

PS122
GALLERY

PS122 Gallery
150 First Avenue
New York, NY 10009

Gallery Hours
Thursday—Sunday
1—6 pm

DREAM-RESTART-EXPERIENCE

Annette Cords
Becky Brown

July 22 – August 22, 2021

Opening Event *
Saturday, July 24, 1–6 pm

* masked & socially distanced

Dream-Restart-Experience is a two-person exhibition featuring the work and collaborations of Annette Cords and Becky Brown. The exhibition title is a literal English translation of the German compound word *Traumneustartversuch*—describing the effort to continue a dream one had just before waking up. The artists collaborated on alphabets for PS122, which are incorporated into a new wallpaper design and displayed in vinyl lettering on the gallery windows. Cords' tapestries interlace traditional weave structures with urban mark-making and found text. Brown's paintings give physical presence to artifacts of online/on-screen culture while questioning their value.

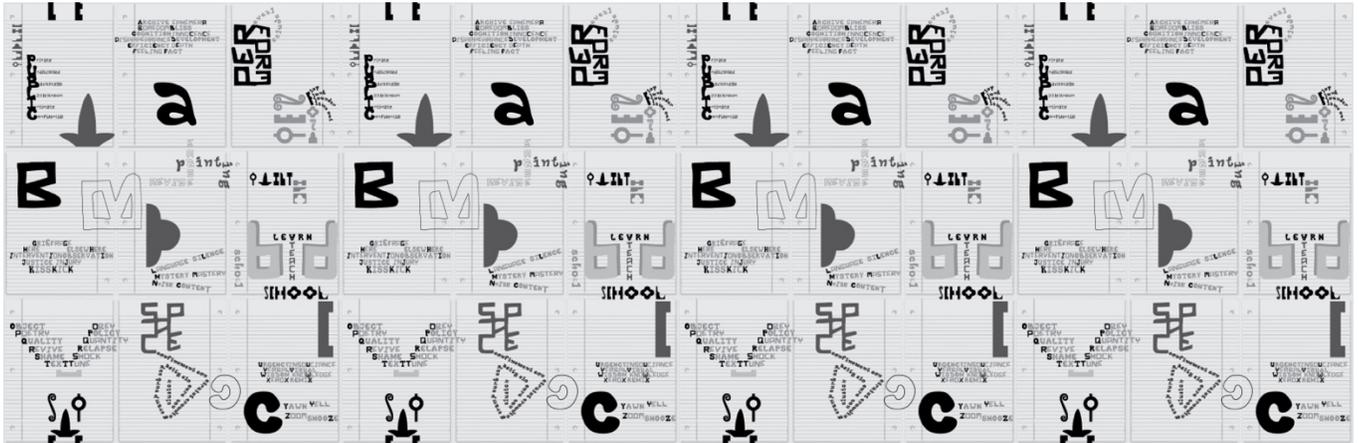
@ps122gallery www.ps122gallery.org

verso: *Dream-Restart-Experience*, 2021, wallpaper, dimensions variable

DREAM-RESTART-EXPERIENCE

ANNETTE CORDS AND BECKY BROWN

July 22 – August 22, 2021



Annette Cords and Becky Brown, *Dream-Restart-Experience*, 2021, wallpaper, dimensions variable

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—PS122 GALLERY IS PLEASED TO PRESENT *DREAM-RESTART-EXPERIENCE*, A TWO-PERSON EXHIBITION FEATURING THE WORK AND COLLABORATIONS OF ANNETTE CORDS AND BECKY BROWN.

The exhibition title, *Dream-Restart-Experience*, is a literal English translation of the German compound word *Traumneustartversuch*—describing the effort to continue a dream one had just before waking up. The sudden shift from one reality to another and the impossibility of shifting back recalls pandemic conditions last spring. As we now wake up from that nightmare and “restart” our lives, we face personal and public choices about what should return and what could change. In the spirit of restarting, artists **Annette Cords** and **Becky Brown** create new alphabets for PS122, with the hope that reimagining letters can breathe new energy and meaning into familiar language.

The artists drew and painted letterforms by hand, with multiple styles and degrees of legibility—voluptuous curves, robotic angles, and characters derived from architectural and decorative motifs on the building’s façade and surrounding iron fence. Alphabets are displayed in vinyl lettering on the gallery windows, connecting inside and outside, and welcoming people back. They also refer to the building’s history as a public school—the origin of learning one’s ABCs. This history coexists with the present, as letters are used to spell out PS122’s rotation of identifying P- and S-words: public, school, painting, performance, and space.

