

(December 24 – January 4)

2— The Front Room

M. HO



For this Front Room exhibition, Meredith Malone, Assistant Curator at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum at Washington University in St. Louis, presents a selection of works by American artist M. Ho. Ho works predominately with newspaper, specifically *The New York Times*, to create a dynamic body of work that takes as its point of departure the loaded relationship between word and image.

Strike (2003) consists of pages taken from the “A Nation at War” section published by *The New York Times* at the start of the war in Iraq. On each page, Ho systematically conceals all text—paragraph by paragraph, line by line, and sometimes word by word—with delicate, hand-cut pieces of colored paper and found images of plants and flowers. *Talk to Us* (2008) evinces telling inversions of the strategies employed in *Strike*. Whereas *Strike* is marked by a significant absence of advertisements—*The Times* included none in the “A Nation at War” section—*Talk to Us* is drawn predominantly from ads found in the newspaper’s Section A, where international news is featured alongside ads for high-end merchandise. The title of the series is taken from President Jimmy Carter’s 1979 “Crisis of Confidence” speech on energy in which one respondent stated, “Mr. President, we’re in trouble. Talk to us about blood and sweat and tears.” The artist considers these collages “ineffective protest posters” offering poignant ruptures that demand extended engagement, rather than easily digestible slogans.

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M. Ho was born in 1970 in New Haven, Connecticut and lives and works in Athens, Georgia. She received her B.A. from Princeton University before doing graduate work at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pennsylvania. Her artwork has been exhibited at Vox Populi, Philadelphia; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; Track 16 Gallery, Los Angeles; and the Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, North Carolina, among others.

Image:

Strike, 2003

Collage and graphite on paper

Courtesy of the artist

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