

The Viz

3 Artists Conspire

By Melissa Loney



Conspiracy Theory

(Def): A theory that explains an event or set of circumstances as the result of a secret plot by usually powerful conspirators.

3 Artists Conspire

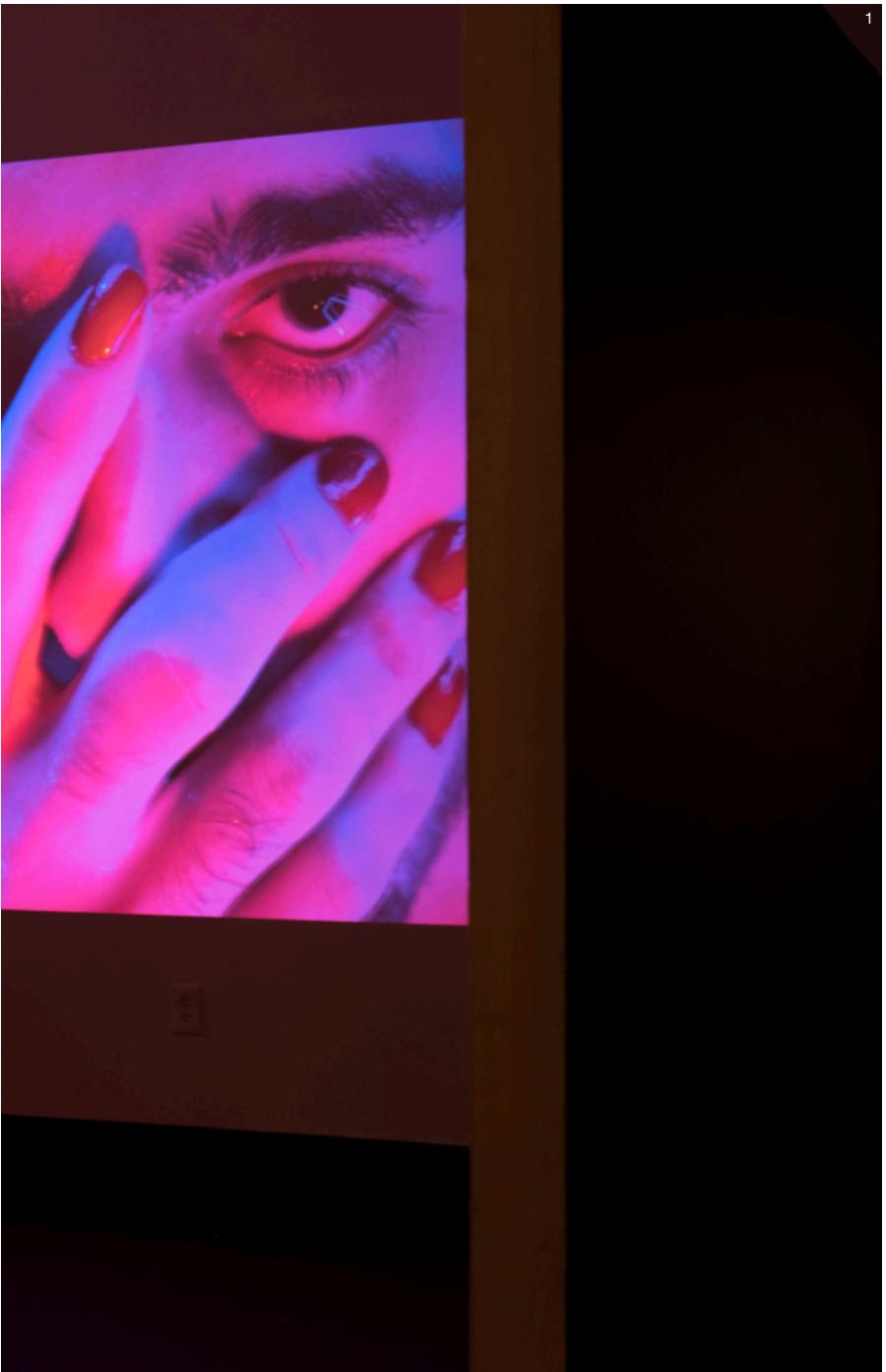
This Issue features contemporary artists or collectives who's work is influenced by the social justice origins of conspiracy theories. These works serve as an outlet to articulate the extreme skepticism at the root of conspiracy theories, often experienced by politically disadvantaged groups. In a time of rampant conservatism and wrongful oppression, these artists work to speak truth to morally imperative conspiracies. This art is critically aware of the unjust, unspoken, yet rarely validated truths around us.

