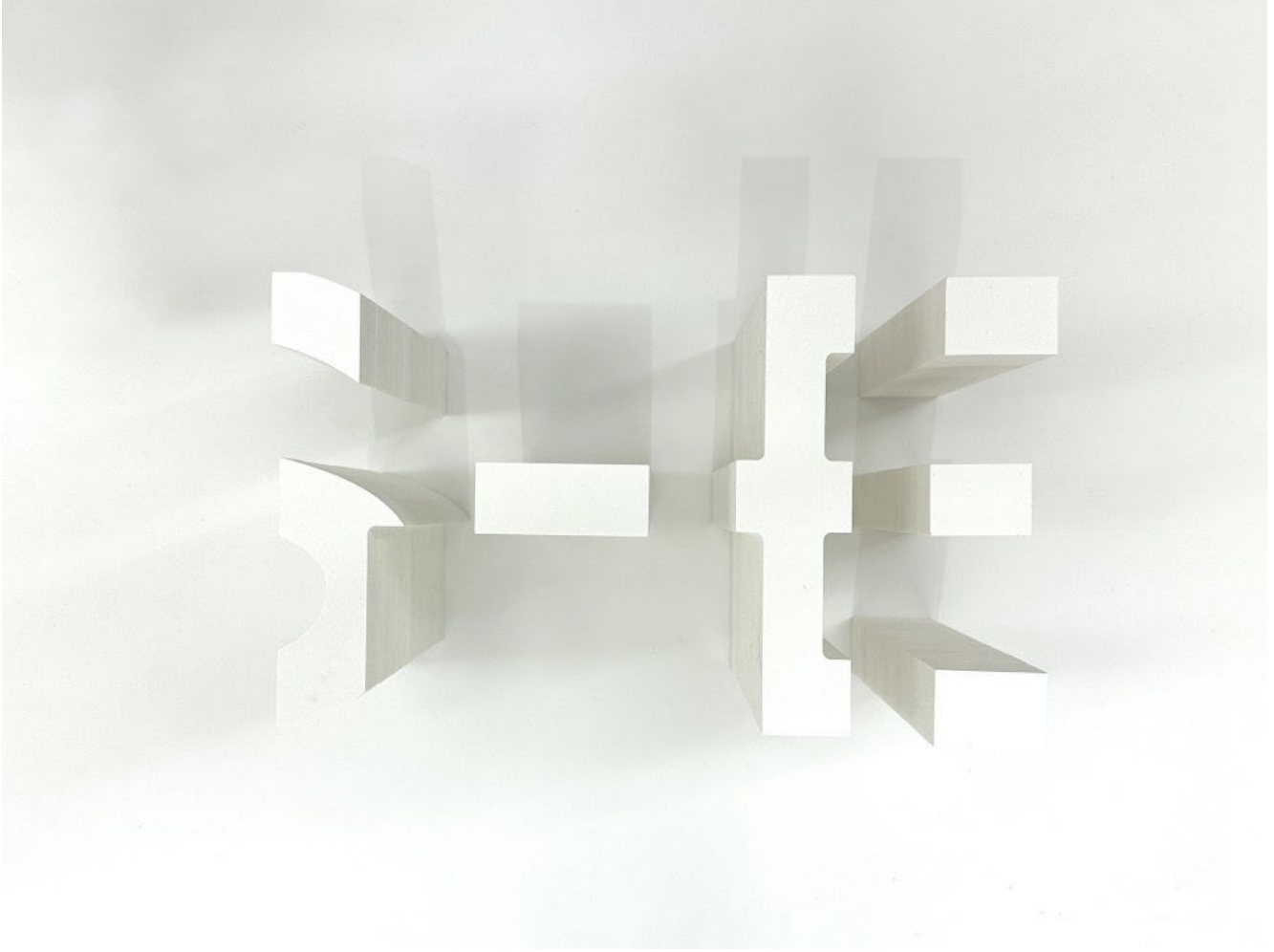*SHE-HE*, 2023
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PVC
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HE THEY Logic Set, 2023
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Dimensions variable
Edition of 1, 1 AP
$ 50,000.00

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Gary Hill
HE OR THEY, 2023
PVC
7 x 20 1/8 x 7 in / 17.8 x 51 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP
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PER ZIE Logic Set, 2023
PVC
Dimensions variable
Edition of 1, 1 AP
$ 50,000.00

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Edition of 2, 1 AP
$ 11,000.00

