

# 1000 INFRATHINS

1000 INFRATHINS

cpctw

1000 INITIATIVE

1000 INFRATHINS

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INFRATHINS

S

1

Indifference, the infrathin between good and evil.

2

In a glass, the infrathin marriage of melting ice cubes and the water they're in.

3

Signaled by birds flying into clean windows because they do not see them.

4

Jeggings, an infrathin marriage of jeans and leggings.

5

Freezer burn.

6

The imprint of a sock around an ankle after the sock is removed.

7

The connection two people feel through the static electric cling of their arm hair.

8

From still to boiling water, the exact transitional moment.

9

The flutter of cash as it's expelled from the ATM machine.

10

The warmth of sunlight retained in a glass window.

11

The blank page in a book that precedes the title page.

12

The sound of electricity in the walls when an old light switch is flipped.

13

Same difference.

14

The shift in your thumb when looking at your nose with one eye closed, then the other.

15

Evaporated spilled water.

16

Vestibules, thoroughfares for stepping inside and or turning back.

17

Between the eyeball and the eyeglasses.

18

The residual result of any action.



19

Lethal injection failure.

20

Drowsiness is the infrathin cognitive state between wakefulness and sleep.

21

The gap between signifier and signified.

22

An immigrant's notion of belonging is infrathin culture.

23

The surface of a mirror is the infrathin intersection between physical reality and light perception.

24

A border between two lands is infrathin geography.

25

Sex, between rational thinking and irrational behavior.

26

Even, odds.

27

The space between colliding atoms, which comprise two objects, confirms that nothing is ever touching.

28

Numbers are infrathin labels between value and quantity.

29

Blood vessels are infrathin barriers across which oxygen diffuses.

30

Breathing, infrathin mediation of the self and the atmosphere.

31

Tipsy, infrathin between sobriety and drunkenness.

32

Burnt skin that has yet to peel off.

33

Single, pairs.

34

Hypnic jerk is an infrathin sensation between sleep and wakefulness.

35

Stardust, infrathin of past and present.

36

A scent carried on the breeze from an unknown origin.

37

The way someone's smell lingers on your sheets.

38

Brackish, the mingling of fresh and seawater.

39

The wiped-away chalk smeared on a chalkboard is an infrathin separation of new words from old.

40

The glacial process by which the pages of old books yellow.

41

Our ability to see white light as color.

42

Our inability to imagine new colors.

43

Glass windows, the infrathin separation between inside and out.

44

An infrathin question: whether the colors I see resonate the same way in another pair of eyes.

45

Optical illusions, seeing what does and doesn't exist.

46

Replicas, both unique and derivative.

47

Murkiness is melted infrathinly into the glass of opaque windows.

48

The light from stars, at once present and extinct.

49

Between intellect and emotion.

50

The infrathin is nested in dormant illnesses not yet triggered.

51

He loved her, sir, and loved her not.

52

The lingering emotions of a dream.

53

When you laugh at a joke but do not know why.

54

That period after orgasm when you are free from sexual desire.

55

Between caterpillar and moth.

56

Recovered documents in Microsoft Word, both files and not.

57

Artificial grape flavor.

58

Beige.

59

Linguistically, infrathin as a word is metainfrathin.

60

Quantum mechanics are founded on infrathin uncertainty.

61

Schrödinger's cat, infrathin uncertainty between life and death.

62

The whistle of an arrow.

63

Jumping just when a downward elevator is about to stop is infrathin suspension.

64

The space between one alarm clock snooze and another.

65

Empathy is infrathin pain.

66

Clearly, misunderstood.

67

The different smell one used couch has from another.

68

Bluetooth, infrathin telekinesis between two inanimate objects.

69

Sleep paralysis.

70

The infrathin difference between a cell phone and a gun.

71

When the tobacco smoke smells also of the mouth which exhales it, the two odors are married by the infrathin.

72

Memories and their perpetual state of flux, different each time they are accessed.

73

Audio feedback.

74

The moment just before a flight or fight response.

75

Graphical user interface (GUI), the infrathin marriage of code and image.

76

Fluctuations between conformity and individuality.

77

The exosphere.

78

The lump in your throat when no mass is actually there.

79

Almost, exactly.

80

Shirt and skin are infrathinly married by belly button lint.

81

When you touch something that is either really hot or really cold and you can't tell the difference.

82

The warmth radiating from an electronic device after heavy use.

83

Compromise: an infrathin agreement with which no party is happy because both feel they either gave away too much or they received too little.

84

Nearsightedness.

85

Reading old diary entries is an infrathin union of past and present.

86

A book in its original language and its translation.

87

On a record player, between needle drop and sound.

88

Between thought and expression.

89

Nostalgia, infrathin displacement of the past onto the present.

90

Tradition, infrathin displacement of the past onto the present.



91

The shadow cast by an object is infrathin aura.

92

The infrathin marriage of objective and subjective reasoning results in thought.

93

Horizons, infrain negotiations of sky and earth.

94

When the train on an adjacent track is moving forward, and you're still, but you feel like you're moving backward.

95

Smoke mingled with air.

96

Germs traveling through the air after a sneeze.

97

Retinal inversion.

98

The infrathin absence of attraction between molecules and oil on a cellphone's oleophobic layer.

99

The rough edge of a ripped piece of paper.

100

A postcard of a painting is neither and both.

101

Half empty, half full.

102

Silence of infidelity, lies by omission.

