

D A N E S E

C O R E Y

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MARTIN BRIEF

A Brief History of Time

March 18 – April 16, 2016

Reception: Thursday March 17, 6-8 PM

For the past several years Martin Brief has investigated the manner in which language, thought and information relate to contemporary culture and the creation of self. Drawing from earlier conceptual art practices, information overload and data collection he makes beautiful, spare, precisely executed works on paper. Blending absurdity and logic, the current body of work reflects the perceived conflicts between science and religion, which are often played out in political and cultural arenas.

The current series consists of twelve works, one for each chapter of Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*. Selected for its iconic status and profound impact on our understanding of the universe, Hawking's book also provides a title that is a humorous reflection on both Brief's name and his process. Given the time involved in creating this series (an average of 200-250 hours per work), the exhibition represents a not-so-brief period in his life.

These new works confront the continuing dialogue between religious and scientific cosmology and doctrine. Brief's process began with an examination of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), the New Testament and the Qur'an – holy texts from the world's three dominant monotheistic religions. He then assigned colors to the words in each of the texts – those existing in all three scriptures are gold; those in two are silver; and words existing in one are bronze. Copper indicates words that appear only in the Hawking's treatise. Each word is painstakingly handwritten on the appropriately colored "tile" of paper and collaged onto a sheet of paper forming an overall rectangular shape. The result is a mosaic in which pattern is randomly determined by the coding system.

Martin Brief was born in Chicago, Illinois and received a graduate degree at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. His work is held in the public collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, Newberry Library of Chicago, and the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson, Arizona. Brief was the recipient of the MacDowell Colony Fellowship in 2014 and was included in the 2010 Great Rivers Biennial of the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis, Missouri, where he lives and works as an Assistant Professor at St. Louis University.

For further information please contact the gallery at 212-223-2227 or contact@danese.com

@DaneseCorey