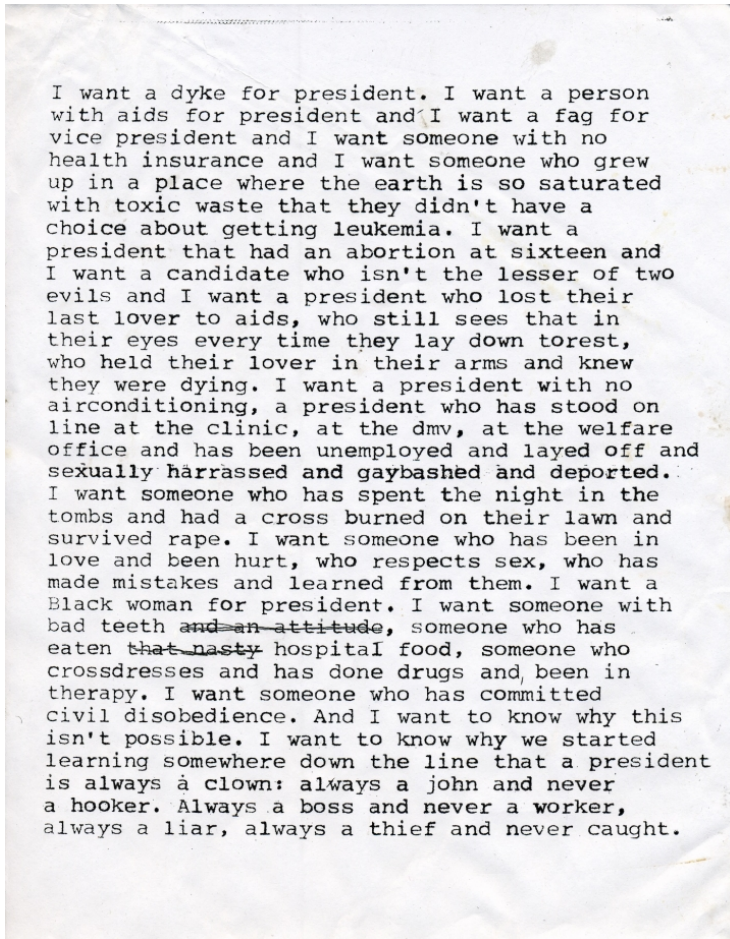


EVENTS

Ahead of Midterm Elections, the Art Community Responds to Zoe Leonard's "I Want a President"

Participants include artists Edgar Arceneaux and Edgar Heap of Birds, curators Helen Molesworth and Kimberli Meyer, and students from a Prison BA Program at California State Prison, Lancaster.

Matt Stromberg



Zoe Leonard, "I want a president" (1992)
(© Zoe Leonard, courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth)

Zoe Leonard's text piece "I want a president" was written over 25 years ago, at moment of political and cultural upheaval with chilling contemporary resonance. The nation was emerging from 12 long years of the conservative Reagan-Bush era, AIDS was the number one cause of death for men aged 25 to 44, and the NEA Four scandal marked a reactionary turn in government funding for the arts. Leonard's words aren't a call for civility or a plea to find common ground. They unapologetically demand equality and empowerment for groups that have been longbeen discriminated against and excluded from positions of leadership in the US.

On the occasion of two Los Angeles shows of Leonard's work — *Analogue* at Hauser & Wirth and the upcoming *Survey* at the Museum of Contemporary Art — Hauser & Wirth has organized an afternoon of responses to this seminal work. Participating artists include Lita Albuquerque, Edgar Arceneaux with performer Joana Knezevic, Nao Bustamante, and Edgar Heap of Birds who will be presenting performances or readings that reconsider “I want a president” on the eve of the impending midterms. Also participating will be Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, curator Kimberli Meyer, and former MOCA curator Helen Molesworth, who will be reading Leonard's text. Dr. Bidhan Roy, founder of the Prison BA Program at California State Prison, Lancaster, has asked his students to write their own responses, which he will read at the event, providing a platform for those whose voices are rarely heard outside prison walls.

When: Saturday, November 3, 1pm

Where: Hauser & Wirth Los Angeles (901 East 3rd Street, Downtown, Los Angeles)

More info at Hauser & Wirth.