

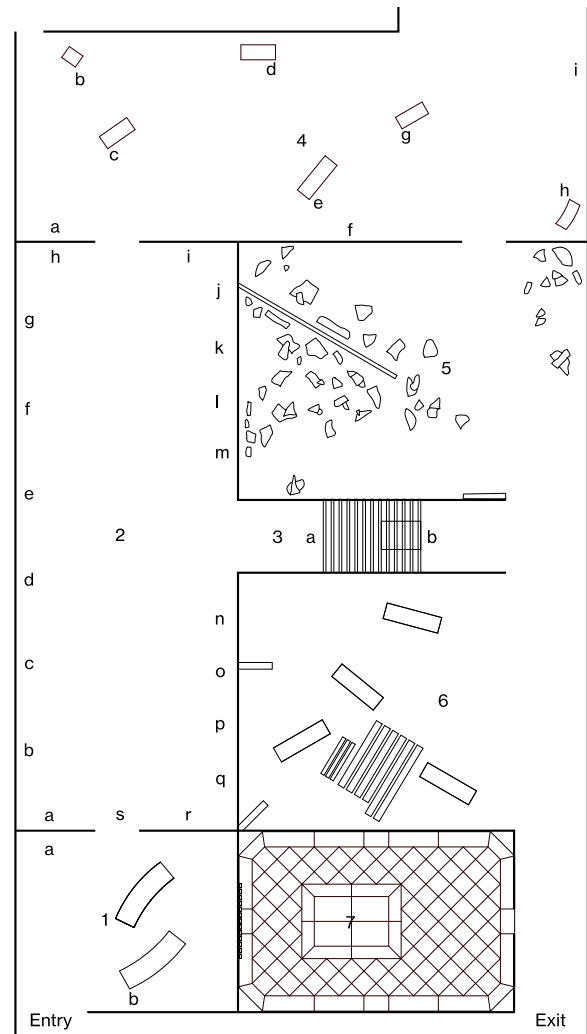
# Jenny Holzer

## Extended Exhibition Guide

Jenny Holzer uses language as her primary medium, engaging words and phrases as tools for personal and political examination. Her work operates in the charged space between authority and vulnerability, offering viewers urgent and at times prescient questions about power, identity, and the human condition. Organized in close collaboration with the artist, this exhibition traces beliefs, politics, technology, and upheaval through Holzer's drawings, paintings, stoneworks, LED installations, and plaques.

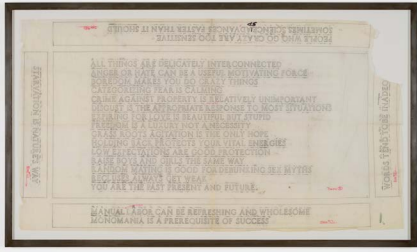
Major works from Glenstone's collection are joined by works on loan from the artist. Holzer's early writings are carved into stone benches and sarcophagi, and programmed on LED displays. Originally commissioned for the US Pavilion at the 44th Venice Biennale, *The Child Room* (1990–2025) places Holzer's words at the center of a marble floor, the text illuminated by 12 vertical LED signs. *Laments* (1987–2025), a series of texts written at the height of the AIDS epidemic, transmit what Holzer calls the "voices of the lost" through electronic displays and engraved tombs.

In 2005, Holzer returned to painting for the first time since her graduate studies in the mid-1970s. Alarmed by US military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Holzer used her paintings to bring attention to the terror and grief of war and the decisions that permit it. Since then, she has produced works on linen, often based on declassified government documents released to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. These documents are enlarged from their original scale, layered with paint, and sometimes leafed with precious metals to invite looking.



## Gallery 1

<sup>a</sup> *Truisms: All things are delicately interconnected...*, 1987  
carbon on tracing paper (preparatory drawing for stone bench)



<sup>b</sup> *Arno Pair*, 2010  
Carrara White marble



Begun as an account of losing someone to AIDS, the text series *Arno* (1996) expanded to become a more general meditation on living with loss after a great and terrible love. It takes its name from the Arno River in Florence, where it debuted in 1996 in Holzer's first light projection. Holzer later carved *Arno* into marble benches, a process that involves transferring letters from a preparatory drawing onto stone. The drawing shown here features selections from *Truisms* (1977–79), a series of short texts that speak to the social construction of truth.

