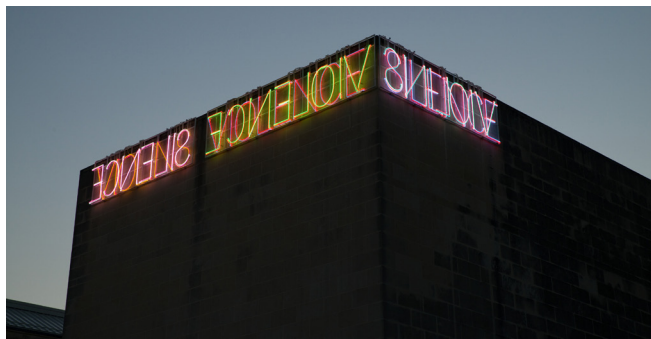


ENVIRONMENTAL POETRY



Bruce Nauman uses a variety of mediums to create sculpture, printmaking, photography, video, and performance art. For *Violins, Violence, Silence*, Nauman was inspired by neon signs in storefront windows. He used glass tubes with moving neon lights to create a glowing artwork that explores the relationship between words, sounds, and feelings. This work invites you to explore in person: look up and walk around the Museum's exterior, following the flashing words at the top corner of the building. The words "violins," "violence," and "silence" move backwards and forwards in quick flashes of lights that change colors.

When you read each word, what sounds come to mind? What stories do you think of when you put these words together?

For this week's activity, let's take a walk and find some words in your neighborhood. Explore the relationship between words, sights, and sounds by using the words around you by making a poem.



Learn more about *Violins, Violence, Silence*
artbma.org/nauman

Bruce Nauman. *Violins Violence Silence (Exterior Version)*. 1981-1982. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Gift of Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, and Sperone Westwater Fischer Gallery, New York

The conservation of "Violins Violence Silence (Exterior Version)" in 2014 was made possible through the generous support of the Friends of Modern and Contemporary Art, Stuart and Sherry Christhilf, Suzanne F. Cohen, The Cordish Family Foundation, Inc., Nancy L. Dorman and Stanley Mazaroff, Janet E. and Edward K. Dunn, Jr., Katherine M. Hardiman and the Hardiman Family Foundation, Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker, Mary and Paul Roberts, the Thalheimer-Eurich Charitable Fund, Inc., and donors to the Illuminate campaign., BMA 1984.2. © 2020 Bruce Nauman/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York



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We'd love to see your work! Snap a picture of your final creation and share with us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter using the hashtag #ArtBMAFromHome for a chance to be featured.

MATERIALS

Camera (or cell phone camera), pencil/pen, paper

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Ask an adult to walk with you around your neighborhood to look for words. Do you see street signs or buildings with words on them? Take photos of the words you see.



Look for the unexpected, like posters on walls or lamp posts. Are there any words in spray paint, street art, or murals? How about neon signs in a store window?

- 3 When you are satisfied with the number of words you found, write a poem—as long or as short as you like—using only the words and phrases in your photos.

What happens when you change the order of your words, or if you use only some of the words you found?



Read your poem out loud. What story does it tell about your environment? Are there any feelings or sounds from your walk that come to mind?

You are now exploring the relationship between words, sound, and meaning, just like artist Bruce Nauman!

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