103

Noise, music.

104

Two identical words, in two different languages, with different meanings.

105

Veiled anger.

106

Reading, by which the real and fictive are inextricably mixed.

107

Innuendo.

108

Same word, different meanings in different contexts.

109

Soreness, the infrathin expression of lactic acid that remains in muscle fiber after excessive exercise.

110

The seconds after midnight on the food's expiration date is infrathin contamination.

111

Exposure by infrathin, the lace of panties covering and revealing.

112

Aftertaste.

113

Aura residing in used clothes, re-sold.

114

Caliphate is infrathin geography.

115

A photograph of a photograph.

116

A xerox of a xerox.

117

Constructive criticism.

118

Thoughts within thoughts.

119

Undertow of water, moving at once both forward and backward.

120

Humidity is the infrathin marriage of water and air.

121

Liquid smoke.

122

Two way mirrors.

123

Negating itself, excessive sensation.

124

Deafening silence.

125

Between actions and words.

126

Constant variables.

127

The unknown time between the fertilization of an egg and childbirth marks the infrathin beginning of life.

128

Synaptic clefts between neurons and their passage of electrical signals throughout the body.

129

Scars infrathinly marry present physicality with past wounds.

130

Religious texts, the gap between belief and action.

131

As I engage socially when I would rather not, I negotiate silently with the infrathin.

132

Singing in the shower, infrathin performance.

133

The barrier of sunscreen infrathinly separates the skin from the sun.

134

Swiping right on Tinder, when the virtual human becomes tangible.

135

The infrathin specific is the detailed difference in digital replications.

136

Analog and digital are infrathinly differentiated audio.

137

The difference between a song played on speakers and through headphones.

138

Solar power, infrathin energy.

139

The tingle of ear eating.

140

Sweet and sour.

141

Hearing sounds, seeing colors.

142

A mirror reflection is always the infrathin inverse of itself.

143

Credit is infrathin capital.

144

Blood and skin, infrathinly married by scabbing.

145

Infrathin tension in a room so thick you could cut it with a knife.

146

The Jeopardy questions were infrathin tonight: so wholly specific they were vague.

147

A fling, border of temporary and permanent feelings of intimacy.

148

Food trucks, between restaurants and fast food.

149

Decimals, infrathin denotation of non-whole numbers.

150

Pigments mix by the infrathin.

151

Slush.

152

The urban and the rural are infrathinly married by parks.

153

The lingering of a musical note long after it is played.

154

An engagement is an infrathin circumstantial agreement to a definite, lifelong commitment.

155

When the sky is obstructed by the smog that constitutes it.

156

Jumbo shrimp.

157

The constant, but unnoticeable shifting of tectonic plates.

158

Gears enmeshed, rotating simultaneously, and their conjoined transmission.

159

Words spelled the same with different meanings.

160

Every mechanical reproduction, infrathinly different from one another.

161

Alcohol, at once a depressant and a stimulant.



162

Calluses on a hand, ready-to-peel.

163

Feeling dry when submerged in water.

164

Déjà vu.

165

Originality, at once unique and influenced.

166

Daylight savings time.

167

A flash of white light in pitch black night, simultaneously blinding and illuminating.

168

My former iterations of self feel infrathinly both yesterday and forever ago.

169

Temporary relationships, infrathin insertions into my life.

170

Dissociative personality disorders.

171

Sticky sounds, lint roller and tape.

172

Fragile masculinity is an infrathin projection of confidence-insecure.

173

Coworking space, infrathin office.

174

Motels, as the name implies, are infrathinned residence, place.

175

The word infrathin, a noun, verb, or adjective; shifting language via itself.

176

The infrathin itself is conceived of infrathinly, many meanings existing between states, and valid in each form listed on this page.

177

A footprint / in wet sand / by the water's edge / its disappearance.

178

A proliferation of distance, a void created in the wake of the double, a labyrinthine extension of corridors that seem similar and are yet different.

179

The interval between your finger tapping the glass and the screen changing.

180

Pregnant pauses, between knowing and saying.

181

Thinking aloud.

182

The interval between C-sharp and D-flat.

183

Upcoming downtrends.

184

When we expect this, but are surprised by that.

185

Identical twins, infrathinly different.

186

Black ice.

187

Vibrating ringtones.

188

Junkspace.

189

No beginning or end; always in the middle, between things, interbeing, intermezzo—infrathin history, without temporality, infinite mutability.

190

When the clothing you're wearing is so comfortable that you don't even notice you're wearing it.

191

Not a duck, not a rabbit, both, and neither.

192

Between visual sensation and image perception.

193

Is the dress blue or gold?

194

Wet drywall.

195

The many tastes of water.

196

Dry ice.

197

Siamese twins.

198

Eye contact where you both know what should be said but cannot say it.

199

Genetic mutation without discernible manifestation.

200

Dreams, in-frathin negotiations between the conscious and subconscious.

201

Water squishing.

202

The difference between a boat before and after every part has been replaced.

203

Awkwardness, imperfect interaction.

204

Tingly finger flutters.

205

The sting left from a slap to the face.

206

Definitely, maybe.

207

The people who go through subway gates at the very last moment.

208

Phantom limbs.

209

Postpartum depression.

210

The interval between thunder and lightning.

211

Objects and their representation are infrathinly wedded by shadows.

212

Wi-Fi is infrathin connectivity.

213

The tide going out, under your feet.

