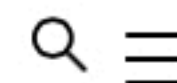




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Christine Sun Kim, *The Sound of Anticipation*, 2016, charcoal on paper, 19 1/2 x 25 1/2".

LOS ANGELES

Christine Sun Kim

GHEBALY GALLERY

2245 E Washington Blvd.

December 15–January 19

A thirty-six-foot-long mural greets the viewer at the entrance to Christine Sun Kim's exhibition. *Finish Forever*, 2018, depicts five stacked symmetrical shapes, each resembling a double-sided ladle, face down. These forms are part of the notations that Kim, who is Deaf, has invented for the sweeping arm gestures

used in American Sign Language (ASL). The ladle shape signifies the word *finish*. Its repetition here could mean, "It was finished a long time ago," or "Please stop already!" or the titular neologism, "Finish forever."

In the eighteen drawings on view, Kim expands on her visualizations of words and sounds, incorporating quantitative symbols and musical shorthand (such as "p" for *piano* [soft] and "f" for *forte* [loud]) to translate various experiences—for example, movie scores. The works' titles are often associated with particular emotions, as in *The Sound of Anticipation*, 2016, and *Suspenseful Background Music*, 2016. This may be because ASL relies on facial expressions in a way that spoken English does not. The spacing of Kim's mark-making evokes measurements from a seismograph, where lines that abruptly turn upward connote urgency while elongated lines connote grace. Viewed cumulatively, Kim's notations gesture toward the gulfs of alienation and consent that can be sensed between languages. Yet that gesture is at once challenging, playful, and accessible—this alphabet is best understood by feeling your way around it, seeking embodiment.

—Geoffrey Mak

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