



TICK TOCK

TIME IN CONTEMPORARY ART



Rachel Lee Hovnanian

FOREPLAY, 2014

Digital video installation and computer,
including rotary phone recording:

Maurice Chevalier "Isn't It Romantic"

Courtesy of Leila Heller Gallery

RACHEL LEE HOVNANIAN

Hovnanian's poignant, chilling video shows a series of couples in bed, each ignoring the other and fixated by streams of information on their phones, laptops, and other digital devices. She captures our dependency and love-hate relationship with a technology that encourages mental isolation, even as we continually seek online connections.

The video is shot from the blue light of computer screens, which, beautiful and soft, and cold and technological, also suggests the so-called "blue movie." Maurice Chevalier's crooning through the plastic of the now archaic rotary phone shows nostalgia for a delicate romanticism disappearing from modern life.