

### SCRAWL

collected & curated by Harley Spiller

September 4 - October 11, 2008

#### Opening reception:

Thursday, September 4, 6-8pm

#### Public program:

Thursday, October 2, 6-9pm

with Melissa Rachleff Burt, Jem Cohen, Luc Sante, Harley Spiller, with a screening of Jem Cohen's *Lost Book Found*



SCRAWL consists of close to 100 different handmade pronouncements collected from the streets and subways of New York City over the past 25 years. The works on exhibition range from the haragious to the habromaniacal (from scary to silly), from terse suggestions to indecipherably complex amalgams of mathematical figuring, philosophical posturing, and political ranting. The entreaties tend to the impassioned and visceral. Whether the ideas are impeccably presented in uniquely beautiful calligraphy, or scribbled, illegible palimpsests, the creators all seek to have their ideas recognized, many silently urging their fellow New Yorkers to right wrongs both personal and universal.

An essay by Harley Spiller, the collector and curator, illuminates the work of the 40 or so people represented in his collection, describing what's captivating about the material, and telling the tales of actual encounters with the "artists." His essay situates the material as an integral part of the human cultural tissue that connects us all, regardless of circumstances. Spiller saves these works to preserve palpably urgent voices that would otherwise vanish like so much ticker tape after a parade. His intention with SCRAWL is to begin a public dialogue about these heady, provocative, and artful human expressions.

For more information visit [www.apexart.org/exhibitions/spiller.htm](http://www.apexart.org/exhibitions/spiller.htm)

\*Selected from apexart's annual Unsolicited Proposal Program.

apexart's exhibitions and public programs are supported in part by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Edith C. Blum Foundation, Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts.

291 Church Street, New York, NY 10013

t. 212.431.5270 f. 646.827.2487

info@apexart.org www.apexart.org

apexart is a tax-deductible 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization