



COURTESY HARLEY SPILLER

SCRAWL

apexart

291 Church Street

September 4 to October 11

Consisting of nearly one hundred handmade pronouncements 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.

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