Aliza Shvarts
Sibboleth, 2016

Using the technology of QR code—which has begun to replace traditional wall labels in contemporary galleries and museums—this work intervenes in the structure of knowledge production within the exhibition space. The piece consists of six QR codes which gallery-goers are invited to scan with their smartphones. Instead of a traditional audio-tour, listeners hear a narration of the space that employs the low bass frequencies of heavy metal music and binaural-beat inducing sound waves (which produce a sonic effect in the brain of the listener).

Using sonic materiality as a critical tool, the work makes audible the disciplining force of “taste” and aesthetic value, which weighs heavily on the seeming neutrality of exhibition spaces and their didactic texts.

Please scan QR codes using your smartphone camera. Or, download a free QR code reader app from Google Play or the Apple Store. You must listen with headphones.

WARNING: This piece makes use of loud sound and binaural beats. You should not listen to binaural beats if you are under 18, pregnant, wear a pace maker, have a heart condition, or are prone to seizures.