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Long Beach City College Exhibitions Give Hope in the Midst of Chaos

By Sydney Walters

From now until March 9th the exhibition, News Wheel and Smaller Works at Long Beach City College Art Gallery offers a hopeful catalog of new media and painting that finds beauty amidst discord.

In News Wheel, Jody Zellen and Daniel Rothman combine visual installation with audio installation, thus creating an experience of organized chaos. The artists lean into the chaos of today's news and allow visitors to interact and make sense of discord. Projected on the wall, a spinning wheel like that of an evenly divided pie chart, rotates with the headlines of nine international news outlets. Near the center of the room, an iPad on a thin podium invites visitors to touch the screen, which stops the wheel's rotation. Next, he or she can drag words around the screen, consequently making their own news headline. Positioned around the room, eight speakers project eight different radio stations. The shifts between the sound bites give a sense of flipping through radio stations whose sounds bleed into each other. The result is an all too familiar congestion of headlines. News Wheel is also an iOS app that can be downloaded for free from iTunes. Visit www.newswheel.info or <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id1031093157> to experience it yourself.

On the opposite wall, pieces created by lenticular printing, or images printed with the illusion of depth or change as the viewer moves, show rearranged headlines depending on where visitors stand. The vanishing lines imitate the transient nature of news. Line breaks between words change headlines into poems. As most poems do, these haikus strip away unnecessary verbiage and charge into the heart of an idea. The constant behind all of the images is a static version of the spinning news wheel on the projection. The result is an amusing extraction of poetic beauty from the shockwaves of news.



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