

BROADWAY

THE ART NEWSPAPER



Andrew Kuo, *Four ZZZs (10/15/20) (2021) Broadway*

4/16/20

Andrew Kuo: Water Lillies

Until 15 May at Broadway, 373 Broadway, Manhattan

Andrew Kuo is most widely known for his complex, emotionally intricate infographic charts, a handful of which are on view here. The poetry comes first from the foundational conceit of quantifying the unquantifiable, as the charts measure varying degrees of intangible phenomena like sadness, friendship, and identity. Each features a key; a blue-gray color in *Sad! #2 (3/20/21) (2021)* indicates the amount of “Knowing that someday I’m going to die but not believing it until I see it” for example, while a yellow in the same painting denotes “Admitting that the things that dropped on me will eventually start from me”. These paintings stand as totems to our ever-unfulfilled desire to reason with an unreasonable world. Then there’s the fact that beyond the poignant framework of the infographics, they doubly succeed as strong, hardfought abstract art. A few abstractions on view that don’t have keys—along with the show’s title, *Water Lillies*—complicate the body of work by highlighting its subtle and unsubtle winks and nods to the canon of art history.