214

Negative growth.

215

The difference between two tract homes.

216

Amorality, both and neither.

217

Contact lenses are an infrathin marriage of perspicuous and indistinct.

218

Oils from the hands and the infrathin traces they leave on surface they encounter.

219

The blinking cursor on a computer screen.

220

Apparitions caught in photographs.

221

EVP (electronic voice phenomenon), seeing or hearing dead people through electronic devices.

222

Goosebumps.

223

The amount you age over the course of a day.

224

Sound waves, from mouth to ear.

225

Light rays, from source to eye.

226

From bud to blossom.

227

Darkness, visible.

228

The shiver you get after peeing.

229

Between a photograph of a photograph and the photographed photograph.

230

Dew on grass in the morning is an infrathin remnant of nighttime.

231

Exact, estimates.

232

When the hairs on the back of your neck stand up.

233

The infrathin difference between a text and that same text copied.



234

Riptides are infrathinly married by ingress and egress.

235

Posthumous conception.

236

How two copies of the same LP sound different because of the way they're scratched.

237

The infrathin difference between numbered prints.

238

The view through a double layered window shifts from one layer of glass to another.

239

Technology's mediation of the voice.

240

Undefined zones, between inside and outside, without any hard or fast boundaries.

241

Liquid paper.

242

The space between skin and the cream applied to it.

243

Two cars of the same make and model are infrathinly different.

244

The live display on television separated from actuality by an infrathin moment.

245

History's invisible but palpable intrusion into the present.

246

An ankle monitor is infrathin prison.

247

Two pairs of shoes, same brand, same model, infrathin difference.

248

Although appearing identical, the two sides of your face are infrathinly different.

249

Toothpaste still lingering in the bristles of a toothbrush after it's been rinsed.

250

Layers of skin, separated by infrathin degrees.

251

Face brushing.

252

Peripheral vision.

253

Para-central vision, slightly adjacent to the center of one's gaze.

254

The difference of degrees between a wet swimsuit and damp skin.

255

The greenish or bluish tint that clouds take on when they contain extremely high amounts of water.

256

The lingering presence of one who has just left your presence.

257

The time between the vibration of a string and the audible sound of a note.

258

Microtones.

259

Vegan chicken nuggets.

260

The benign imperceptible fungus covering the human body.

261

The process of a photographic image emerging in stop bath.

262

Sound, played off of different surfaces, producing variations of the same noise.

263

The sound of the ocean heard inside of a shell.

264

Mirages.

265

While swimming in a lake during a rainstorm, going underwater so you won't get wet.

266

Dander.

267

Dryer lint.

268

The follicle, still there, even after the hair is shaved off.

269

Between the rumble and an approaching train.

270

Moisture and temperature are infrathinly married by frozen rain.

271

Butterflies in the stomach.

272

Yield, between stop and go.

273

Semifluidity.

274

Light pollution.

275

Missed encounters.

276

Between Diet Coke and Coke Zero.

277

Death row, infrathin purgatory.

278

Between cold and frozen.

279

Between eccentricity and insanity.

280

Driveways, infrathin negotiations between streets and houses.

281

The exchange of body heat.

282

Rigor mortis, infrathin suspension between death and decay.

283

The lingering smell of someone else's body when you try on their t-shirt.

284

The anticipation of what someone will say the moment before they speak.

285

Already-been-chewed gum and the sidewalk it's stuck to.

286

The dust from a moth where it's been killed.

287

The impression left on the paper, after the pen runs out of ink.

288

The impression left on your hair after you remove your hair clip.

289

The impression left on your head after you remove your hat.

290

Between desire and need.

291

The cusp of a sneeze.

292

The membranous fracture between idealization and actualization.

293

The infrathin difference between each replica of a readymade.

294

Cognitive dissonance.

295

Sleeping with someone to get over someone.

296

Quotation marks.

297

Between sensory overload and complete immobility.

298

Sunlight's reddish tinge, appearing green when illuminating a bluish cloud.

299

The impression upon one's memory of another's inebriation.

300

Between camp and kitsch.

301

Two faces infrathinly melded, one of the passerby and the other of the deceased.

302

Tough love.

303

Ice cream headache.

304

Oscillating by infrathin degrees, the comfort of habit, and the anxiety of tedium.

305

Between intention and realization.

306

Microdosing.



307

Thick makeup clogging pores.

308

Physical attractiveness clouded by lack of personality.

309

Gestalt psychology, the reorganization of the world by infrathin degrees.

310

Embellishment, infrathinly amplified, each time the story is told.

311

Holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously.

312

Cranial nerve exam.

313

Melancholic music in times of grief; two modes of sadness conflated by infrathin degrees.

314

The entwining of self-indulgence and self-destruction, infrathinly.

315

The impulse to suppress hysterical laughter in times of profound acrimony.

316

The inability to recognize oneself in a mirror.

317

Deep resentment as a variant of profound attachment.

318

Between platonic affection and asexual romance.

319

Dog whistles.

320

A close parallel or repetition of an idea, feeling, style, or event.

321

Between the flashes of a strobe light.

322

How my hand becomes transparent when I hold it up to bright light.

323

Fireworks, between the image and its dissipation.

324

Nutraloaf, an infrathin marriage of punishment and subsistence.

325

The ebbs and flows of pain.

326

Feeling one's past childhood when returning home after a prolonged absence.

327

Squatting is infrathin housing.