Gary Hill's *Engender Project* examines language through a range of personal pronouns. On display as both sculpture and screen prints, the series combines two pronouns using logical gates. Logical gates, typically referenced within electronic circuitry, receive two incoming currents, compare them, and then return a new, outgoing current. The works utilize Boolean Logic upon sets of pronouns as written on the page. A digital system/language is being applied representations of gender which could be viewed as an "analog" element of identity. Hill works with pairs of pronouns taken from the spectrum, including SHE HE, PER ZIE, and HE THEY. Within his sculpture series, each pair is laid out using a bold font and all in capital letters. The two words are always centered and then are processed using a set of 5 logic functions: XOR, AND, OR, A-B and B-A.

No longer are the "pronouns" pronounceable per se, they can only be "read" or perhaps decoded is a better word. After the mathematical procedure, the combined words/pronouns begin to take on a Hieroglyphic appearance. In a rather strange way, the visualization of the pronouns through gates begins to mirror the complexity and depth not only of questions concerning gender identity but also of language and linguistics.

Gary Hill
PER XOR ZIE, 2023
PVC
7 x 17 1/2 x 7 in / 17.8 x 44.5 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP
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Gary Hill
PER AND ZIE, 2023
PVC
7 x 14 x 7 in / 17.8 x 35.6 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP
$ 11,000.00

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Gary Hill
ZIE-PER, 2023
PVC
7 x 14 1/8 x 7 in / 17.8 x 35.9 x 17.8 cm
Edition of 2, 1 AP
$ 11,000.00

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Gary Hill
SHE/HE (liminal #5) , 2023
Silkscreen on Rives BFK paper
29 x 41 in / 73.7 x 104.1 cm
Edition of 5, 2 AP
$ 4,000.00

Gary Hill's *Engender Project* examines language through a range of personal pronouns. On display as both sculpture and screen prints, the series combines two pronouns using logical gates. Logical gates, typically referenced within electronic circuitry, receive two incoming currents, compare them, and then return a new, outgoing current. The works utilize Boolean Logic upon sets of pronouns as written on the page. A digital system/language is being applied representations of gender which could be viewed as an "analog" element of identity. Hill works with pairs of pronouns taken from the spectrum, the most obvious being SHE and HE. Each pair is laid out using a bold font and all in capital letters. The two words are always centered and then are processed using a set of 5 logic functions: XOR, AND, OR, A-B and B-A.

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Gary Hill
SHE/HE (liminal #6) , 2023
Silkscreen on Rives BFK paper
29 x 41 in / 73.7 x 104.1 cm
Edition of 5, 2 AP
$ 4,000.00

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Gary Hill
SHE/HE (liminal #7) , 2023
Silkscreen on Rives BFK paper
29 x 41 in / 73.7 x 104.1 cm
Edition of 5, 2 AP
$ 4,000.00

Gary Hill's *Engender Project* examines language through a range of personal pronouns. On display as both sculpture and screen prints, the series combines two pronouns using logical gates. Logical gates, typically referenced within electronic circuitry, receive two incoming currents, compare them, and then return a new, outgoing current. The works utilize Boolean Logic upon sets of pronouns as written on the page. A digital system/language is being applied representations of gender which could be viewed as an "analog" element of identity. Hill works with pairs of pronouns taken from the spectrum, the most obvious being SHE and HE. Each pair is laid out using a bold font and all in capital letters. The two words are always centered and then are processed using a set of 5 logic functions: XOR, AND, OR, A-B and B-A.

