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In *Legal Fictions*, Carey Young presents numerous works that, as the name would suggest, attempt to explore the legal system in a broad sense, questioning its relationship with the viewer and its relationship to truth or reality itself. Through a mix of photography, film and installations she focuses upon several different aspects of the legal system but heavily upon the legal language itself and participation. These are very interesting aspects as they are intrinsic to the legal system that defines so much of our modern lives and we all operate within these systems daily. This brief text will attempt to discuss several of the works presented.

At least *Declared Void II* (2013), *Obsidian Contract* (2010) and *Unintentional Silence* (2010) share rather similar ideas. All works propose an agreement to the viewer that they can decide to either enter into or reject. Choice here is very important and always offered to the viewer. The agreement or contract is often framed as to call into question different aspects of current legally accepted norms and/or legal agreements in general.

In *Declared Void* (2013), the user agrees to be a citizen of an actual country when entering a basic framed zone within the gallery. Young is strongly prompting the viewer to reflect upon the somewhat abstract nature of national borders and this legal agreement in general. The fact that this contract can in no way be binding is also very conscious and again reinforces the abstract nature of this creation.

*Terms and Conditions* (2004) is a looped video where a female presenter stands in a very real landscape and persuasively presents the Terms &

conditions of the "site". The text appears to have been lifted from various internet website Terms & Conditions and creates an interesting dialogue about both online spaces but also confronts the viewer with the abstract, even comedic, nature of these rules. The video questions the relationship of these online rules to the physical world as things done within virtual online spaces can lead to real world legal issues.

Ultimately, *Legal Fictions* prompts the viewer to reflect upon the abstract nature of our legal system. The viewer is also urged to think about their own role within this system.

James Batten

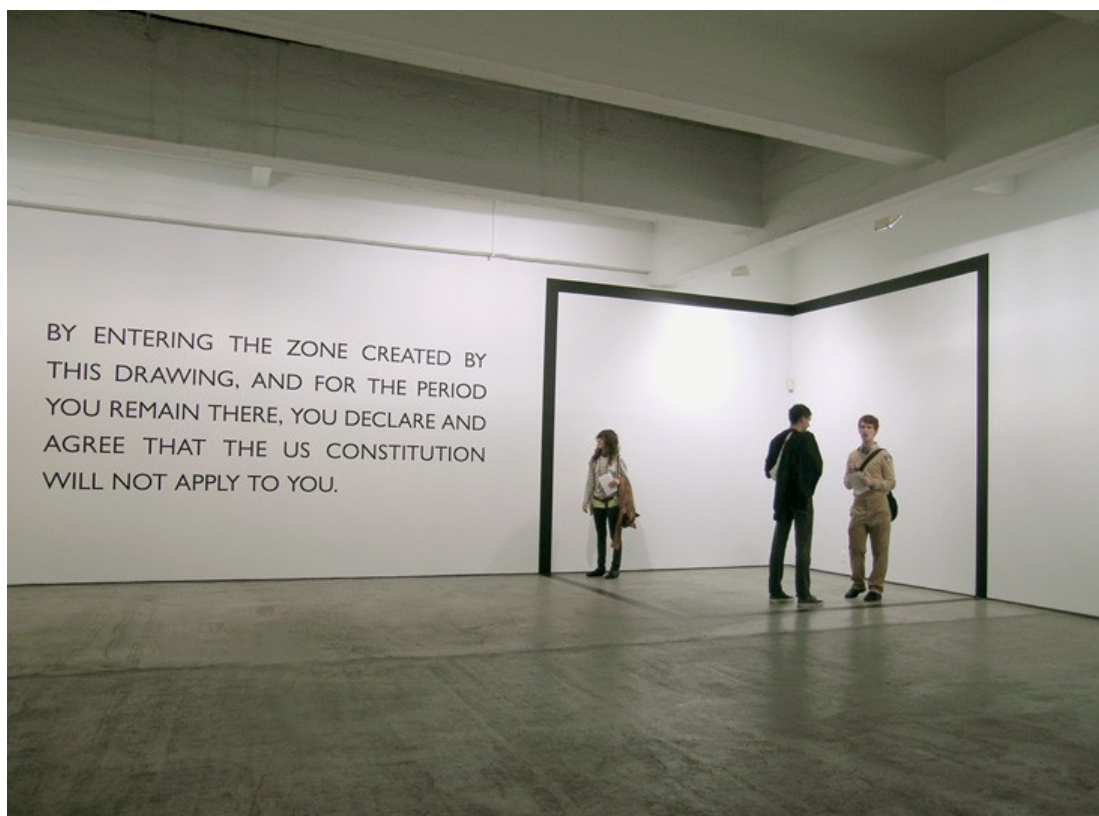


Image taken from [www.careyyoung.com](http://www.careyyoung.com)  
Perhaps the text was changed based on its context (?).