328

Tingly glass tapping.

329

Sun showers.

330

Lying next to each other, lovers' hair intertwined is infrathinly inseparable.

331

So cold it's hot.

332

The buildup of pressure in the atmosphere right before a thunderstorm.

333

Pheromones.

334

The colors of old clothing, made different by washing.

335

Paradoxes.

336

Memory of an unrecognizable person by way of infrathin recognition.

337

The infrathin blending of stage lights and cell phones during a concert.

338

The infrathin space between the two fingers on the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

339

Jet streams.

340

Sleepy hand sounds.

341

When you feel your heartbeat in your gums.

342

When you do not recognize your surroundings, an infrathin moment of object permanence.

343

In a dream, dying.

344

The warmth of drugs, the cold of intoxication.

345

Afterimages.

346

Forces are equal and opposing, canceling each other out.

347

'Twixt cup and lip.

348

Removable stickers.

349

Between fire and ash.

350

More than a boundary, a sealed border, a threshold.

351

Suspended animation.

352

The corner where Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah meet.

353

The thin layer of black soot on urban buildings and the marks it makes.

354

Compost, an infrathin union of old death and new life.

355

Spray paint and the air it's being sprayed through.

356

Between a search query and its return, an infrathin anticipation of knowledge.

357

Zero deficits.

358

Feeling more fear from your own intentions than the consequences of your actions, infrathin control.

359

Between saying and meaning.

360

Mock duck.

361

Thundersnow.

362

Hookups, an infrathin line between commitment and insecurity.

363

Zoloft on brain, anxious thoughts, present but unallowed.

364

Familiarity with strangers.

365

Divided attention.

366

Sweaty palms.

367

The three bouncing dots, ultra-present but very absent, from a text message.

368

An infrathin pivot: because things are the way they are, they will not stay that way.

369

Deep ear licking feeling.

370

Antidepressants, infrathin emissions of happiness with side effects of suicidal thoughts.

371

Infrathin stasis: academically, when you've already secured a good job after graduation.

372

The social understanding of virginity when you're a sexually active lesbian.

373

You will not feel it if I touch your elbow while you are unaware.

374

The smell of your mother's perfume on another woman.

375

Fresh frozen.

376

Between agreeing with someone and you both being wrong.

377

The union of smoke and clouds.

378

The tingles when your foot falls asleep.



379

The international date line.

380

The gradual growth of a child, only apparent in hindsight.

381

Transitionally muddled fashion, seasonal infrathin.

382

Feeling empty after consuming calories.

383

Fake pockets in women's pants.

384

Rain makes a dull surface temporarily reflective, an infrathin mirror.

385

No-makeup makeup look.

386

Zeugma and syllepsis.

387

Average-sized things, infrathinly sufficient.

388

Skinny-fat.

389

Happy-sad.

390

Homophonic translations, which render texts in one language into a near-homophonic texts in another language, usually with no attempt to preserve the original meaning of the text.

391

Backhanded compliments.

392

Firmly held together by a collection of weak bonds.

393

The determination of war being not who is right but who is left.

394

Nano-fiber infrathinly shields actual fiber from getting wet.

395

Scratch marks that remain on his back after sex.

396

Libertarians.

397

The sloshing of water-filled containers.

398

Dippin' Dots are the infrathin marriage between liquid nitrogen and ice cream.

399

A patient in remission: clear of disease yet always at risk of recurrence.

400

Flash freezing.

401

Micropower.

402

Fuzzy logic.

403

Mediocrity.

404

The lingering smell of gasoline after you've finished pumping.

405

A signature, the infrathin mark of one's identity.

406

Scissor sounds.

407

Thresholds don't exist; limits are infrathin.

408

Body language infrathinly circumscribing personal boundaries.

409

Velcro sneakers.

410

Dental dams.

411

From when you slam your finger in a door to when you feel pain.

412

Sweat is the delay between a warm and a cooled body.

413

The appearance of a bruise several hours or days after an injury.

414

Dog-ear, folded down page corner as bookmark.

415

Dog-ear unmade, folding it back into its original location and compressing the pages of the book together.

416

Hickeys.

417

Between exploitation and appreciation.

418

How my finger turns from red to white to red when I press down on a hard surface.

419

Ungrounded intuition.

420

Baby food.

421

A relationship with an acquaintance thrives by the infrathin.

422

Lipstick traces.

423

The impressions your pencil makes on the page underneath the one you're currently writing on.

424

Skid marks.

425

A gun's recoil.

426

Static electricity.

427

Hot sand or warm pavement long after the sun has gone down.

428

A hair found on the headrest, in an airplane.

429

An old food stain, discovered on the margins of a library book, an infrathin trace of a meal.

430

An image or object, identical in form to another, but with its structure reversed, as in a mirror.

431

Marginalia.

432

The gashes on kitchen cutting boards.

433

Motion and sound are infrathinly married by sonic booms.

434

The sooty vestige of a fire in the snow.

435

The smell of urine in an alley.

436

White-knuckled fear.

437

Between saying it was your fault and blaming you.

438

On the verge of jumping from a rocky ledge into a glacial lake.

439

Coextensive space.

440

From concept to written word.

441

The dull ache behind your eyes hours after you shed tears.

442

Between a blister and its pop.

443

The exhalation of thunder the moment before it subsides.

444

Punctuated equilibrium is infrathin biology.

445

Prolepsis is infrathin rhetoric.

