

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Event Details

Event Title: PRESS

Event Type: visual art performance

Location: The Jack, 5219 Cochran St., Houston, TX 77009

Time and Date: Saturday, November 22, 2025, 12PM to 2PM.

Audience Attendance: Free event open to the public. Viewers may enter and exit the performance at their discretion.



About the Performance

Houston-based artist **Britt Thomas** presents **PRESS**, a public performance confronting the rapid decline of a free and independent press in the United States. Performed in conjunction with *Fall of Freedom*, a nationwide call for creative resistance, the work turns physical labor into a stark warning about the fragility of journalism, a safeguard meant to hold power accountable.

In **PRESS**, performers shovel soil into small rectangular mounds. Once shaped, each mound is imprinted with a granite gravestone engraved with the word “PRESS”, leaving the word embedded in the soil. With every downward press, Thomas reads a headline aloud, naming acts of censorship, the intimidation and killing of journalists, the mass loss of reporting jobs, and the collapse of local newsrooms. This ritual of mourning underscores how quickly the ground can give way beneath our civil institutions when they are left unsupported.

Intent and Context

Civil institutions rarely collapse suddenly. They erode gradually, often unnoticed, in a way that frames their downfall as the institution’s own failure rather than the result of external pressures. **PRESS** makes this slow decline visible, compacting the many cuts to press freedom and free speech into a single, tangible act. The performance urges audiences to consider who controls information, how truth is shaped, and what it takes to defend the institutions that hold power accountable. It confronts the consequences of their loss and asks what else is buried when journalism is silenced: truth, accountability, democracy itself?

About the Artist

Britt Thomas is an interdisciplinary artist whose work exposes the hidden systems that govern collective experience. Drawing on history, politics, propaganda, and human behavior, she uses appropriation, recontextualization, and transmediation to reveal how meaning is built, distorted, and performed through the materials and structures that shape society.

Thomas holds a BFA from Lamar University and an MFA from the University of Houston. She is a 2025 recipient of the Houston Arts Alliance SACI and Let Creativity Happen grants and her mural is permanently installed in Houston’s public art collection at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally, including at the Fitzwilliam Museum (UK), Brownsville Museum of Fine Art (TX), Aggregate Space Gallery (CA), Amos Eno Gallery (NY), and CICA Museum (South Korea).

Websites: www.britt-thomas.com | www.fallofffreedom.com

Instagram Handles: [@britt_thomas_art](https://www.instagram.com/britt_thomas_art) | [@FallOfFreedom](https://www.instagram.com/FallOfFreedom)

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