

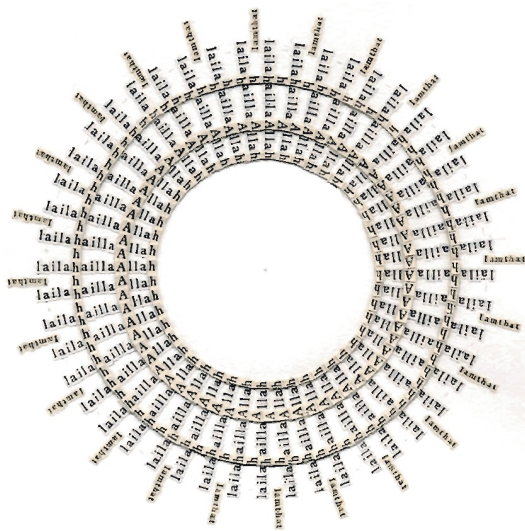
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# Schön!

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## Scream London | Telling Tales

By Sheri Chiu  
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Meg Hitchcock, *La Ilaha Illa Allah*, 2013, Cut paper from *The Land of Bliss* (Buddhist text) and the Bible, 14 x 11 inches (35.5 x 28 cm); Framed: 17 x 14 inches (43 x 28 cm)

tics function in space and time. She gravitates towards the transitional state between painting and sculpture. Using the Internet as a system composed of natural and computer languages, Kanarek's text works harness a variety of languages to engage the global collective.

While both Hitchcock and Kanarek allow language and words to form the organic shape of their artwork, their results are drastically different. Both artists are from New York City, but they feed off the concrete jungle in dissimilar ways to tell their own individual tales on our multilingual existence. Listen.

Art gallery Scream London showcases *Telling Tales*, a group exhibition featuring local UK and international artists whose crafts dissect and reassemble words from different languages. Schön! had the opportunity to talk with two artists, who both use the printed word in their artwork, but in completely different ways.

**Meg Hitchcock** does more than examine the word of God; she slices and dices the heart of religion to highlight the universal forces holding society together. Hitchcock literally cuts letters from holy books to create other sacred texts. The Koran is transformed into the Bible, the Bible turns into the Bhagavad Gita, and so on.

By playing with the physical properties of language, Yael Kanarek studies how linguistics

**Circles are very prominent in your text series. Why is that?**

The mandala is a universal symbol, used by all religions to express unity, divinity, and completion. Psychologically, it symbolizes the individual in his or her wholeness, the highest realization of the Self. As a visual element, it's a way to make patterns that are pleasing to the eye. The phrase is divested of meaning, thus the "solidity" of the belief system is challenged. The words that are revered as sacred are really just letters, shapes, and ink on a page.



Meg Hitchcock , Subhan' Allah

**By literally dissecting these religious texts, what similarities do you find in them? Differences?**

It's amazing how much the Koran and Bible have in common. I think that every Christian should be required to read the Koran, and each Muslim the Bible, so they could see the overlap. But the most amazing similarity that pops out at me is the humanity that shines through all sacred writings. Each religion offers an expression of the profound love and compassion that seems to be embedded in the human condition.

**How is today's world influencing your work?**

Our culture is facing self-imposed extinction. While it's not likely that anyone alive today will witness it, the very fact that we're conscious of it has an enormous impact. While we transition into the next phase of the planet, we're shifting from religious dogmatism to interfaith tolerance. My work is an expression of the new spiritual paradigm, in which we loosen the death grip on our view of "the way things are." By bringing together the sacred writings of diverse religions, I attempt to undermine their authority, and speak to the common thread that weaves through all scripture.

**What are your feelings on the modern holy wars?**

Our holy wars indicate a dramatic decline in civilization, but I don't know that they're any worse today than they've ever been. Our religious conflicts are tame compared to the Spanish Inquisitions or the Crusades. Given the choice, I'd prefer to be killed by a rogue drone than thrown to the lions by a sadistic Roman emperor. But the impetus behind these horrific wars is the same as it was two thousand years ago; nothing has changed. Religion has always been the ultimate weapon of mass destruction.

**What upcoming projects do you have?**

I have an upcoming show in New York City, as well as various venues in other parts of the country. My text work is becoming increasingly political, as I continue to explore the parallels between the Bible and the Koran. They seem to speak most profoundly to the current global situation. By bringing these two monumental sacred texts together, I feel that I'm doing my small part in bridging the gap between ideologies.