

LISTEN, I SAY NO

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From CHINA

Currently in CAMBRIDGE, US

"They see our lips as sexy inducement and ignore what we are truly saying."

Saying, eating, kissing...The versatility of the lips determines the ambiguity of their meanings, and they are often materialized as an object of gaze, an invitation. This project is a response to recent violent events against women. In these cases, I noticed a selective omission of women's expressions of refusal.

I invited women to wear their favorite lipstick and then print the lips onto the canvas with the shape of saying NO. Through kissing the canvas, they express a silent collective rejection. I received around 50 lip-prints from different places in China and had a chance to present them in an art exhibition in Shanghai. When these lip-prints are presented together, the audience are attracted by the beautiful kisses first, and then they will find the inviolable rejection behind. There is a tension and discomfort between the visual temptation presented by the image and the rejection expressed by the silent verbal meaning. I hope this tension will promote respect for women's refusal, and encourage more women to have the courage to say No.