Bibiana Medkova

Bibiana Medkova is multi-disciplinary photography, installation and sound artist currently pursuing her MFA from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Medkova's work seeks to critique the rhetoric at the root of many American crisis and political movements. By highlighting the inherent bias and racial injustices of our federal government, the work seeks to reveal the realities of which we have been socially blinded.

Medkova posits that the US addresses conflict with a warlike mentality but sensationalized conflict blind us to many of the issues we are directly impacting. Bibiana Medkova's conspiracy theory of the New World suggests beneath the glistening prosperity of Hollywood falls 3.7 million living outright poverty that are intentionally forgotten.



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Jamie Lynn Shafer

Jaime Lynne Shafer is a contemporary artist, whose work centers around social injustices and historical issues articulated through handmade books. Shafer's work explores the everyday social issues reported in newspapers, magazines, and on the internet, and how we interpret these events within our daily lives. She theorizes that we remove ourselves from these tragic events because we only value a reality where we are directly affected by tragedy. Many of Shafer's works highlight tragedies that have occurred within small-town America, noting how a lack of concern for public health leads to the death of many people. By addressing these tragic events that both news and people have forgotten, Shafer successfully constructs a conspiracy theory. The theory being our ability to morally disconnect from events that we believe 'does not affect us.'

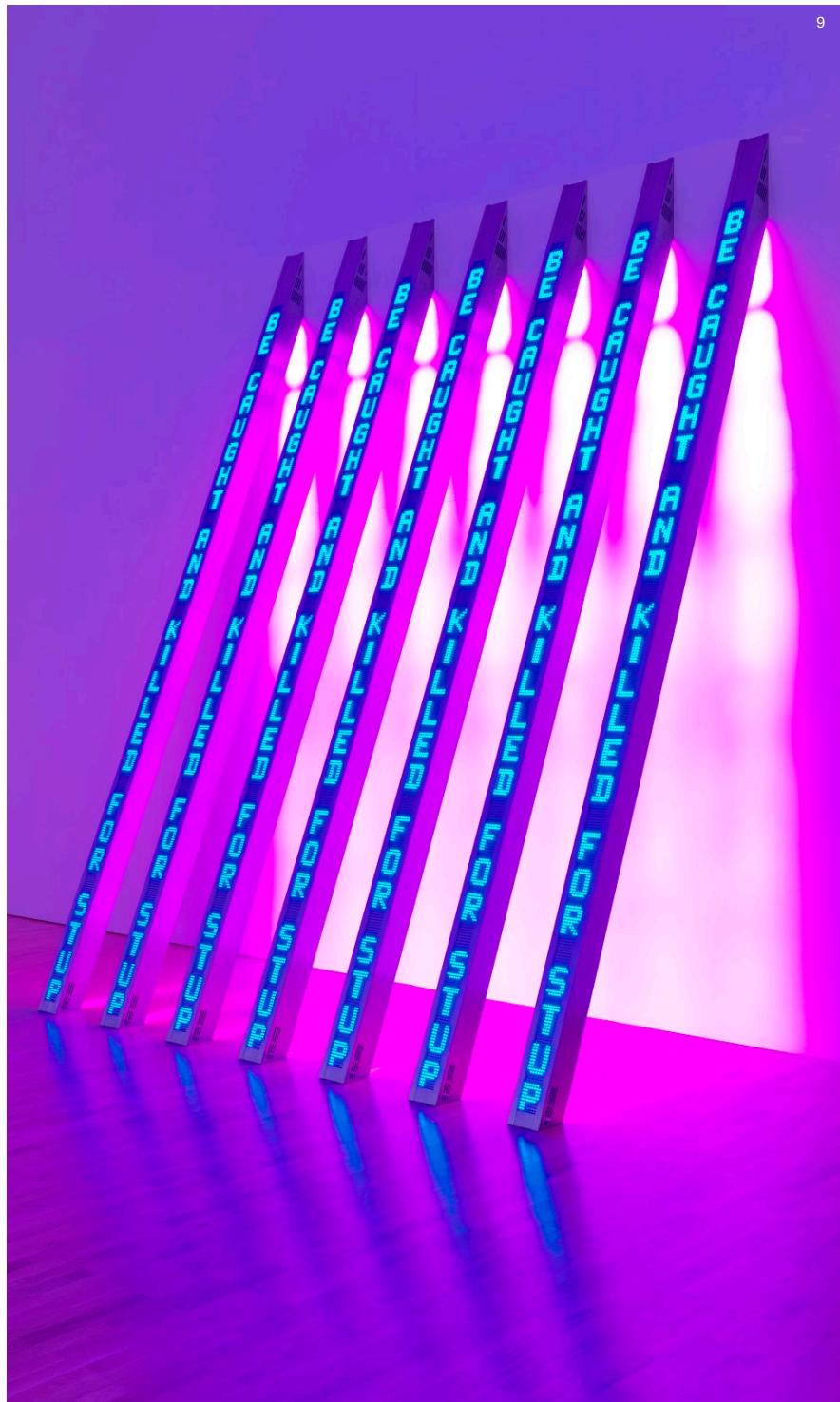






Jenny Holzer

Jenny Holzer is a New York-based artist best known for her text-based works. Holzer's work explores language both as means of communication and outright oppression. Holzer chooses to work with words because she believes it makes the work accessible and provides a greater connection to more people. The work features language as a medium for connecting experiences, and how manipulation of people's voices can change their intent. By exploring the rhetoric of modern information systems, she can create social discourse sounding her work. Transcripts of war, feminists manifesto, and newsreels have all provided a subject matter for her work. Jenny Holzer showcases how the manipulation of communication can generate a well-fueled conspiracy theory.



I AM AWAKE
IN THE PLACE
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A MAN