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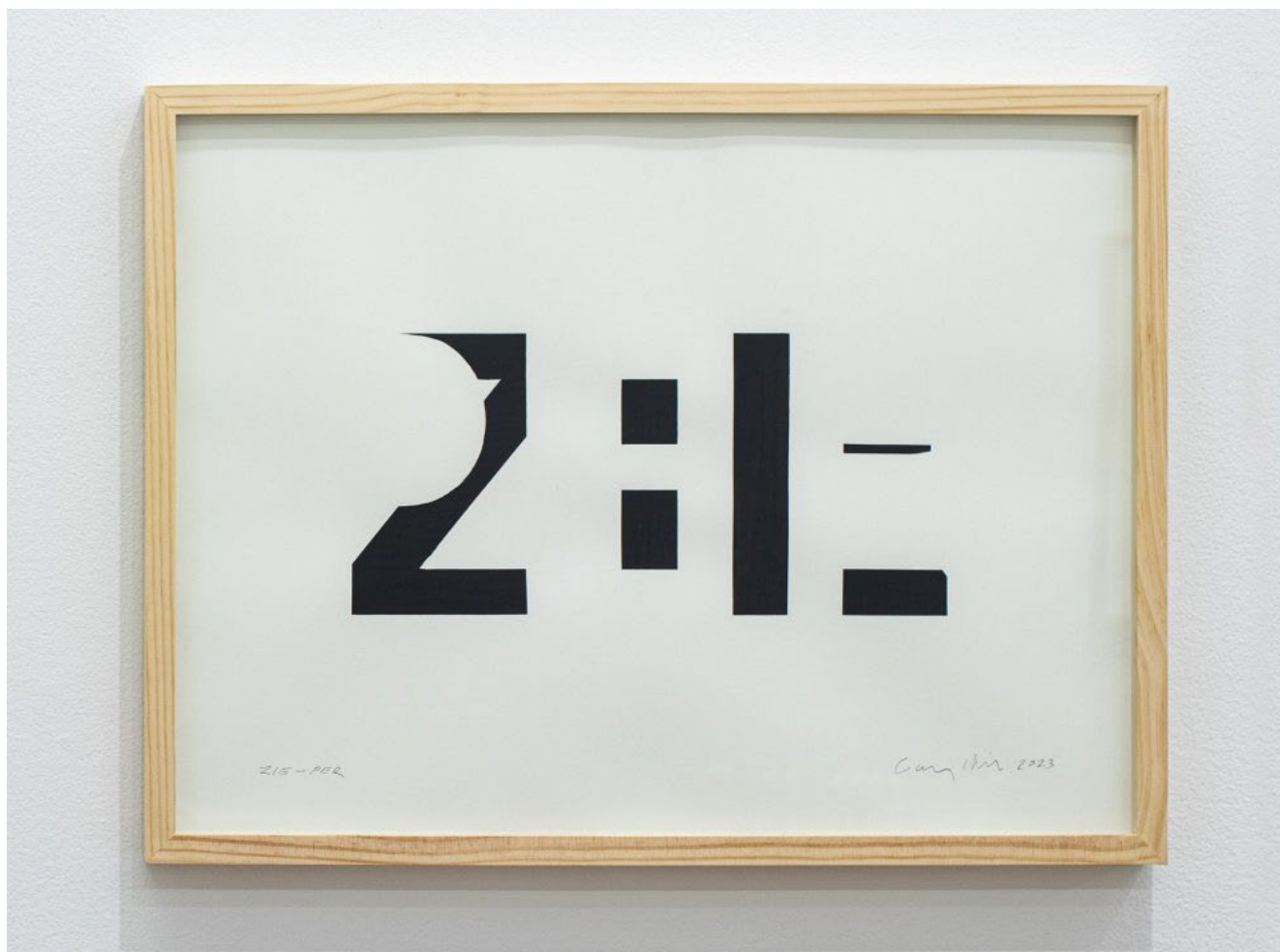
Gary Hill
SHE/HE (liminal #8) , 2023
Silkscreen on Rives BFK paper
29 x 41 in / 73.7 x 104.1 cm
Edition of 5, 2 AP
$ 4,000.00

Gary Hill's *Engender Project* examines language through a range of personal pronouns. On display as both sculpture and screen prints, the series combines two pronouns using logical gates. Logical gates, typically referenced within electronic circuitry, receive two incoming currents, compare them, and then return a new, outgoing current. The works utilize Boolean Logic upon sets of pronouns as written on the page. A digital system/language is being applied representations of gender which could be viewed as an "analog" element of identity. Hill works with pairs of pronouns taken from the spectrum, the most obvious being SHE and HE. Each pair is laid out using a bold font and all in capital letters. The two words are always centered and then are processed using a set of 5 logic functions: XOR, AND, OR, A-B and B-A.