## Gallery 2

These works reproduce government documents Holzer researched in the wake of US-led military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan in the early 2000s. Declassified and released to the public by federal agencies under the Freedom of Information Act, the documents detail the deliberations and intelligence preceding war, justifications for state-sanctioned torture, violence suffered by civilians, PTSD experienced by soldiers, and more. The content, faithfully silk-screened and sometimes leafed with metals, is transformed from document into modern history painting.

<sup>a</sup> *Wish List metal*, 2007–22  
metal leaf and oil on linen

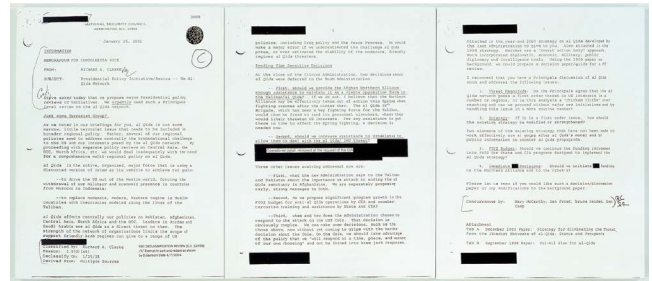


Page from an August 2003 US Army memo and report evaluating the necessity of and justification for “enhanced interrogation” techniques used by US soldiers and investigators to obtain intelligence from detainees. This page is a “wish list” of alternative techniques suggested by a military officer, including open-hand strikes, confinement, white noise exposure, and sleep deprivation. A number of other “coercive” techniques – including phone book strikes, electrocution, and muscle fatigue inducement – are suggested with the justification that they would “cause no permanent harm to the subject.” The wish list sparked internal debate about what forms of interrogation were necessary and ethically acceptable in the pursuit of intelligence and to ensure the safety of the United States.

Released to the public April 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document \(see page 59\)](#)

<sup>b</sup> *MEMORANDUM FOR CONDOLEEZZA RICE BLUE WHITE*, 2006  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen



Memo from White House counterterrorism coordinator Richard A. Clarke to National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, dated January 25, 2001, regarding the US government's strategy to combat al-Qaeda. In the memo, considered the first terrorism strategy paper of the George W. Bush administration, Clarke calls for an urgent meeting of the National Security Council's Principals Committee to discuss expanding the counterterrorism budget, responding to the October 2000 attack on the USS *Cole*, and giving counterterrorism aid to the Afghan Northern Alliance and Uzbekistan. Despite the request, a meeting was not held until September 4, 2001. The memo was central to debates in the 9/11 hearings over the Bush administration's policies and actions on terrorism before September 11, 2001.

Released to the public February 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the National Security Archive at George Washington University.

[Link to source document](#)

© *Phoenix yellow white*, 2006  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen

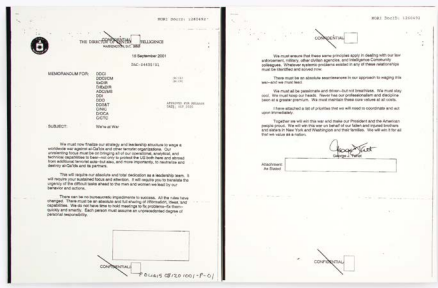


Redacted memo sent to agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Counterterrorism Division on July 10, 2001, from an FBI agent based in Phoenix, Arizona. Having recently observed an inordinate number of individuals of investigative interest undertaking civil aviation training in Arizona, the FBI's Phoenix office suspected a coordinated effort by Osama bin Laden to send students to US civil aviation schools. It warned that these individuals would be in a position to conduct terror activity against civil aviation targets, and it called for a nationwide investigation into civil aviation schools. The memo, which was not seen by senior officials at FBI headquarters until after September 11, 2001, is cited in the 9/11 Commission Report.

Released to the public June 2005 as part of a report by the Office of the Inspector General at the US Department of Justice.

