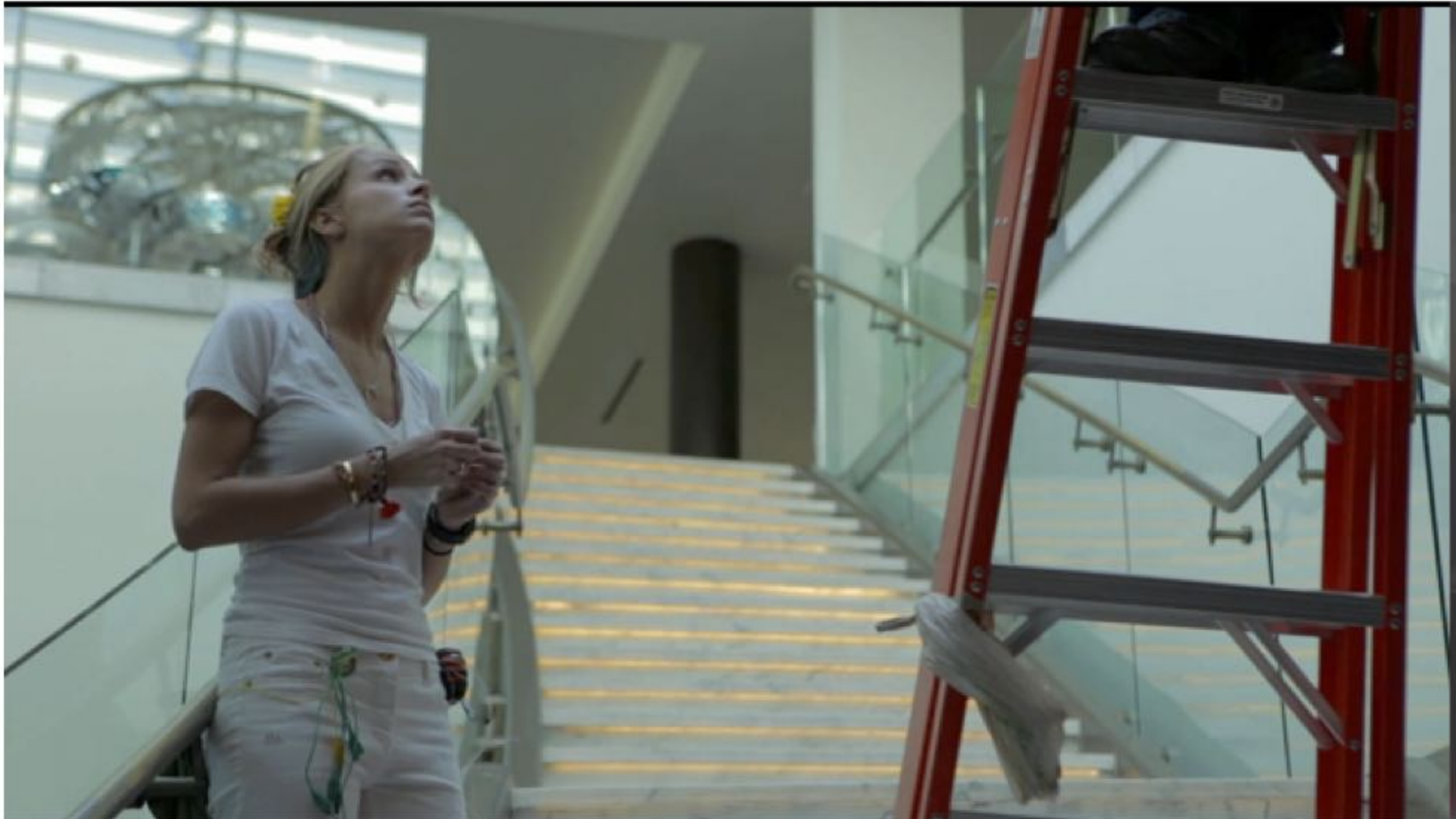


# Angel Orensanz Foundation

## Neon As Art



“Neon lights have lit signs for countless of years now, but looking at them you wouldn’t expect them to be considered art. They are just lights that shout “open” into a dark street or something similar. To most that really isn’t anything special. Olivia Steele would beg to differ. Born in Nashville, Tennessee the conceptual neon artist has made a career out of taking the bright lights and using them to spell out idioms and statements from her childhood. As she says, she grew up in a home where her “Father had a statement or idiom for everything. There was an answer for everything with a quote” and it was through these statements that Steele “found a solution and an answer to the ins and outs of life.” These quotes have clearly left an impact on her – as one of her neon installations “See you on the other side...” was done in honor of her Father. She even went as far as to shape the lights to imitate his handwriting. Steele combines her neon lights with photographs and other objects, her statements adding a double meaning to some. From “The End” and “That’s all Folks” against a photo of a mushroom cloud to “Let’s go get lost” against of greenery, Steele has created art with her neon’s. Neon as art that no one could ever have anticipated when looking at the bright “open” sign in front of a convenience store.”

SOURCE: <http://orensanzforheartsnyc.org/Foundation/2012/12/12/neon-as-art/>

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