

Frieze

Krug, Simon, “Crystal Balls, Red Light Spectacle and a Pop Art Nun: the Best Shows in Los Angeles,”
Frieze, February 14, 2019.



Corita Kent, *f is for frog prince*,
1968, serigraph, 45 x 58 cm.
Courtesy: the artist, Corita Art
Center, Immaculate Heart
Community and POTS, Los
Angeles

Corita Kent and Matt Keegan: 'I Wish to Communicate With You'

Potts

13 January–14 April

Sister Corita Kent (1918–1986) was a nun-turned-artist best known for her silk screen printed serigraphs characterized by their graphic originality and cogent political messages of her era. Kent's interest in the iconographical and representational came to a head in her 26-serigraph A-Z series 'International Signal Code Alphabet' (1968), a novel reinterpretation of the International Code of Signals used by maritime vessels to communicate via flag, radiotelegraphy, semaphore, etc. While her alphabetical flags mimic the broad swaths and stripes of typical ensigns and banners, they likewise adopt positive and simple quotes, curlicue sketches, and the iconography of old-fashioned literary lettering. The flag for H professes 'H is for my heart' where Kent doodles fanciful faces in red and white lettering. Other letters and the words and images she chooses to include ('E is for everyone,' 'F is for frog prince,' 'P is for palm,' 'S is for saint,' etc.) speak to Kent's own life and devotion to the power of language to communicate.

Taking cues from the palette, technique, and methodology of Kent's flag system in folded and cut out paper form, contemporary artist Matt Keegan revitalizes Kent's objective of utilizing flags, lettering, and the like as an efficient system of communication. Keegan's 26 similarly hued silkscreened paper works entitled *Cutouts (c is for Corita)* (2018) are presented above and below Kent's flags, where a compelling juxtaposition – or conversation through space and time – comes to the fore.