SCRAWL
apexart
291 Church Street
September 4 to October 11

Consisting of nearly one hundred handmade pronounce-
ments collected by artist and curator Harley Spiller from the
streets and subways of New York over the past 25 years,
SCRAWL presents a cacophony of urban voices. Penned
anonymously, these visual and verbal statements—whether
neatly lettered or hastily scribbled on paper, cardboard,
foam core, or wood—teem with political, biblical, and sexual
musings that range from the appalling to the absurd. While
some of the content is disturbing, all of the work reflects an
irrepressible urge to be heard. In an essay accompanying
the exhibition, Spiller recounts his adventures among the
scrawlers, including one impresario on a Midtown sidewalk
who gladly sold him a lease for the World Trade Center.
Throughout, Spiller underlines the power of these texts to
connect us all, regardless of color, creed, and penmanship.