[Link to source document \(see pages 2–8\)](#)

© *We're at War yellow white*, 2006  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen

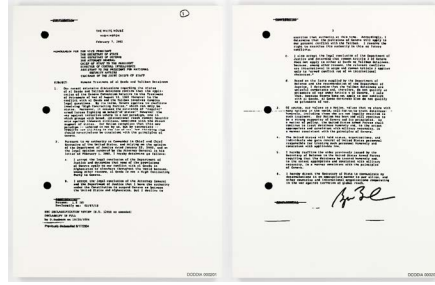


Memo written on September 16, 2001, by Central Intelligence Agency Director George Tenet following the September 11 attacks. In the memo, Tenet calls on the CIA to finalize its strategy and leadership structure to wage a worldwide war against al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. He states that the agency's "unrelenting focus must be on bringing all of our operational, analytical, and technical capabilities to bear" to neutralize and destroy al-Qaeda.

Released to the public December 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the National Security Archive at George Washington University.

[Link to source document \(see pages 1–2\)](#)

© *THE WHITE HOUSE 2002 PINK WHITE*, 2009  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen

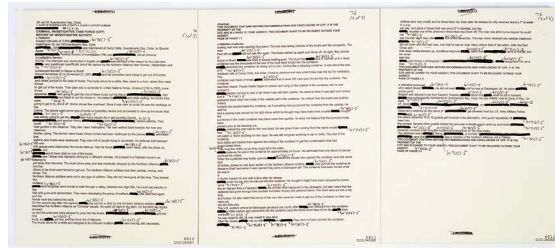


Memo from President George W. Bush regarding the humane treatment of al-Qaeda and Taliban detainees, dated February 7, 2002. In the memo, Bush formally states his acceptance of legal opinions from the Department of Justice and the Attorney General, which held that none of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions applied to the United States' conflict with al-Qaeda, and that both al-Qaeda and Taliban detainees were not to be considered prisoners of war, but rather "unlawful combatants" entitled to none of the conventions' protections against degradation and torture. Despite this, Bush further states that detainees should be treated humanely and, "to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the principles of Geneva."

Released to the public April 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document](#)

© *OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY YELLOW WHITE*, 2006  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen

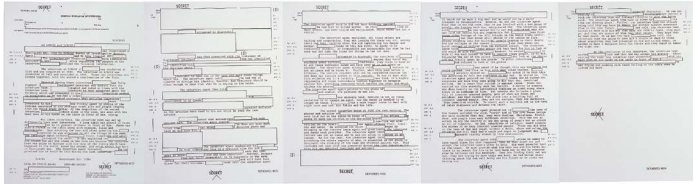


Report from the US Department of Defense Criminal Investigative Task Force summarizing an interview with a detainee at Camp Delta, a detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, on January 29, 2003. During the interview, special agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Naval Criminal Investigative Service questioned the detainee about his 2001 capture in Afghanistan by members of the Northern Alliance while he and others were attempting to surrender to United Nations forces. The interview details violence, abuse, and deprivations suffered by detainees during forced transport in a shipping container from Kunduz to a jail in Sheberghan. After the arrival of US soldiers at Sheberghan, detainees were reportedly starved and denied medical treatment. The interviewed detainee was later transferred to Guantanamo Bay, where he witnessed US Army military police severely beating another prisoner.

Released to the public December 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document](#)

<sup>g</sup> *Down on His Hands* blue white, 2006  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen

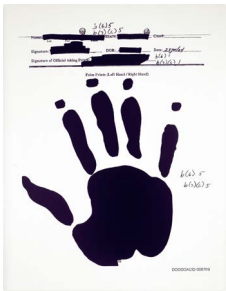


Pages from a summary of two Federal Bureau of Investigation interviews with a detainee at Guantanamo Bay detention camp on May 8 and 9, 2003. In the interviews, agents following up on statements made by other prisoners attempted to get information from the detainee about his alleged role in the September 11, 2001, attacks. After exiting the room, the interview team witnessed the detainee sobbing with his head in his hands on the table in front of him.

Released to the public May 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document \(pages 1, 4, 3, 2, 8\)](#)

<sup>h</sup> *DODDOACID 008769* YELLOW WHITE, 2007  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen



Redacted handprint from a December 2004 US Army report of an investigation into a movie titled *Ramadi Madness*, which was found on the hard drive of a combat company's computer at its facilities in St. Augustine, Florida. The movie contained video clips of wounded prisoners of war as they were bound, interrogated, kicked, and beaten by US soldiers. An Army sergeant admitted to compiling the video in January 2004.

