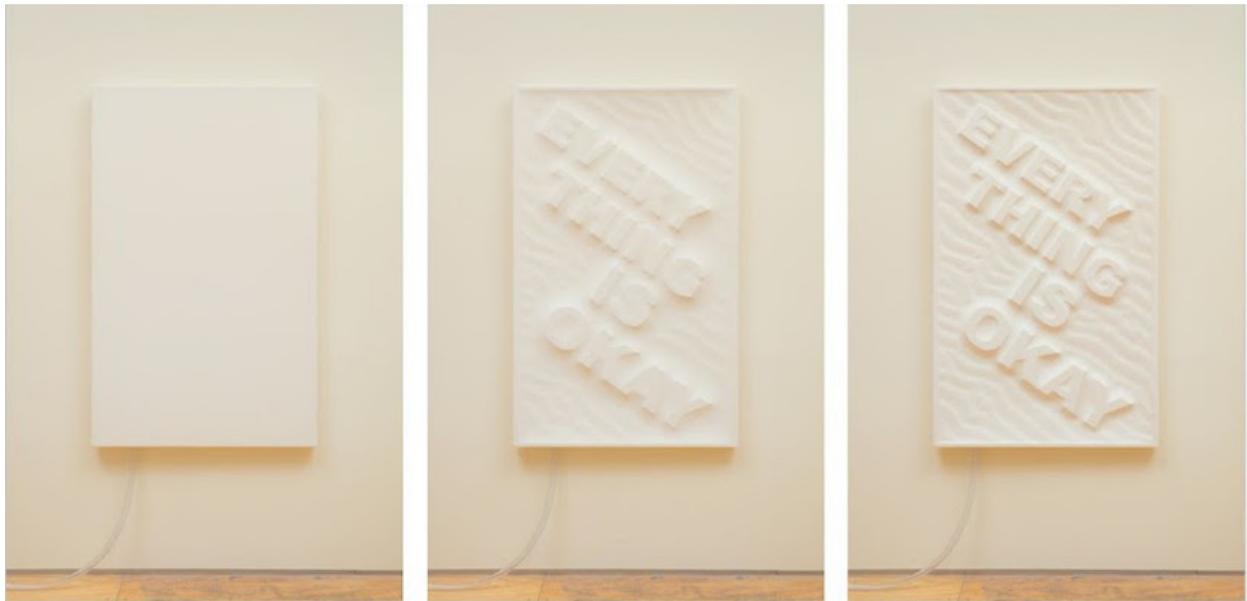


# BLOUINARTINFO

## Antoine Catala at Marlborough Contemporary, London

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | AUGUST 16, 2018



"Everything is Okay (beach)," 2017 Antoine Catala Latex, wood, foam, pump; 58 x 36 inches (147.32 x 91.44 cm) Antoine Catala: Everything is OKAY: Series 2, Marlborough Contemporary, London, 12 September - 13 October, [marlboroughlondon.com](http://marlboroughlondon.com)  
(Courtesy the artist and 47 Canal)

Marlborough Contemporary will be presenting New York-based, French artist [Antoine Catala](#)'s "Everything is Okay: Season 2" from September 12 to October 13, 2018.

The show brings together both new and existing works to form a kinetic installation, exploring emojis and text messages and the effects of new communication technologies on society.

"Text messages allow us to communicate as quickly as we speak. They enable multiple conversations at once, bridge geographical distance, and fit around our modern, fragmented lives, reflecting our easily distracted minds. Catala explores how this minimal version of interpersonal communication can lead to misunderstanding, and in a time lapse between messages, discomfort can easily grow. This is where emojis come in — symbols to diffuse tension and state the intended 'mood' of the message as a substitution of vocal intonation. Hence the exhibition's mantra: 'Everything is Okay,'" writes the gallery.

In this show, one gets the feel of a haunted house, driven by a loop of videos and songs as an opera in multiple acts. The works are focussed around a narrative transforming the gallery space into an uncanny domestic setting. In the work "Flat Sitcom," two vertical monitors face each other, set vertically to mimic smartphone screens. One can see a protagonist, their texts to each other appearing at the bottom of the screens playing out various disturbing "episodes." "The suspense is relieved by a recurring theme song which is played between each episode, at which point other emoji objects in the room — for example wall panels, socks, t-shirts and plastic bags — animate and join in," adds the gallery.

"Catala is greatly influenced by the media theorist Marshall McLuhan, who is hailed for predicting the birth of the internet with his model of the futuristic 'Global Village.' He also warned of the potential dangers involved, such as the manipulation of our senses for the benefit of private bodies and how our world view may come to be altered — consider the recent 'Fake News' scandal. In his works, Catala reflects how communication is almost entirely corporation driven

and is shaped and owned by the platforms we use. In the face of this increasingly financial society, emojis become a refuge for individualism,” states the gallery.

*The exhibition will be on view from September 12 through October 13, 2018 at Marlborough Contemporary, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1S 4BY.*

For details, visit: <http://www.blouinartinfo.com/galleryguide/marlborough-gallery/overview>

*Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the exhibition.*

<http://www.blouinartinfo.com>

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