Angela Rossi

*Calendar*, single channel video installation (projected in black and white with stereo sound), wood, birth control packs, nails

Dimensions vary on installation space

2018

Four empty packets of birth control are nailed to individual plaques of wood. The plaques are hung from the wall in a horizontal line at eye level. Above the line of birth control packages, a projection is played with a looped scrolling of selected bible quotes. All the quotes, in some way or another, deal with contraception, sex, and the body. The text scrolls from the plaques, upward to the ceiling. In relation to the viewer, the projection is very high and overpowering. The sound of hammering nails into wood is played loudly through out the room as well.

*Calendar* focuses on the idea of agency of ones body and how influences such as religion can challenge personal desires and views. The four packs of birth control represent a year of the artist’s struggle to find the right method and medication for safe sex. The bible quotes played high above the physical objects represent the pressure and unconscious recognition of the artist’s religious childhood and its presence in her development into an adult. The audio acts as a violent reminder of the nailing of Jesus to the cross to relate back to the nailed birth control packages.

The piece was well received by the audience. Viewers were able to connect the religious ideas to the idea of agency of the female body. Many viewers were also able to connect their own personal experiences with religion and how that has affected their lives up until this point. This piece was also submitted and presented at the NO FLASH Video Show in the Zimmerli Art Museum in New Brunswick, NJ. Presented in relation to other video work, the piece still commanded a certain presence and engaged viewers in an interesting critique. When discussing the work on an artist panel, Angela talked about the process of recognizing when to add audio or projections to a sculpture and how to know when an installation is finished.