

Sean Dack
Future Songs
with an essay by Liam Gillick
mail and virtual exhibition / non event

Daniel Reich Gallery is very pleased to present by mail a virtual exhibition: *Future Songs*, an appropriated score by video and conceptual artist, Sean Dack. Future Songs can be downloaded at www.futuresongsexhibition.com.

This exhibition takes the form of a musical score accompanied by a text lifted from the paranoid cold-war era predictions of noted science fiction writer Philip K. Dick. While Dick's description of apocalypse seems archaic, it also seem at times oddly prescient.

Dack's series pairs sheet music from Top 40 #1 pop hits of the corresponding years from 1983 - 2000, with these predictions by Dick for the corresponding year. This coupling exposes and bears the aesthetic of the relationship between reality, prediction and hindsight with added subterfuge regarding the rapid fire evolution of contemporary society and subsequent cultural amnesia that happens from one day to the next.

Consequently, as cultural and political production developed to a stylistic point which lacks referents and context. It seems fitting for American nightly news to be set to song—in keeping with the world conjured by the movie *Network* and embodied by Dack's *Future Song* virtual exhibition. Dack's score addresses a culture in which reality and projection are increasingly fused, the march of time reflected in the turning of pages. Dack's scores are presented in an aesthetic color range becoming mannerist with dire predictions as we move towards the present, closing the book in 2000. The ominous quality of Dick's irrelevant yet prophetic predictions set to the music of saccharine pop favorites correspond to Dack's increasingly captivating color progression with an eye to recent fashion and to the academic color play of aesthetic color field paintings like Ellsworth Kelley's color spectrums. Altogether, the effect is a rather dissonant panoply of conflicting information and bright colors setting us at the threshold of the oddly ebullient disaster of the current century and the reality of today.

The notes in the book can actually be played to reveal their source in popular songs. Also, please note that it is not necessary to visit the gallery to view. Future Songs can be downloaded at www.futuresongsexhibition.com.

Daniel Reich Gallery 537 A W 23rd St NYC 10011 212 924 4949