The investigation was ultimately dropped upon the determination that the video contained inappropriate but not criminal behavior, and that the soldiers implicated were no longer in the US military and so could not be pursued with military charges.

Released to the public March 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document \(page 166\)](#)

<sup>i</sup> *Right Hand Down* blue white, 2007  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen

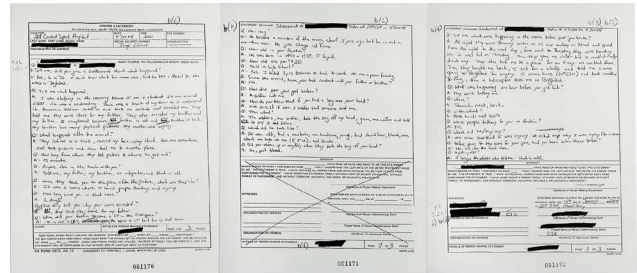


Handprint of Emad Kazem Taleb, an Iraqi citizen detained by the US military, from a June 2004 US Army report of an investigation into Taleb's death while in custody at Abu Ghraib prison. The investigation concluded that Taleb's death was natural and the result of arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

Released to the public October 2004 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document \(see page 43\)](#)

<sup>j</sup> *JAW BROKEN GREEN WHITE*, 2006  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen



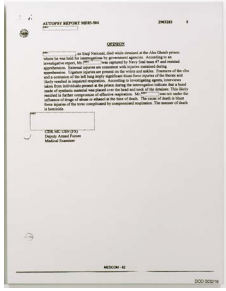
Sworn statement by an Iraqi citizen interviewed in January 2004 for a US Army investigation into alleged abuse of Iraqi detainees by US soldiers. In the statement, an Iraqi high school student recounts being arrested and detained for two days, during which he was blindfolded, doused with water, and beaten, resulting in a broken jaw. The full investigation report includes memos and statements from soldiers involved in detention activities, documenting systematic abuse of Iraqi citizens in US custody.

Released to the public March 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document \(pages 90–92\)](#)



<sup>k</sup> *FINAL AUTOPSY REPORT DOD 003212-DOD 003219 pink white, 2006*  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen

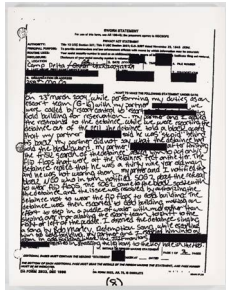


Concluding page of an autopsy report filed in January 2004 by a US Armed Forces medical examiner in Baghdad. The subject of the report is an Iraqi citizen detained at Abu Ghraib prison. The detainee suffered blunt-force injuries while being apprehended by US military personnel, including fractured ribs and a lung contusion, which likely made it difficult for him to breathe; he was subsequently interrogated with a hood over his head. In the report, his death is classified as a homicide, resulting from the injuries to his torso and complications from his compromised respiration.

Released to the public April 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document \(page 8\)](#)

<sup>l</sup> *Bob Marley pink white, 2009*  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen

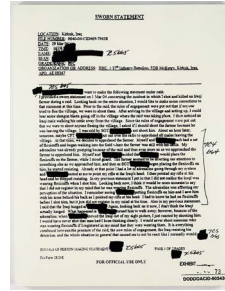


Sworn statement by a military police officer at Camp Delta, Guantanamo Bay, from a report on a Joint Task Force Guantanamo investigation into allegations that a detainee had been abused during interrogation. In the statement, the officer notes that the detainee refused to wear standard-issue flip-flops, walked through puddles, and sang Bob Marley's "Redemption Song." The investigation found evidence of rough handling but not of deliberate abuse on the part of US soldiers, and cited lack of training in detention procedures as the primary problem.

