

**Steven Evans: If I can't dance,
it's not my revolution!**
June 29–October 13, 2019

**Contemporary
Arts Museum
Houston**



**If I Can't Dance, It's Not My Revolution (Stonewall
Timeline, 1969-2019), 2019**

Adhesive vinyl and paint

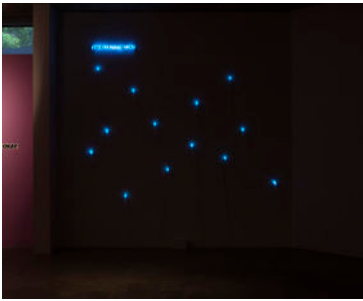
Courtesy the artist and Jonathan Hopson Gallery,
Houston, Texas

Conceived for this exhibition, Steven Evans's newest work is inspired by the Stonewall Riots. Fifty years ago in New York, New York, it was illegal for gays, lesbians, and gender non-conforming individuals to get together in groups, since their gathering was deemed "disruptive." On June 28, 1969, serial police raids of the Stonewall Inn pushed the bar's patrons to their breaking point. The riots they started just after 3AM are foundational to modern movements for queer civil and equal rights.

For this installation, Evans chose 50 song titles, one for each year since the Stonewall Riots, that draw on the rich connections between popular music and demands for progressive socio-politics. Coming out of the Civil Rights Movement, 1969's "Stand!" by Sly and the Family Stone advocates that listeners become agents of social change by recognizing and rejecting class-based and race-based prejudice. Later songs—like "I'm Coming Out" (1980) by Diana Ross, "It's Raining Men" (1983) by The Weather Girls, "Constant Craving" (1992) by k.d. lang, and "Born This Way" (2011) by Lady Gaga—offer further evidence of the ways that recording artists support progressive sexual politics affecting queers, women, and other marginalized groups. Whether they are heard on the radio or on dance floors, these songs encourage hope, energy, and perseverance in turbulent times.

All works glass, neon, electrical components, and hardware.

All works courtesy the artist and Jonathan Hopson Gallery, Houston, unless otherwise noted.



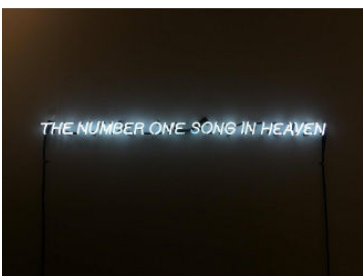
It's Raining Men, 1993–2019



Don't You Want Me?, 2012
Collection Rick Liberto



Tell It To My Heart, 2018



The Number One Song in Heaven, 2012



More, More, More, 2013



Got To Be Real, 2017



Situation, 2016



Relax, 2016



There is a Light That Never Goes Out, 2013-18



Starboy, 2017