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LIKE
A M

ANY
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SLOPPY
THINKING
GETS WORSE
OVER TIME

A LOT
PROFESSORS
ARE CR

**DON'T TALK DOWN TO ME. DON'T
BE POLITE TO ME. DON'T
TRY TO MAKE ME FEEL NICE.
DON'T RELAX. I'LL CUT THE
SMILE OFF YOUR FACE. YOU
THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON. YOU THINK I'M
AFRAID TO REACT. THE JOKE'S
ON YOU. I'M BIDING MY TIME,
LOOKING FOR THE SPOT. YOU
THINK NO ONE CAN REACH YOU,
NO ONE CAN HAVE WHAT YOU
HAVE. I'VE BEEN PLANNING
WHILE YOU'RE PLAYING. I'VE
BEEN SAVING WHILE YOU'RE
SPENDING. THE GAME IS
ALMOST OVER SO IT'S
TIME YOU ACKNOWLEDGE ME.
DO YOU WANT TO FALL NOT
EVER KNOWING WHO TOOK YOU?**



Image Citations:

- 1) Medkova, Bibiana. "Love Snaps (Installation Image #17)" 2017. Multi-Media Installation. Bibiana Medkova, <https://bibiana.co/Installation-Fantas>
- 2) Medkova, Bibiana. "Love Snaps (Installation Image #3)" 2017. Multi-Media Installation. Bibiana Medkova, <https://bibiana.co/Installation-Fanta>
- 3) Medkova, Bibiana. "The New World; Christian center of Mississippi, South vs, North." 2013 Photography. Bibiana Medkova, <https://bibiana.co/The-New-World>
- 4) Medkova, Bibiana. "The New World II; Memphis Red." 2015. Photography. Bibiana Medkova, <https://bibiana.co/The-New-World-II>
- 5) Shafer, Jamie Lynn. "No Refills Left" 2013. Recycled prescription pamphlets, acrylic paint, marker, recycled prescription bottle. Jamie Lynn Shafer, <https://www.jaimelynnshafer.com/no-refills-left.html>
- 6) Shafer, Jamie Lynn. "17927 (Image #1)" 2015. Printed from linoleum blocks, wood type, and photopolymer plates on Magnani Rescia and book cloth. Jamie Lynn Shafer, <https://www.jaimelynnshafer.com/17927.html>
- 7) Shafer, Jamie Lynn. "17927 (Image #2)" 2015. Printed from linoleum blocks, wood type, and photopolymer plates on Magnani Rescia and book cloth. Jamie Lynn Shafer, <https://www.jaimelynnshafer.com/17927.html>
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- 10) Holzer, Jenny. "I am Awake in the Place Where Woman Die" 1993. Projected Image. Jenny Holzer, <https://projects.jennyholzer.com/projections>
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- 13) Holzer, Jenny. "Projection (Toronto Image #4)" 2007. Projection. 2007. Jenny Holzer, <https://projects.jennyholzer.com/projections/toronto-2007>

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Unjust Action



Power Differential =



Truthful Narrative

An Unprovable Truth
Or
Conspiracy Theory



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