Inside the gallery, Cords and Brown have collaborated on a new wallpaper design incorporating their alphabets, riffing on these five words, and introducing opposites. Both artists have explored relationships between opposing words, and these pairs and collections now become sample texts for their alphabets and sparks for elaborating meaning. Within an immersive wallpaper environment, Cords and Brown present works adapting similar opposite words in their individual languages of fabric and thread, paper, and paint. For both, text is integrated into complex visual compositions: Cords’s tapestries interlace traditional weave structures with urban mark-making and found text. Brown’s paintings give physical presence to artifacts of online/on-screen culture while questioning their value.

For inquiries, please contact:

Ian Cofre, Director info@ps122gallery.org

IG: @ps122gallery

PS122 Gallery is free and open to the public and inclusive of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, LGBTQIA+ identity, and class. Conveniently located on the ground floor of the 122 Community Center in the East Village of Manhattan near several public transportation lines, PS122 Gallery provides wheelchair accessibility through the 122CC main entrance, as well as wheelchair accessible water fountains and all-gender restrooms.

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As the wallpaper reframes and punctuates artwork, multiple experiences coexist: the pleasure of accumulation and the desire for structure; understanding and misinterpretation; reading and seeing. *Dream-Restart-Experience* contains two levels of awkward, accidental poetry: what is “lost in translation” from one language to another, and the merging of multiple words to convey a single, if nuanced, phenomenon—or a “transformation” from one state to another, and a “collaboration” between words. Cords and Brown commit to both transform and collaborate, embracing the awkward and the poetic—all necessary practices and conditions for our collective restart.

Artist Bios

Annette Cords was born in Northern Germany and raised in Hamburg. She received her MFA in Painting from the University of Pennsylvania. Since then, her practice has evolved to span installation, sculpture, and textiles. Her work explores the possibilities of mark-making, examines language systems and vernacular styles, and asks how we process and interpret visual information. Recent solo exhibitions include *Shape/Shifters*, Project:ARTspace, New York; *Breaking the Grid*, Kang Contemporary, Berlin; *Sideways*, New York Public Library; and *Diamond Days*, Villa Rosenthal, Jena, Germany. Her work has appeared in group shows at venues including the Queens Museum, Flux Factory, The Drawing Center, Kentler International Drawing Space, and Montreal Centre for Contemporary Textiles. She has been the recipient of grants and residencies, including a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, an Open Sessions Residency at The Drawing Center, and a grant from the ArsVersa Kunst-Stiftung.

Becky Brown was born in Manhattan and lives in Buffalo, NY. She received her MFA from Hunter College and teaches at SUNY University at Buffalo. Between painting, sculpture, and installation, she reinvents news headlines, discarded appliances and other found materials, questioning whether unlimited access to information and communication actually brings us deeper knowledge or human connection. Solo exhibitions include Arts+Leisure Gallery (NYC) and Fort Gondo Complex for the Arts (St. Louis). Group exhibitions include The Drawing Center, Queens Museum, Freight+Volume Gallery, A.I.R. Gallery, the Buffalo Institute of Contemporary Art, and Religare Arts Initiative (Delhi, India). Her installation “No, said the Fruit Bowl,” in the kitchen of an abandoned home on Governors Island, was described in the *New York Times* as “machines vomiting as if in a bulimic’s nightmare.” She has been an artist-in-residence at MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, Jentel, and the Edward Albee and Saltonstall Foundations, among others. Her writing has been published in *Art in America* and *The Brooklyn Rail*.

Annette Cords and **Becky Brown** met in the inaugural Open Sessions program at The Drawing Center in 2014 and have been collaborating ever since.

***Dream-Restart-Experience* is a two-person exhibition featuring the work and collaborations of Annette Cords and Becky Brown at PS122 Gallery from July 22 – August 22, 2021.** Cords’s tapestries interlace traditional weave structures with urban mark-making and found text. Brown’s paintings give physical presence to artifacts of online/on-screen culture, while questioning their value. Cords and Brown have collaborated on a new wallpaper design that incorporates their alphabets for PS122, which are displayed in vinyl lettering on the gallery windows, connecting inside and outside, and welcoming people back.

#DreamRestartExperience #AnnetteCords #BeckyBrown #AlphabetforPS122 #ps122gallery #ps122 #eastvillage #paintingspace

PS122 Gallery is a not-for-profit alternative exhibition space in the East Village operating since 1979. It is dedicated to fostering and developing the arts by providing opportunities and support services for emerging and under-recognized artists. It is an ongoing program of Painting Space 122, the grassroots, artist-run cooperative that helped foster the vibrant cultural community at the City of New York-owned 122 Community Center (122CC). PS122 Gallery strives to present the work of artists of all backgrounds in a diverse and equitable context. By acting as a platform, PS122 Gallery also seeks to reengage with its surrounding community, welcome new communities, and create new, audience-driven opportunities for engagement.

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