

Teacher Guide

*Steven Evans: If I can't dance,
it's not my revolution!*

June 29–October 13, 2019



More, More, More, 2013. Glass, neon, electrical components, and hardware. 3 x 28 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches. Courtesy the artist and Jonathan Hopson Gallery, Houston, Texas.

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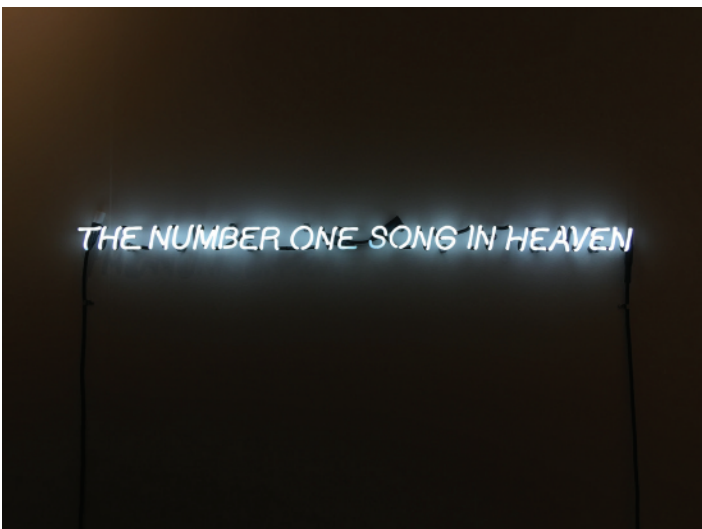
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Exhibition Overview

- Artist Steven Evans has been working for more than three decades.
- Evans explores connections between music, language, memory, identity, community, and collectivity.
- Evans was involved in both activism and dance music when he lived in New York, New York in the late 1980s.
- Evans is interested in language and explores this idea through song titles.
- The exhibition will present Evans's newest work *If I can't dance, it's not my revolution (Stonewall Timeline, 1969-2019)* (2019) in which 50 song titles rendered in latex paint and vinyl coalesce in a concrete poem upon the gallery's lavender walls.
- Another body of work in the exhibition is made up of song titles fabricated in colored neon that conjure the illumination of bars and dance clubs.

Key Questions

- What music and/or songs have impacted you?
- Steven Evans is inspired by dance clubs and how they bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds. What places inspire you?
- Activism has had a large impact on Evans's work—what other artists are also activists?
- In Evans's works he connects popular music to politics—what current songs define 2019 for you?



The Number One Song In Heaven, 2012. Glass, neon, electrical components, and hardware. 2 1/2 x 50 x 1 1/2 inches. Collection Christopher Scott and Cody Fitzsimmons

Curriculum Connections

Science | Steven Evans uses neon to create a series of work in the exhibition *Steven Evans: If I can't dance, it's not my revolution!* Research neon lights and why they work. Design your own neon light with a diagram about how it would function. Where would you place your light?

Language Arts | In Steven Evans's newest work *If I can't dance, it's not my revolution (Stonewall Timeline, 1969–2019)* (2019) he chooses a song for each of the 50 years since the Stonewall Riots. The list of songs becomes a concrete poem and also a playlist. Can you create a list of songs for each year that you have been alive? Why did you choose these particular songs? What happens when you list them together? What happens when you listen to them together? Share your list with classmates and discuss why you chose the songs on your playlist.

History | Steven Evans was involved with several activist groups and the gay civil rights movement has a large impact on his artwork. How have artists and the history of civil rights intersected in the past from songwriters, photographers, and playwrights? Research an example of an artist involved with or documenting a significant moment in our history. How did the artist impact the movement?