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Bytes and Biting Satire: Feminist Video at Franklin Street Works

by Danilo Machado

All Byte: Feminist Intersections in Video Art at Franklin Street Works

41 Franklin Street (between Broad and North streets)

April 9 to July 10, 2016

Stamford, CT, 203 595 5211



Kegles for Hegel with the Korean Studies Department and kate-hers RHEE, "Bite Me (Love Song to Friedrich Nietzsche)," 2013. Video, TRT: 6:37. Courtesy of the artists.

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Like *Funny Street Names*, Sunita Prasad's *Recitations Not From Memory* (2014) also centers reading. It depicts men reading aloud, in the first person, the intimate stories of women: experiencing street harassment, gendered housework, workplace discrimination, and marriage dowries. The men read (often awkwardly) from a teleprompter in everyday settings, mimicking the class position of the women who submitted the stories. Prasad tactfully highlights gendered experiences and interrogates the relationship between the way they are spoken, the way they are read, and their materiality. In both Maloof and Prasad's videos, acts of reading point to feminist concerns of voice, agency, and identity. Maloof and Prasad disconnect the voice of their narratives, respectively deferring to an impersonal computerized voice and the awkward voice of a speaker whose gender differs from that of the author. These displacements underscore the identities involved and create intimacy with the viewer.