

Sheryl Oring: *I Wish to Say*



For the past 12 years social practice artist Sheryl Oring has served as America's personal secretary, crisscrossing the country with a vintage typewriter and inviting thousands of Americans to sit at her pop-up desk and dictate a message to the next president of the United States.

The messages collected by Oring, each hand-stamped with the date and notices like "Urgent" and "Past Due," provide a powerful and thoughtful antidote to the hurried communication of today's emails, texts, and Tweets. "The typewriter serves to slow us down for a moment in time," writes Oring. "The simple absence of an ability to delete makes one pause for a moment before committing words to paper. While the project can be playful, it also challenges people to step up, use their voice, and deliver their message with urgency and power."

On Thursday, October 6, 2016, Oring brought her performance to Monmouth University. The postcards in this display show a sample of what members of our community wished to say.

Oring uses carbon paper to make two copies: one to send to the White House or to the presidential candidates' campaign offices and one to keep for her ever-growing collection of America's hopes and dreams. The cards on display here will be mailed once this display is taken down.

Monmouth University students also made protest signs from the cards typed on campus. Students and faculty joined Oring in New York City on Saturday, October 8, where they carried the signs up and down 14th Street as part of the Art in Odd Places festival.

For more information, visit www.sheryloring.org and race.artinoddplaces.org. Also check out Oring's new book *Activating Democracy: The I Wish to Say Project* (Intellect Books, 2016).