446

From acquaintance to friend.

447

From friend to lover.

448

From lover to ex.

449

Insinuation.

450

Pulsations of excruciating pain as displaced heartbeat.

451

From the fear of having lost something to the relief of having found it.

452

Nosebleed, by altitudinal change.

453

Doublespeak.



454

Ambient music, between sound and tint.

455

Instant reflex is infrathin automatism.

456

From cut to coagulation.

457

Acapella renditions of instrumentals.

458

Green oranges.

459

Dead flies on the windshield.

460

The trace of jalapeño on the lips.

461

From wine to vinegar.

462

A vanished beauty mark.

463

How, when someone smiles at you, your anger dissipates.

464

Promises made by newlyweds, infrathin hope.

465

The memories of an Alzheimer's patient.

466

The facts of an inconsistent lie.

467

A laser dispersed into smoke.

468

Ear brushing.

469

Between the needle and the skin.

470

The wafts of chlorine from a pool carried on a summer breeze.

471

The sound an ACL makes when it is torn.

472

The crystallization of a thought.

473

The crinkling of paper.

474

The awkward moment of silence after someone utters a racial epithet.

475

The feeling when a clown enters a room.

476

The static crinkle before the power unexpectedly shuts down.

477

Puffiness under your eyes, infrathin exhaustion.

478

Room tone.

479

The mist from a raindrop on a hot sidewalk and its evaporation.

480

Traces of pheromone altering a bee's flight trajectory.

481

The effervescence of milk hitting the Lucky Charms.

482

The specialization of a stem cell.

483

The water cycle.

484

Paper, towels.

485

When objects in (the) mirror are closer than they appear.

486

The moment of hush in a noisy restaurant right after a waiter drops a plate.

487

Border crossings, infrathin geography.

488

Between upset and angry.

489

Jet lag, when the mind is in one location and the body in another.

490

Plagiarism infrathinly inserts multiple presences into a singular piece of work.

491

The intensity of heat varies by the visual infrathin (blue, red, yellow).

492

Bridges, infrathin superseding of nature.

493

Fossils, present containers of past beings.

494

Spam, between unimportant information and necessary transmission.

495

Snow in the spring is an infrathin reversal of seasonal expectation.

496

Passive aggressive.

497

Chills.

498

Open secrets.

499

Spanglish.

500

Skin peeling after a sunburn.

501

When a pen that visibly contains ink refuses to produce on the page.

502

Illusionistic painting is infrathin retinality.

503

Am I turned on or do I just have to pee?

504

Faux fur.

505

Veggie burgers.

506

Dolly, the cloned sheep.

507

Wrinkles in clothing are delays, prints of sitting and motion.

508

Between underarm and deodorant, the infrathin marriage of smells.

509

Asking questions with no concrete answers.

510

If a tree falls in the forest...

511

Brain tingle.

512

Does an object that has had all of its components replaced remain fundamentally the same object?

513

Jeu de mots infrathinly play on the multiple meanings contained within one word.

514

Try as bartenders might to regulate drinks, the level of alcohol in each cup will never be exactly the same.

515

Infrathin paradox: The act of organizing reduces my anxiety, but viewing the messes beforehand increases it to the point where I can't begin the organization.

516

The sound of pages of a book turning.

517

Infrathin paradox: How the depression-mind prevents me from writing, even when I know it would be an immediate source of feeling better.

518

Infrathin paradox: Anxiety expects perfection on the first try, yet the fear of failure leads to first-try-avoidance.

519

Infrathin paradox: Depression requires me to be surrounded by friends, but anxiety makes me scared to not be alone.

520

Once active but now just a memory: I love avocados but hate guacamole.

521

Once active but now just a memory: I'm terrified of needles yet love getting piercings.

522

Hearing a language you do not understand: infrathin disconnect of relation and comprehension.

523

Forgetting a language once well-known is infrathin erasure of the left side of the brain.

524

How the left side of the brain controls the right side of the body, and the left side of the body hears the right side of the brain.

525

Oil on keyboard: inorganic residue of an organism's effect.



526

Evolution consists of gradual infrathin transitions that result in a creature vastly different from its ancestor.

527

Water getting low in a fish tank.

528

Sand in the vaseline.

529

Rehabilitation is infrathin addiction: the cravings never cease.

530

Found missing.

531

Repetition compulsion: each re-enactment of trauma is infrathinly similar.

532

Inside out.

533

The white when you touch a sunburn.

534

The silence between songs at a party.

535

The crushing of eggshells.

536

The water sloshing around inside the radiator.

537

Reading over someone else's shoulder.

538

Uber is infrathin labor.

539

Dawn as infrathin transition between night and day.

540

Dusk as infrathin transition between day and night.

541

The glow on the inside of the wood of the pipe when you hold a match to it.

542

When you can smell rain before it comes.

543

Invisible ink.

544

The fear that the soda will explode when you open it.

545

Brushing hair with tuning forks.

546

Subcutaneous injections.

547

Cracks in old leather.

548

The "ch" sound in Arabic and Yiddish.

549

Peeling the plastic cling wrap off an electronic screen.

550

Carbon paper.

551

The out-of-focus parts of an image produced by a lens, infrathin blur.

552

Two clocks, each one second apart.

553

Frisson.

554

Sweater pills.

555

The warmth of a piece of paper that has just emerged from a laser printer.

556

The space between another's pain and your acknowledgment of it.

