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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART

SHARON HAYES: THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO SAY TO YOU

The political is personal for Hayes, whose powerful—if, at times, strident—art grapples with the complicated legacy of American activist movements of the past forty years. In one four-channel video, the artist is seen reciting a message recorded by Patty Hearst after she was captured by the Symbionese Liberation Army. When Hayes gets a line wrong, an offscreen chorus chimes in to correct her. In a new work, conceived for the show, unedited footage of the second annual gay-pride parade, in 1971, is narrated by the feminist author Kate Millett, who witnessed it firsthand, as well as by Hayes, who was born in 1970 and comes across as more analytical and reserved. The generational divide is best captured here in a video installation in which young people speculate on activism they didn't experience. Is it possible to remember something from before you were born? One young woman believes that it is, arguing that, as stories are passed from one generation to the next, "you experience the emotions yourself." There's a second part to the equation: if the stories are compelling enough, then, like Hayes, you may be moved to repeat them. The great strength of her show is not only that there's so much she wants to say to us, but also that she persuades us to listen. Through Sept. 9.