

[artist statement]

I've been drawing hands since 1996 and have produced various series: maestro, family portrait, Italian hand gestures, braille, finger food and sign language. My drawing style used to involve very heavy cross-hatching, but over the years it has changed to a lighter, more outlined style. During this SVA summer residency, I challenged myself to leave my comfort zone by working on paintings using colours.

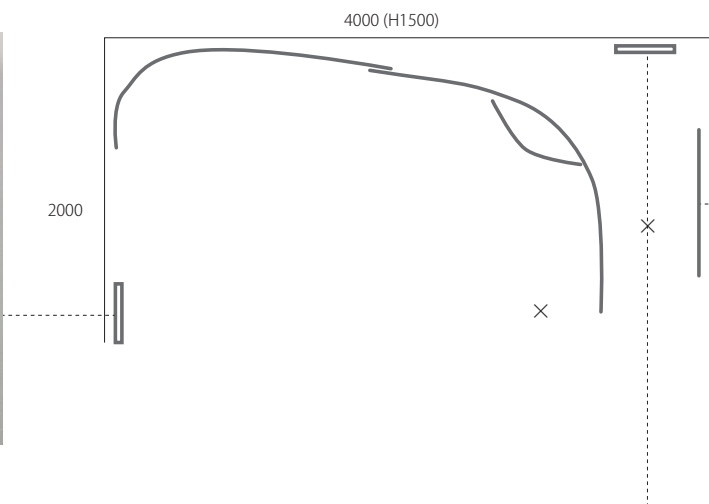
My interests have always been communications and language in general, whether verbal or non-verbal. The main painting "Communications" is about conversations overheard on the street in New York, converted to American Sign Language (ASL). The canvas is made using multiple layers of different kinds of paper, such as an old dictionary, magazines and newspapers in several languages, and ordinary plain paper used as the base. It symbolizes not only that the silent ASL can convey conversations loudly just like any verbal language, but also that language itself is just a tool. Things we talk about sound different in different languages, but the facts are shared. Simply labeling things is nonsense.

The sign "Thank you" on the back of the main painting is based on an episode heard or read about a long time ago. There are only two kinds of thank you in this world: Thank you (I love you) and Thank you (F*** you). This is another example of labeling, but another way of its usage: People can use the same word but with a different underlying implication.

I continue to pursue ways of expressing different kinds of communication using various media, but I'm sure that they will always be hand related.

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<https://tinyurl.com/sva2017eikonishida>

