

A Living Book

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From an extremely young age, girls are taught that they are not safe in the world. This message is reinforced in countless ways through the media, social interactions, school curricula, workplace protocols, and family dynamics. These messages come in many guises: stories about rape, stories about shaming and ostracism due to difference or daring, the proliferation of enervated, emaciated, blank-eyed young women as cultural ideals, the invisibility and lack of reward for female daring, risk-taking, invention, the cloak of invisibility thrown over menstruation, menopause coping with the complexities of maturation, partnering, and women's lust for adventure and hunger for personal agency.

The creative life is a bold choice in that it is an active practice of agency. A reverence and commitment to making is an active, full-bodied pursuit.

A Living Book is an open ended celebration of the process of invention. Although some of the works are for sale, in large measure the parts of the installation are not permanent, and function holistically, arising from the studio's walls as emblems of sacred space. This space is internal as well as external, and serves as an extension of my body.

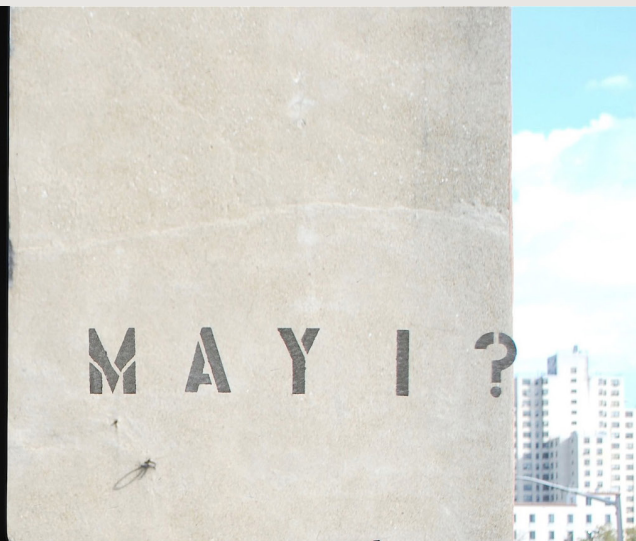
The act of stenciling is healing in nature, a meditation against violence, and the resistance to change that characterizes many acts of violence. Stenciling references the insistence throughout human history of using mark-making to create meaning, and for what we learn to be gifted and treasured across time. By 'setting type' letter by letter, by willing into existence a haven against the message that my life must be circumscribed in order to be a life at all, I give myself the luxury of becoming naked on my own terms, and safe within that revelation.

JoAnne McFarland 2014

This installation is called *A Living Book*.
The components are temporary,
changeable, and interdependent.

I experience my studio as a sacred space. I
stencil directly onto the studio walls as a
premeditated act of rebellion against a
perniciously violent culture.

JoAnne





WHAT IF
THEN WHAT
WHAT IF YOU
THEN WHAT
WHAT IF HE
THEN WHAT
WHAT IF WE



SMKRJALSNVUEFHZHEPQRFK
FQGSTEPHANIERKWOLEKZHF
DEADJATSKR90QINVENTEDW
JKRWLAMUHVKSBCWHLFRZP
QASVIRTUALLYKJBULLETPROO
HMFIBERKTHATQHASVRSAVEDG
HSETWPDEKVARQSZCUJMRGFP
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VESTSJPBOOTSHFORZFIREFIGH
ANDQMATERIALSGTHATZMAKEO
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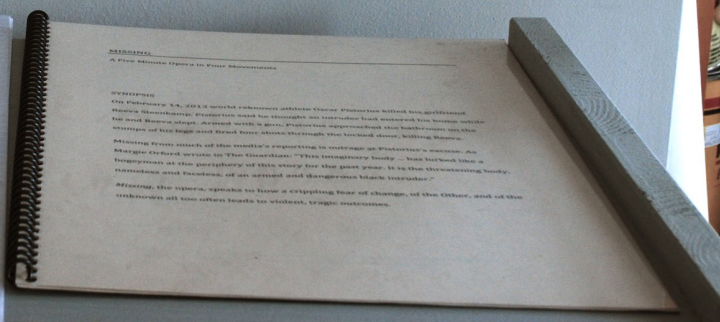
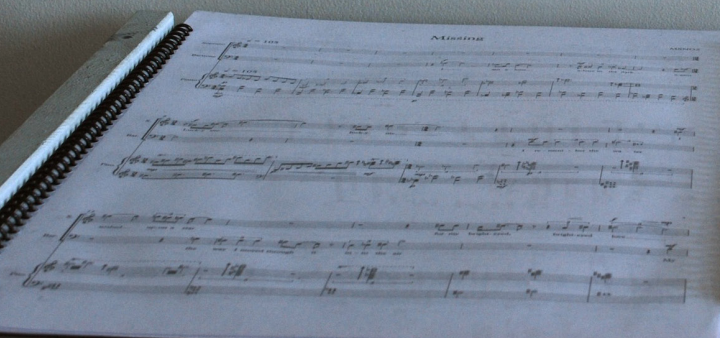


MISSING

A 5-MINUTE OPERA IN 4 MOVEMENTS

COMPOSER: WILLIAM MURRAY

LIBRETTO: JOANNE MCFARLAND



Q X Y W P A S N V O J
K N E G Z R O A M L S
Y N Z E K W R V A M L
J G **B U T C H** P Z S O K
L A M Y N O O X J E B
B O X Z T G **E R** M Y V
H C Z B V P A G X S O

MENSTRUAL E

MENSTRU

ENSTRUAL

BLOOD MENST

MENSTRUAL

E

MENSTRU

MENS

MENSTRUAL

MENSTRU

TRIAL

BATHE

MENSTRUAL

RJPAOSMZYBXL
QSOZUYKTHVNEF
FJGRSONWIOBRD
BQMANJFLVEXKP
NAHYQENKCFJUR
YLVXKZFAWIPHS
ZRFHCKGOESLYE
GFYQBXKHRMTCV
EROJDUPGTFXKY
HZLBKEVPNUTSA
CYEXHQPOVBFAW
JPTIRZHVCNYS
MKGUNSPYNJECH
LSHAJCXDOWNIM
QVKTUFGPCM30

MFQVCXDJBKZLP
AESRYTHWIRGUD
EYIWSGMANHORE
STURHIDVCPZK
XCPGOESKMIHUV
OSRCYWGPKNKIT
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LQABVCXGYPWEK
JHOVFRNRXCBDP
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KJHRTNEBPYGVZ
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XRBVYCAHZSELF

HELP

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T H E R E S N O P L A C E

L I K E H O M E

H O M E

N O

I S

P L A C E

N O P L A C E I S H O M E

H O M E

I S

T H E R E L I K E



A Living Book

A year-long project that took place at the Gowanus studio of JoAnne McFarland, 2014.