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Gary Hill
ZIE-PER, 2023
Watercolor on paper
24 x 18 in / 61 x 45.7 cm
$ 8,000.00

The Engender Series is a project that conjoins personal pronouns using logic. Boolean logic is a binary system that produces either a true or a false output, and is the foundation of computer programming. Hill applies this process to personal pronouns, which he interprets as a kind of analog element of identity. After each function (XOR, AND, OR, A-B and B-A) has been applied, the pronouns cease to be pronounceable but can be read, or visually decoded. Painted watercolor works from this series show all five logical functions, highlighting the similarities and differences of implemented gates. For example, a XOR function of she/he produces forms where only the parts of either "she" or "he" exist unto themselves, whereas an OR gate merges both into one form. Hill's visualization of pronouns explodes the binary conundrum, mirroring the complexity and depth of inquiry concerning gender identity as well as linguistics.
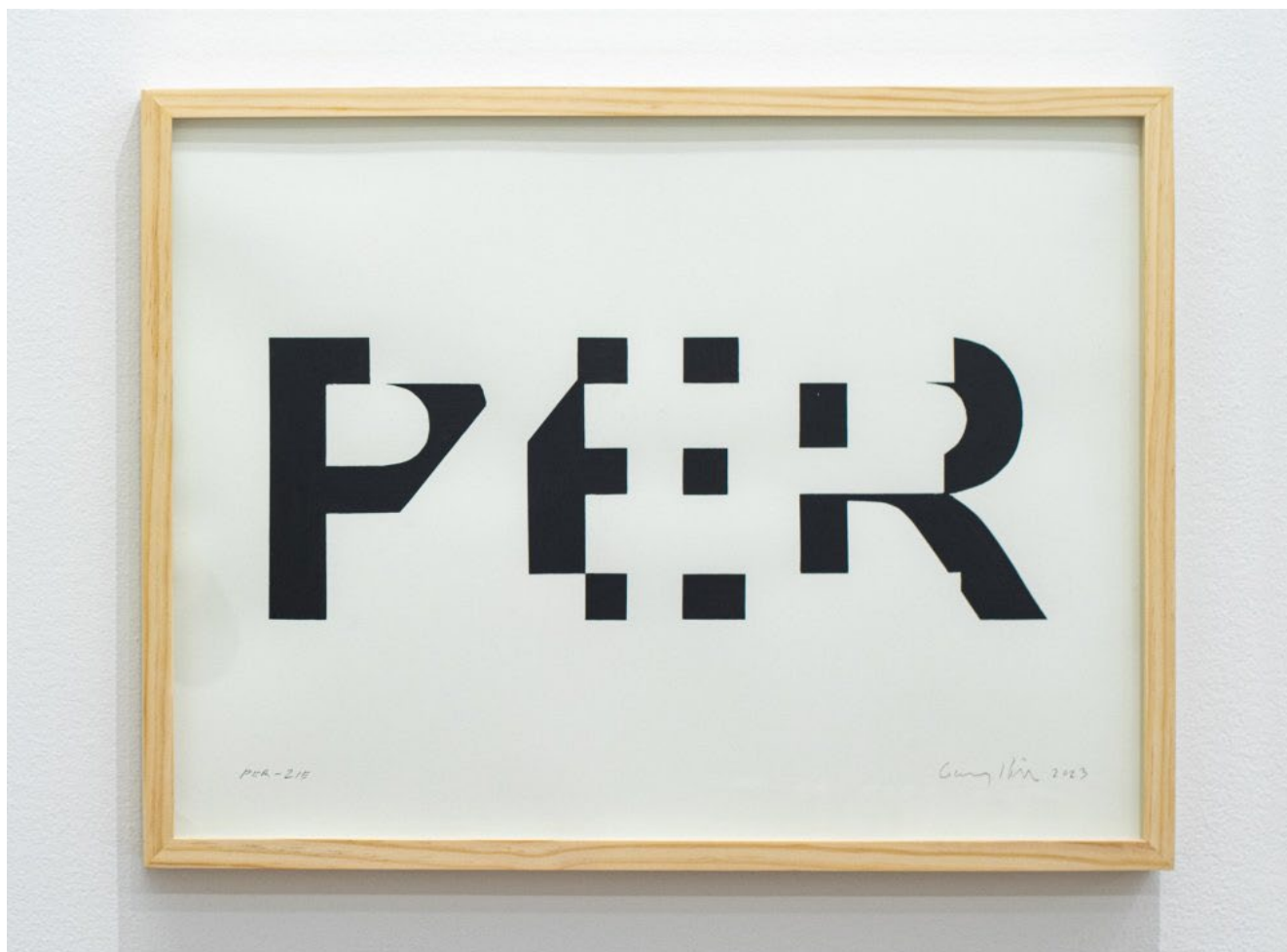
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PER OR ZIE, 2023
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Pa
PER XOR ZIE, 2023
Watercolor on paper
24 x 18 in / 61 x 45.7 cm
$ 8,000.00

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