



The Brant Foundation
ART STUDY CENTER

GLENN LIGON WARM BROAD GLOW, 2005

Glenn Ligon's first neon relief, *Warm Broad Glow*, consists simply of the words 'negro sunshine' fashioned in letters some sixteen feet across and three feet high. The sign is rendered in old typewriter characters, each one dipped face first in black paint so that the light escapes only from behind, casting a cool fluorescence on the wall on which it hangs, about eight feet from the ground... The work inverts the relationship between light and dark one expects from a lighted sign against a recessive ground; it casts a pall over [Gertrude] Stein's nagging phrase, but there remains, as well, a paradoxically effulgent and hopeful penumbra. Of all Ligon's work with text, this piece is perhaps his most distilled and elegant visual rephrasing of borrowed words.¹

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[THIRD DIMENSION: WORKS FROM THE BRANT FOUNDATION](#)
[GLENN LIGON - ENCOUNTERS AND COLLISIONS](#)



¹ Scott Rothkopf in Exh. Cat., New York, Whitney Museum of American Art (and travelling), Glenn Ligon: AMERICA, 2011, pp. 44-45



EXPLORING LANGUAGE

INSPIRED BY GLENN LIGON

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ACTIVITY

Choose a phrase from one of your favorite books and draw or type the words using different text styles and designs. Experiment with how the meaning of the words can change depending on how they appear visually. How do the words change when you introduce color, or lack of color? Look at the words in different contexts and think about how time and place play a role in how people may interpret your work versus when read in the original context.

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QUESTIONS

1. What was the deciding factor for you to pick this phrase?
2. What was your stylistic approach to this phrase? Why?
3. What was the deciding factor behind the phrase you chose?

MATERIALS

pen, pencil, glitter pens, markers, paint, crayons

EXAMPLES

LOVE LOUDLY

time singing