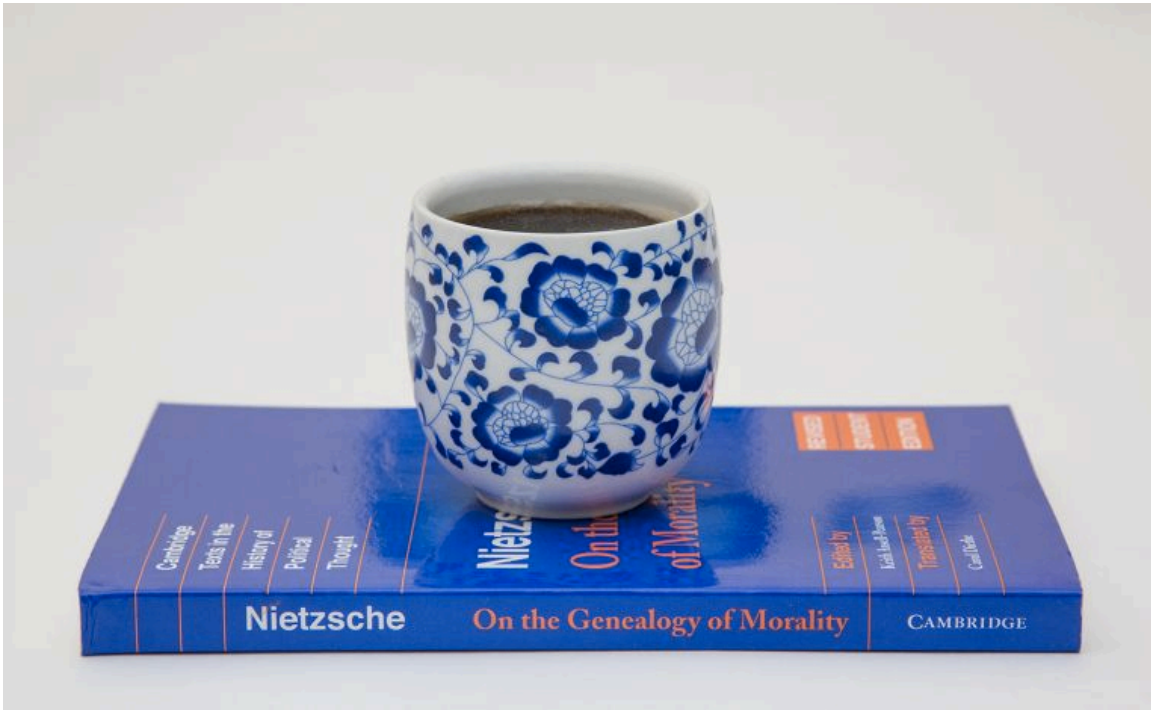




MIT List Visual Arts Center



Lina Viste Grønli, *Coca Cola in Chinese Cup On the Genealogy of Morality*, 2015  
Courtesy the artist, Gaudel de Stampa, Paris, and Christian Andersen, Copenhagen

## LIST PROJECTS: LINA VISTE GRØNLI

### SHOWING

July 28, 2015 - October 25, 2015

Through mediums that include sculpture, photography, collage, and writing, Lina Viste Grønli investigates the tensions between physical things and abstract systems, particularly those of linguistics and philosophy. With considerable humor, and using everyday objects and materials, she considers categories that have been historically opposed—such as the intelligible and the sensible, words and things, the systematic and the arbitrary—and interprets the excess or remainder that is uncontained by these binary structures.

Viste Grønli's exhibition for *List Projects* takes as its starting point the letter E, the most common one in the English language. A number of the works transform ordinary pieces of furniture—a table, a bookshelf, a corkboard—into the visual form

of an E. She plays with a tenet of structural linguistics, namely that the relationship between signs and the sounds they designate is arbitrary. A photograph, for example, depicts a person performing the sound-shape of the letter E using Eurythmy, a movement art developed by Rudolf Steiner in the 1930s. The titles of these works that physicalize the letter E also use words that begin with the letter E, such as *Entropy*, *Eggplant*, *Ebola*, *Effrontery*, and *English*, forming something of an "E-Poem."

However, the artist interrupts her system of Es with assemblies of everyday objects bearing no evident connection to the letter. Mussel shells, kitchen utensils, and an apple are adhered to or rest upon books, such as Immanuel Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785). Playing with the systematic and the arbitrary, these juxtapositions are generated through a method she calls "thinging," borrowing a neologism philosopher Martin Heidegger used to inflect the noun "thing" into an action, such that these sculptures manifest the material and linguistic acts that allow them to exist.

Lina Viste Grønli (b. 1976, Bergen, Norway) lives and works in Cambridge, MA. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Thinging* at Stavanger Kunsthall, Stavanger, Norway; *Thinging* at Maison d'art Bernard Anthonioz, Nogent, France; *The Alphabet & Other Writings* at Wiels Contemporary Art Center, Brussels; and *Feminism & Selected Writings* at Gaudel de Stampa, Paris.

*List Projects: Lina Viste Grønli* is curated by Alise Upitis, Assistant Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

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**Location:**

[MIT List Visual Arts Center](#)

20 Ames Street, Bldg. E15

Atrium level

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

[Directions + Map](#)

<https://listart.mit.edu/exhibitions/list-projects-lina-viste-gr%C3%B8nli>