

# Emoticons are state of the art at new show staged by Eyebeam Art+Technology Center

Interactive exhibit looks at the popularity of new symbols and the huge variety of forms they take

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MAYA BEN-EZER

Generations of technology collide in a mashup emoticon typewriter, 'Shift Key,' by Maya Ben-Ezer, at Eyebeam Gallery.

Those silly smiley faces that you text to your friends are now works of art.

The "millennial" generation uses such emoticons — from the original Japanese "emojis" — to express themselves when words are just too cumbersome.

Naturally, artists are now commenting on the younger generation's decision to shun sentences for high-tech hieroglyphs of gusts of wind, smiley faces or even grinning piles of poop.

The three-day show, now through Saturday at Eyebeam Art+Technology Center, consists of interactive exhibits tracing the popularity of emojis; watercolors of smiley faces that riff on pop art; wallpaper studded with ghosts, lightning bolts, alien



KYLE M.F. WILLIAMS

Emojis by Kyle M.F. Williams are part of the exhibit at the Eyebeam Gallery.

heads and winged stacks of money; a 400-pound sculpture of Facebook's thumbs-up icon made of concrete and rebar; and digital prints that reinterpret iconic art history images.

"It makes it less scary for sure, but it hints toward our overreliance on emojis and perhaps our darker nature," said Eyebeam spokeswoman Zoe Salditch.



FITO SEGRERA & EMILIO VAVARELLA

'Transiconmorphosis,' by Fito Segrera & Emilio Vavarella, will be on display at the Eyebeam Gallery.

For now, we'll stick with the printed word — though one day, it might be cool to print the Daily News entirely in emoji.

Or as the kids say, OMG LOL.

Emoji Art & Design Show at Eyebeam Art+Technology Center, 540 W. 21st St. Continues through Saturday. For info, visit [eyebeam.org](http://eyebeam.org).