557

The sound a Ziplock bag makes when you seal it.

558

The taste of toothpaste left on the taste of coffee.

559

When the smudge on your glasses becomes a smudge on the world.

560

Passing from one time zone into another.

561

Falling out of love.

562

The smells of cooking that linger long after cooking.

563

His odor on your sheets after he has left.

564

Christmas decorations in March.

565

Sad smiles.

566

Dead skin dust particles in the air.

567

Fire without smoke.

568

Food stuck between teeth, the delay of a meal.

569

Immobility after overeating, suspension between consumption and activity.

570

Semi-permanent permanence.

571

Damp umbrellas transport traces of the outside in.

572

Tumor, at once foreign and self.

573

The transition from parts to whole, through assembly.

574

Almost exactly.

575

The degree of relatedness between kin, infrathin measurement.

576

Stretch marks.

577

Tests are infrathin assessments of knowledge.

578

Decaffeinated coffee.

579

Studio apartment: neither bedroom, nor living room, nor kitchen, yet all at once.

580

Flight layovers; infrathin transitions from point A to point B.

581

Beliefs and values are infrathin adaptations which gradually change with time and experience.

582

Cockapoos.

583

Renting is the process of temporarily purchasing something that does and does not belong to you.

584

From gas to liquid, infrathin condensation.

585

That the cost of copper production being more expensive than the value of the penny itself is an infrathin paradox.

586

Book chapters.

587

Sadomasochism.

588

Biographies, between truth and fiction.

589

Personal problems: unique to us, common to others.

590

Between content and happy.

591

Hanging chads.

592

A tritone divides an octave equally in half. Given a C major scale, the distance from C to the tritone and then from the tritone to the higher C is infrathinly different each time the scale is played.

593

Misheard words or phrases that makes sense in your head, but are, in fact, entirely incorrect.

594

Characteristics that are defining of an individual but are not unique to them.

595

Comas.

596

Commas.

597

Ligaments infrathinly marry bone and muscle.

598

Humble bragging.

599

Low-grade euphoria.

600

Frozen yogurt.



601

When you press on your eyes with your fists and see stars.

602

From slake to ceramic.

603

Dangling participles.

604

Soot on snow.

605

When your sock slips, bunching up inside your shoe.

606

The taste of metal under your tongue after a workout.

607

Homonyms.

608

The hot pain you feel when your frozen hands thaw.

609

Cold after shower.

610

The non-smoke smoke from e-cigarettes.

611

Small earbud shocks.

612

Airbnb, infrathin home.

613

Pretending to not see someone you know is infrathin relation.

614

The time you wait to text back, calculated delays.

615

Electronic micropayment, infrathin delay.

616

Browser history, the infrathin mark of ourselves that we leave on our devices.

617

The spectrum of gender fluidity & sexual preference.

618

The infrathin transference of heat between two touching bodies.

619

The gradual changing in color of an object as it dries.

620

When a dog's ear twitches compulsively.

621

Decomposition.

622

On a rainy day, feeling pain from a bone broken decades ago.

623

Choice is infrathinly married by will and influence.

624

Eyeglasses are the infrathin bridge between impairment and clarity.

625

The product and consumer are infrathinly wed by the entrepreneur.

626

Enjambment.

627

The air you breathe on a plane is infrathinly yours.

628

Pain and the exorcism of pain become infrathinly married.

629

Daydreaming.

630

G-force.

631

Whether or not the body will accept the transplanted organ as its own.

632

Moonlight, in the presence of sunlight reflected off a heavenly body.

633

The metallic taste of water once it has been in a metal container; the in the marrying of metal and water.

634

Blood transfusions.

635

Knowing someone, and the moment later when you realize that you never knew them at all.

636

The place where you grew up and the place you were born (if different): both are in your origin.

637

The distance between coworkers in a cubicle office.

638

Whether or not people.

639

Response to treatment, an infrathin test of luck.

640

Asking a question that you already know the answer to.

641

Waiting for the other ear to pop after exiting a flight.

642

Pain along the edge of a cut already healed.

643

The dust in the crevasses of your keyboard.

644

Steam and its sizzle.

645

Rare, medium rare.

646

Between China and itself, Taiwan.

647

The sound of one hand clapping.

648

Infrathin ruler, a prince without subjects.

649

The accidental discharge of a firearm.

650

Overheard conversations, at once yours and not yours.

651

The carving up of Empires.

652

Video scan lines.

653

Impressions of a head on a pillow, just left.

654

The smell of old cologne on a jacket that you haven't worn for months.

655

Bumper marks on highway dividers, infrathin traces of trauma.

656

The cigarette burns and boot prints on Jackson Pollock's paintings.

657

Rainbows.

658

Infrathin media: painting as sculpture.

659

A door left ajar is infrathin closure.

660

Intersectionality.

661

Addictive euphoria.

662

Only choice.

663

Opera is infrathinly queer.

664

Two identical sentences, when spoken, are infrathinly separated by intonation.

665

Doing something, especially when concealed.

666

Infrathin intimacy, anonymous sex.

667

Gallows humor.

668

Unspoken rules.

669

Between (excessive) individuation and (excessive) social control.

670

Play as infrathin fantasy.

671

Marble as infrathin divinity.

672

Between a clear conscience and a bad memory.

673

Between pseudoscience and alternative medicine.

674

Finger tapping on the tabletop that sounds like rain.