Released to the public July 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document \(see page 43\)](#)

<sup>m</sup> *Herder yellow white, 2006*  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen

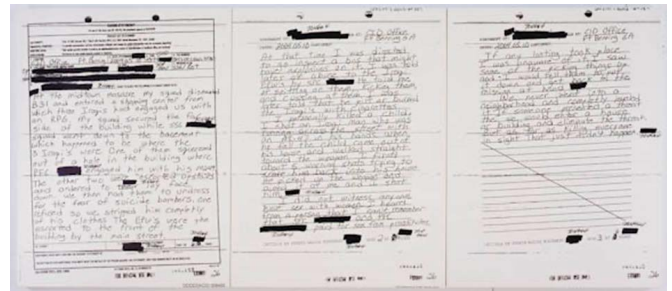


Page from an April 2004 report on an investigation by the US Army Criminal Investigative Division into the shooting of an Iraqi cow herder during a raid on a village earlier that year. This page is from a sworn statement by the soldier who killed the herder. In his retelling, his sense of the situation is distorted by adrenaline: He feels threatened even though he has seen the herder's hands being cuffed behind his back, and when his fellow soldiers begin walking the herder away, he registers it as a "lunge" and fires his rifle, fatally shooting the herder in the head. Looking back on the event, he acknowledges the discrepancy between his perception and reality, saying, "I would never have shot that man had I been thinking clearly."

Released to the public December 2004 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document \(page 38\)](#)

<sup>n</sup> *At the Midtown Massacre pink white, 2006*  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen

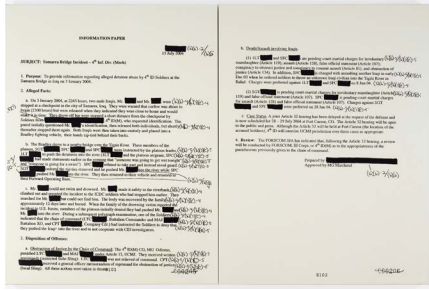


Sworn statement dated May 10, 2004, from a US Army report on an investigation into allegations of war crimes committed by US soldiers in Iraq. In the statement, a US soldier recounts a battle with Iraqis at an urban shopping center, during which he killed a man and a child. He testifies to hearing that Iraqi detainees had been spit on, beaten, verbally abused, and burned with cigarettes after the battle. The full report also discusses allegations of sexual abuse of Iraqi women by US soldiers.

Released to the public March 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document \(see pages 39–41\)](#)

° *Samarra Bridge Incident* yellow white, 2006  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen



Memo dated July 15, 2004, detailing an incident in the city of Samarra, Iraq, in January of that year. During the incident, two Iraqi men were stopped by US forces and taken into custody. Three soldiers were instructed by their platoon leader to push the detainees into the Tigris River. One of the men drowned and died; the other made it safely to shore and subsequently reported the incident to a separate group of US soldiers. The soldiers involved in the incident initially denied they had pushed the men into the river but later admitted they had been instructed by their commanders to deny the incident and not cooperate with investigators.

Released to the public May 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document](#)

° *Camp Vigilant* yellow white, 2006  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen

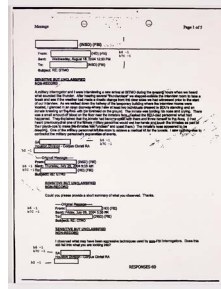


Page from the findings of a 2004 inquiry conducted by US Army Criminal Investigation Command. The Army's investigation was prompted by a report from the International Committee of the Red Cross on the treatment of 25 unnamed detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison complex in Iraq, who alleged that they had been abused in June 2004. This page summarizes their allegations, including frequent beatings, shackling, sleep deprivation, forced nudity, dousing with cold water, and a dog attack, as well as deaths due to abuse and/or lack of medical attention.

Released to the public December 2004 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document \(see page 12\)](#)

° *Thunderclaps* pink white, 2007  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen

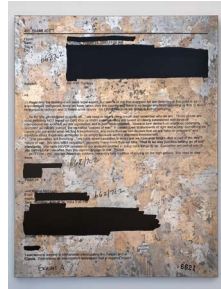


Page from a Federal Bureau of Investigation report on an internal inquiry into the use of harsh interrogation techniques at Guantanamo Bay. In a series of emails from July and August 2004, an FBI agent reports having observed “what may have been aggressive techniques used by non-FBI interrogators” and is asked to elaborate. The agent then recounts hearing “thunderclaps” in an interrogation facility and coming upon a bleeding detainee accompanied by multiple individuals in US military uniforms, who claim that the detainee’s injury was self-inflicted.

Released to the public January 2007 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Constitutional Rights, Physicians for Human Rights, Veterans for Common Sense, and Veterans for Peace.

