

Simone Forti at The Box

December 2, 2015
Text by Aaron Horst



Simone Forti, *Zuma News* (2014). Video, 12:37 minutes. Image Courtesy of the artist and The Box.
Cinematography: Jason Underhill.

Art experienced secondhand—through images in books, verbal or written description—comes with an inbuilt sense of having missed out; recorded performance art is at least cut with the thrill of surveillance. Simone Forti's recorded *News Animation: Bennington College* (2003), included as part of *On an Iron Post*, her current exhibition at The Box, avoids the corruptions of organic recollection, while flattening the experience of watching a live performance. Forti is in her element, making movement out of news-of-the-day prompts, yet, recorded, performs for a small or singular audience rather than the contemporary crowd somewhere beyond the frame.

Forti does make films in which she performs, distinct from films of her performances. In *Zuma News* (2014) she digs and writhes at a mid-tempo pace over a bed of kelp, newspaper and wet

sand. Traces of order at work—some imperative to keep the papers in a loose pile despite the wind at the titular beach—are fleeting; Forti's appearance vacillates between purposeful and confused.

Forti's films speak in a both subtle and highly personal, seemingly impenetrable jargon—though do so in tandem with collectively shared symbols (*Flag in the Water's* titular emblem) and mass media (*Zuma News*). The results are process-driven to a fault: tangential and funny, sure, but also obscure, even flimsy. The second of the Box's smaller rooms centers entirely around Forti's process; this strange feedback loop foregrounds nearly all the work on display. Improvisation, for Forti, is key: but the Cage-ian procession from here to wherever beckons both the ineffable and the aimless.

Simone Forti: *On An Iron Post* runs November 14, 2015-January 9, 2016 at [The Box](#) (805 Traction Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90013)



Simone Forti, *Flag in the Water*(2015). Video, 19:46 minutes. Image Courtesy of the artist and The Box. Cinematography: Jason Underhill.



Simone Forti, *Flag in the Water*(2015). Video, 19:46 minutes. Image Courtesy of the artist and The Box. Cinematography: Jason Underhill.



Simone Forti, *Zuma News* (2014). Video, 12:37 minutes. Image courtesy of the artist and The Box. Cinematography: Jason Underhill