675

Between self-delusion and subjective reality.

676

Soap, suds.



677

Treading water.

678

The loquacious gaze, between seeing and speaking.

679

Pandrogyné, infrathin gender.

680

Between identification and idolization, playing dress-up.

681

Addiction: between physical need and cerebral rejection.

682

Simultaneously connected and isolated, the digital.

683

Hair of the dog, more of the same, infrathin cure.

684

Refresh: legally changing your given name to your given name.

685

Tides are wed by the infrathin attraction of the sun to the moon.

686

Love bites.

687

Watered silk.

688

Wet t-shirts.

689

Calligraphy is the infranthin union of visual art and the written word.

690

Self-medication, infrathin addiction.

691

Airport lounges: where one passes without registering passage.

692

Sadness: you speak to me in words and I look at you with feelings.

693

The traces of ink that remain on your fingertips after reading the Sunday paper.

694

Infrathin weather: snowflakes that melt into raindrops; pass back into freezing air; then refreeze into ice pellets.

695

All are infrathinly similar in their desire for individuality.

696

Watery mud.

697

The motionlessness of waiting while anticipating movement.

698

The fourth wall.

699

Half-and-half.

700

Caesura, continuum.

701

The infrathin codependence of wind carving stone, and stone stopping the wind.

702

Tarot readings: infrathin determinism.

703

The warmth of a seat which has just been left.

704

One's attraction intensifies the more the other withdraws.

705

Vanity: the infrathin boundary between self-satisfaction and the need for external validation.

706

When you place all your faith in something that you don't believe in.

707

When you carry your awareness of defeat like a banner of victory.

708

The moment between pulling the cord and parachute deployment.

709

When you order 500 truffles and one of them comes a tiny bit deformed but that's the special one.

710

When you're about to sneeze and your eyes flutter.

711

The dance on the sidewalk when two people are headed straight toward each other and they both try to get out of each other's way.

712

The moon and sun are infrathinly united by an eclipse.

713

Original copies.

714

The fact that water and gas are both clear.

715

Description of an orgasm.

716

Intentional incompleteness.

717

Flying fish.

718

Mercury, not exclusively female, but both male and female.

719

The difference between a \$10 bottle of wine and a \$500 bottle of wine, to a non-connoisseur.

720

Memory recollection: overwriting the past, replacing the former memory.

721

Between her, she, and he: Hershey.

722

Unboxing sunglasses.

723

Between a fixture and a freestanding sculpture.

724

I really wanted a camouflage shirt, but I couldn't find one.

725

The visible change in brightness between cycles displayed of a celluloid film.

726

When the obvious becomes difficult.

727

When the difficult becomes obvious.

728

Between indecisiveness and not being sure.

729

Between listening and hearing.

730

Candid posing.

731

Revolving doors, always open and always closed.

732

Virtual tours.

733

Friend requests from strangers.

734

Flightless birds.

735

The passage of light through sheer curtains.

736

A drugged individual, present and not present.

737

Unique in its diversity.

738

Premium mediocre.

739

Gradually turning into your parents.

740

Outsider art is the infrathin union of madness and sublimity.

741

Between the forest and the trees.

742

Nondescript descriptions.

743

Conspiracy theories—collage of “evidence”—infrathin truth and delusion.

744

Slipstream: category for uncategorical fiction.

745

“Derivative.”

746

Portmanteau.

747

Lost films—infrathin entertainment.

748

Leather glove sounds.

749

Every piece of iron in the Eiffel Tower has been replaced and repainted: the tower is an infrathin version of itself.

750

The distinction between the voices of two relatives.



751

Legacies, infrathin you.

752

Couch-surfing, infrathin residency.

753

The fingerprints of a crime scene: infrathin residue.

754

Laughing at your own joke that no one else understands,  
infrathin humor.

755

Talking to yourself, infrathin conversation.

756

Opening the fridge each time and, each time, finding nothing  
new to eat.

757

Does the twinkling light in the night sky belong to a plane or  
a star?

758

Pure, evil.

759

The intermingling of breath with smoke particles from burnt-  
up meteors.

760

A gap year, between undergraduate and graduate studies.

761

The need to sneeze after plucking the hair of your eyebrow just above your nose.

762

Work cubicles not conducive to effective working.

763

Semi-colons.

764

The change in behavior due to the feeling of being watched when nobody's watching.

765

Key molds vary by the infrathin.

766

The moment when a guest's stay becomes too long.

767

Artificial sweeteners.

768

Electrical shocks.

769

Plastic glasses.

770

Knockoffs are infrathin name brands.

771

Empty display cases.

772

Permanent substitutes.

773

Texting style according to audience, an infrathin shift in formality.

774

Lamination.

775

Why does each pasta shape taste completely different?

776

Full vacuums.

777

Velvet trousers whistling sound is an infrathin separation signaled.

778

Windows at night; the inside is clearly visible.

779

Windows in the daytime; the outside is clearly visible.

780

A cracked phone screen that still functions.

781

The cracks in that screen.

782

Staying in a robe for an hour after a shower despite being extremely busy.

783

Eating one string cheese versus the whole bag, when to stop?

784

Pre-ejaculate, infrathin orgasm.

785

Staying awake beyond an infrathin breaking point and no longer feeling tired.

786

The perfect time to wake up is an infrathin boundary between being tired all day and pleasantly refreshed post-waking.

787

When a nap is no longer a nap.

