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Artist Statement/Neon
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Personal feminine experience as a mother and political activist are the foundation of my artistic practice. Social messaging along with the power of text and signage are key to my most recent works in neon, "Conflict Free Milk" (2020) and "No News Is Good News" (2020). Using timed animation, these phrases create new, mixed meanings as individual words are illuminated or darkened.

"Conflict Free Milk" is fraught with the concern of sacrifices and inherent violence made on behalf of procuring nutrition. For the consumer in general, the phrase is a reminder of the human and ecological toll inflicted by mass production of 'milks' the world over. Specific to the experience of a new mother, the words communicate the tangled emotional turmoil and physical demands of nourishing their child. Breastfeeding is often touted as the ideal method for feeding a newborn; however several factors often disrupt this advice such as class and racial inequities, lack of education, profit hungry formula companies, biological issues, or personal choice. The lived experience of providing nutrition for one's child is nothing near a simple picture, only amplified by the cultural pressure put on caregivers to succeed. As one views the piece, words perform an arc like cycle between being illuminated and extinguished, finally with words flashing so fast they're illegible. In this way, the work negates the beckoning call of something so nourishing ever truly being free.

In collaboration with Jacob Fishman "No News is Good News" is an of-the-moment reflection on the news cycle we have made habitual, and it's current pandemic-concussed state. Like "Milk," this piece uses animation to illuminate or extinguish select words, creating a flow of new messages. Phrases like "No Good," "Good News," and "Is News" appear and disappear, as the piece highlights the distortion of facts into something consumable, sellable; only echoes of their original intent. The rounded square framing recalls the shape of an old television, while the text is a sloppy block print, off the cuff and ready for shaping by the giants of the news cycle. This stylistic confusion reflects the cultural void of a pandemic-stricken world. As we navigate the uncertainties of now, heavy with anxiety, loss, and grief, we grasp at the hope that "no news is good news."