

New Permanent Public Art Commission by Artist Hayal Pozanti Unveiled at Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library, The New York Public Library's Largest Circulating Branch



Hayal Pozanti, *Instant Paradise*, 2019 – 2020. Photo by Max Touhey

NEW YORK, NY (June 28, 2021) – Jessica Silverman is pleased to announce the unveiling of artist Hayal Pozanti's permanent commission at The New York Public Library's new central circulating branch, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL). Located at 40th Street and Fifth Avenue and formerly known as the Mid-Manhattan Library, the new SNFL opened to the public in June 2021. The building's modern interior and overall inspiring design is by Dutch architect Francine Houben of Mecanoo Architects.

Spanning 85 by 17 feet, the puzzle-like piece comprises 95 individual pieces of medium-density fiberboard. Created by Pozanti to celebrate the evolution of the written word,

the work speaks to the global history of language and writing, exploring twelve milestones in which human beings created objects or concepts instrumental to the advancement of written communication. The dates of these milestones have been translated into her language system "Instant Paradise" to create twelve corresponding, unique shapes.

"The focus on the advancement of written communication emphasizes humanity's ever-evolving relationship to information and its possible manifestations in the future." says Pozanti. "'Instant Paradise' is an experiment in the possibility of a truly visual global language and reminds viewers of a collective purpose and shared ambitions."

The commissioned work, also titled "Instant Paradise," is a lexicon that the artist uses as source material for all her paintings, sculptures, animations and sound pieces. Each shape in the work has been assigned a number and a letter from the English alphabet, allowing the artist to literally 'translate' information, using it as a substitution cipher. Employing cryptology and intuition simultaneously, Pozanti invents new shapes by joining the symbols together, and their meanings can be deciphered through the titles of her works.

A feat of engineering and fabrication, Pozanti's work at the SNFL hovers over four stories above visitors' heads like cloud formations waiting to be decoded. The index of these milestones span historically from clay tablets from the fourth millennium BCE in ancient Mesopotamia, braille, the invention of the typewriter, and the invention of electronic ink towards the end of the twentieth century. The breadth of these key moments both memorializes these advancements while making them malleable raw material.

The geographical diversity of these inventions points to an appreciation of language as a truly universal act that transcends borders, nationalities and rigid categorical distinctions. Pozanti's practice is reflected here, utilizing glyphs as compositional and generative. The permanent commission ushers the viewer away from the supremacy of a singular kind of thought, instead celebrating the strength of new, different interpretations.

ABOUT HAYAL POZANTI

Hayal Pozanti (b. 1983, Istanbul, Turkey) has a BA from Sabanci University and a MFA from Yale University. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Broad Art Museum in Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the San Jose Museum of Art and JP Morgan. Pozanti has enjoyed many solo exhibitions, including one at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Connecticut. Her work has been featured in group shows at the Kitchen (New York), MCA Santa Barbara (CA), Cornell Fine Arts Museum (FL), Sabanci Museum (Istanbul) and Prospect 3 for the New Orleans Biennial and the Brooklyn

Academy of Music. In 2017, she presented a monumental digital video installation, titled "Relentless Tenderness," at the new World Trade Center for Public Art Fund.

ABOUT JESSICA SILVERMAN

Jessica Silverman is an ambitious, innovative, and internationally renowned contemporary art gallery with a reputation for curating compelling exhibitions, building artists' careers, and collaborating with collectors who are keen on positive provenance.

Silverman founded her eponymous gallery in 2008 after obtaining an MA in Curatorial Practice from San Francisco's California College of the Arts on the heels of a BFA from Otis College in Los Angeles. Silverman sat on the San Francisco Arts Commission for nine years. She is a founding member of 8-bridges, a member of the Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) and a member of the Selection Committee of Expo Chicago. The gallery represents prominent Californian and international artists at all stages of their careers. Works by the gallery's artists have been acquired by museums all over the world including Tate (London), Centre Pompidou (Paris), Reina Sofia (Madrid), MoMA (New York), MCA Chicago, Art Institute of Chicago, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Nasher Sculpture Center (Dallas), Los Angeles County Museum of Art, National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario, not to mention SFMOMA and the De Young Museum (San Francisco).

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