

The New York Times

ART & DESIGN | THE WEEK AHEAD | ART

Texts and Context, at the Modern

By CAROL VOGEL JUNE 6, 2014

Although it was 100 years ago that Gertrude Stein's "Tender Buttons: Objects, Food, Rooms" was published, her Cubist writings about interior space evoked through light, emotions and memory, keep appearing in different guises, seeming just as contemporary now as when they were written. An exhibition opening on Wednesday at the Museum of Modern Art has adapted its title from a phrase in "Tender Buttons." Called "Sites of Reason: A Selection of Recent Acquisitions," it brings together 16 works by 13 artists, all of which have entered MoMA's collection over the past few years but are only now on view there for the first time.



"Sense and Sense," a two-channel video by Emily Roysdon. Credit Emily Roysdon

Using the printed word as inspiration, the show will include artists like the Singapore-born Simryn Gill, who appropriates and transforms texts on scroll-like paper and the Los Angeles-based Eve Fowler whose 21 posters, "A Spectacle and Nothing Strange (2012-ongoing)" produced by the Colby Poster Printing Company contain texts from "Tender Buttons." Although they have hung in public places around Los Angeles, this is their first appearance in a museum context. (Through Sept. 28, moma.org.)

A version of this article appears in print on June 8, 2014, on page AR6 of the New York edition with the headline: Texts and Context, At the Modern