[Link to source document \(see page 77\)](#)

° *Gloves Off* metal, 2007–24  
metal leaf and oil on linen

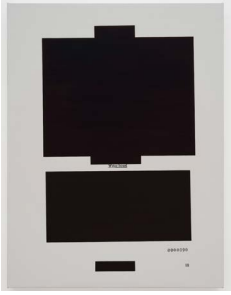


Page from email correspondence among US Army intelligence officers, from a 2003 Department of Defense dossier detailing the policy basis for “alternative interrogation techniques” and their use on detainees. Responding to one officer’s request for a “wish list” of interrogation techniques, followed by another’s endorsement of harsher physical methods (only the first two lines of which are shown here), a third officer forcefully argues in favor of adhering to the ethical standards of international law.

Released to the public April 2005 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document \(see page 53\)](#)

<sup>s</sup> *cruciform Water board*, 2024  
silk-screen ink on oil on linen



Page from an undated Central Intelligence Agency document on interrogation techniques. The document is almost entirely redacted except for a reference to waterboarding.

Released to the public May 2008 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Link to source document \(see page 5\)](#)

### Gallery 3

<sup>a</sup> *Red Yellow Looming*, 2004  
13 LED signs



This LED array presents text from declassified US government communications, briefings, and reports spanning 1980–2002 that were released to the public in response to Freedom of Information Act requests from the National Security Archive at George Washington University. The front and back of the signs are programmed with texts that trace US policy and involvement in Iraq from the Iran-Iraq War (1980–88) through the Gulf War (1990–91) and the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center.

<sup>b</sup> *Terrorism*, 2023–24  
metal leaf and oil on linen



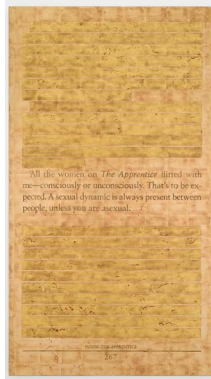
Page from a July 2001 Central Intelligence Agency report titled “Terrorist Threat Review.” The heavily redacted document indicates a concern about terrorist attacks in the Persian Gulf region by Osama bin Laden’s network, noting the likelihood of multiple attacks targeted at US installations such as ships, embassies, and military bases, including the threat of a mass-casualty bomb.

Released to the public April 2012 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from Intelwire.

[Link to source document \(see page 7\)](#)

### Gallery 4

<sup>a</sup> *All the women*, 2025  
metal leaf and oil on linen



This page from Donald J. Trump’s 2004 book, *How to Get Rich*, was submitted as evidence by the prosecution in *People of the State of New York v. Donald J. Trump* (2024), in which Trump was convicted on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records to conceal hush money payments to Stormy Daniels with the intent of unlawfully influencing the 2016 US presidential election. As submitted to the court, the page was partially redacted to draw attention to one relevant passage.

Released to the public May 2024 via the New York State Unified Court System.

[Link to source document](#)

<sup>b</sup> *Selection from Truisms: The most profound..., 2015*  
blue sodalite



<sup>c</sup> *Truisms: All things..., 2019*  
Bulgari Blue marble



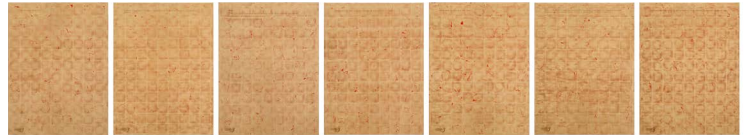
<sup>d</sup> *Survival: In a dream you saw..., 2023*  
Blue Boquira quartzite



<sup>e</sup> *Inflammatory Essays: Shriek when the pain hits..., 2023*  
Persian Red travertine and Silver Wave marble



<sup>f</sup> *stake in the heart, 2024*  
metal leaf and oil on linen



A collection of conflicted text messages sent to and from Mark Meadows, Donald Trump's chief of staff from 2020 to 2021, before and during the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol. The correspondence reveals the minute-to-minute reactions of the Trump team's inner circle as violence unfolded, with many urging Trump to call off the crowds that were seeking to block the certification of Joe Biden's election to the presidency.

Released to the public December 2022 by the US House of Representatives Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack and cited in the committee's final report.

Link to source documents:

[Element 1](#), [Element 2](#), [Element 3](#), [Element 4](#), [Element 5](#), [Element 6](#), [Element 7](#)

<sup>g</sup> *Survival: Protect me..., 2018*  
dark labradorite



<sup>h</sup> *Survival: The beginning of the war..., 1989*  
Indian Red granite



<sup>i</sup> *PORTRAIT, 2024*  
metal leaf and oil on linen



Portrait of President Donald J. Trump.



## Gallery 5

*Ram*, 2016–25  
LED sign with robotics

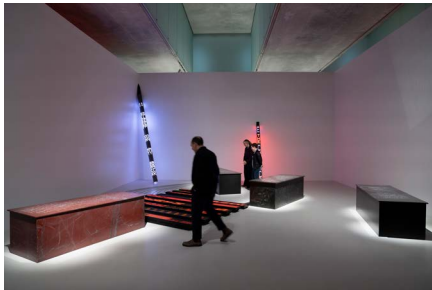
*Broken*, 2025  
fragments of inscribed granite, limestone, and marble



Amid shattered stone, the swiveling and thrusting LED sign presents texts by Holzer and poems by Anna Świrszczyńska (1909–1984) that describe the brutality of war. As a young woman during World War II, Świrszczyńska joined the Polish resistance; she published a cycle of 100 poems about the experience, *Building the Barricade*, in 1974.

## Gallery 6

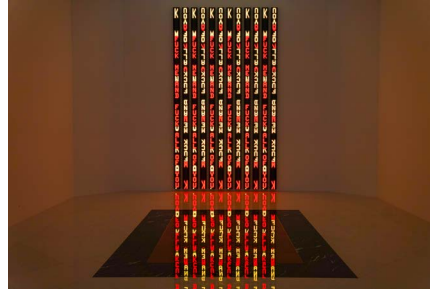
*Laments*, 1987–2025  
11 LED signs, 2 Nubian Black granite sarcophagi, Misty Black granite sarcophagus, Red Ankara marble sarcophagus



*Laments* (1987–89) chronicles unnecessary death from multiple causes in the first-person voices of the unknown and unnamed who suffer, including adults, children, and an infant. Written at the height of the AIDS epidemic, the texts were first shown on 13 stone sarcophagi paired with 13 synchronized vertical LED signs.

## Gallery 7

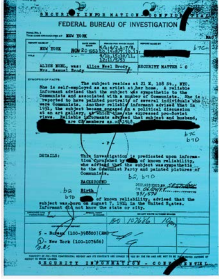
*The Child Room*, 1990–2025  
12 LED signs, marble floor



Conceived for the 1990 Venice Biennale, where Holzer was the first woman to represent the US with a solo exhibition in the American pavilion, *The Child Room* features a semi-autobiographical text in which a mother agonizes about protecting her newborn baby girl.

## Passage

*Alice Neel teal*, 2005  
oil on linen

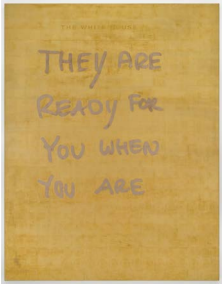


Page from 1950s Federal Bureau of Investigation records pertaining to painter Alice Neel. The records, which focus on Neel's sympathies to and involvement with the Communist Party, include memos, letters, and interview summaries referencing Neel's life, activities, family, and associates. The painting is based on an early public release of the records with significant redactions to the content. The document was later released to the public without redactions.

Released to the public via the FBI Freedom of Information Act Vault.

[Link to source document \(see page 23\)](#)

*READY FOR YOU*, 2023–25  
metal leaf on oil on linen



Handwritten note on a White House pocket card reading “THEY ARE READY FOR YOU WHEN YOU ARE.” The note was delivered to President Trump by an aide on January 6, 2021, before Trump departed to deliver a speech from the Ellipse in Washington, DC, during which he encouraged supporters to march on the Capitol as Congress certified the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Released to the public December 2022 by the US House of Representatives Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack and cited in the committee's final report.

[Link to source document](#)

*SLAUGHTERBOTS*, 2024  
metal leaf on oil on linen



AI-generated “document” based on keyword “slaughterbots.”