788

Sleep, those little slices of death.

789

Master, slave.

790

Clouds at night which appear black or dark grey in a moonless sky. Those same clouds that turn whitish when illuminated by the moon.

791

Taking a nap and forgetting the time of day: infrathin disorder.

792

Androgyne.

793

The red lines on the outside of my thighs; a tight jean delay.

794

The vegan who wears a Canada Goose jacket.

795

The environmental studies girl who just threw her cigarette butt on the floor.

796

Breathing and gagging are married infrathinly by hiccups.

797

Friction infrathinly limits movement.

798

Now, then.

799

The modern trend of wearing vintage clothing.

800

The right and left hemisphere of the body are infrathinly identical and distinct.

801

The uneven feeling of the fit of shoes caused by the infrathin size difference between the left and right foot.

802

The difference between a statistical average and a mean.

803

The infrathin marriage of a mouth and a nose is a cleft palate.

804

A calendar leap year accounts for infrathin change in time.

805

The transition from humorous profanity to inappropriate profanity.

806

Ring around the collar.

807

Saying I'm fine when I'm not.

808

Clock lag.

809

Between a pimple and its pop.

810

Arrogance versus confidence.

811

Hug hormones.

812

Allosteric sites infrathinly control the reactive site.

813

Swiffer is the infrathin marriage of duster and mop.

814

Chipped nail polish.

815

Full weightlessness during a skydiver's free fall is infrathin gravity.

816

Real versus displayed intentions, infrathin truth.

817

International plug converters.

818

Persistent ambivalence.

819

In anticipation of the broken arm.

820

Drizzling versus raining versus pouring.

821

When the music in ear buds is just loud enough for a neighbor to hear.

822

Recent history.

823

The gradient of pleasure felt by the release of endorphins when stretching and cracking your joints.



824

Wearing broken watches for the aesthetic.

825

A butterfly flapping its wings in China.

826

A 6am light jog versus a morning run.

827

The sound of ear cupping with cups.

828

The personification of the pun.

829

Orphans.

830

Heat bending light, deforming images.

831

Powdered water.

832

Anesthesia.

833

The space between two trains going in opposite directions on adjacent tracks.

834

Equal and opposite reactions.

835

The edge of two opposing thoughts.

836

Conscious breathing when very close to someone; natural and controlled.

837

When your phone charger works at one extremely precise angle and position and not another.

838

"Do you like me?" "Do you like like me?"

839

Twelve-ounce pound cake.

840

Contrails, infrathinly wedding water and exhaust.

841

Silk stockings...the thing too.

842

When a relationship is a thing but not really a thing.

843

The log that remains after playing live video games.

844

The feeling of regret, the moment after hitting send.

845

The corrupted JPEG as miles of text in an email is infrathin image.

846

Perpetual motion machines.

847

The tension between titles and paintings.

848

Varnish as amplification.

849

Cracking plastic paper.

850

Oil and water; infrathin separation; immiscible.

851

The moment the student becomes the teacher.

852

Inspirational clichés.

853

“You don’t get it” — refusal of explanation and discursive discussion.

854

Spending the present missing the past and craving the future.

855

Act naturally.

856

Exhibitionism—shame or pride? Both?

857

Ink bleeding through paper.

858

Shirts.

859

Morbid curiosity.

860

Rorschach inkblots.

861

The infrathin diffusion of water up the stem of a plant, defying the force of gravity.

862

Homes: the infrathin partition between an interior and exterior world.

863

Melting glaciers are infrathin global warming.

864

Weight of loss, all-consuming lack.

865

Negative dialectics, infrathin description.

866

Useless knowledge, tidbits.

867

Sad drunks: sad because they drank, or drinking because they're sad?

868

Between text and paratext.

869

Does anyone ever truly feel like an "adult"?

870

Gut instinct. Inexplicable knowledge.

871

“Book smart”—ivory towers—infrathin intelligence and impracticality.

872

Howling, screams, language without articulation.

873

When moving pictures don’t move.

874

Temporary tattoos.

875

Reading in between the lines; an infrathin detection skill.

876

Rules that are meant to be broken.

877

Smartphone: communication, information, photography, distraction. Everything and nothing.

878

White sneakers, impossible to keep clean. An infrathin display.

879

Transition devices: words which carry thoughts from one sentence to another.

880

An oppressed person oppressing other persons.

881

Civil disobedience.

882

The conversion of YouTube music video to an mp3 file.

883

Plastic surgery; the transformation from original self to ideal self.

884

Blisters, infrathin layers of protection.

885

The ozone layer; Earth's infrathin shield.

886

The depletion of the ozone layer; the removal of Earth's infrathin shield.

887

Estuaries, infrathin mixing.

888

Mudskippers, between fish and reptiles.

889

Newtonian fluids, infrathin between solid and liquid.

890

The whisperings of tropic nights.

891

A tree caught between summer's green and autumn's red.

892

Critical point, where gas and liquid have the same density, therefore indistinguishable.

893

Sheets, in between bed and me.

894

The time between the start and end of a sunset.

895

Privacy setting; an infrathin shield from the virtual public.

896

Green shrubbery dressed in snow.

897

Anonymous usernames.

898

The mixture of tears and rain.



899

Idiot savants.

900

Alcoholic Anonymous meetings: anonymous identity as everyone shares the identity of an alcoholic.

901

Yellow traffic light is both speed up/slow down.

902

“Star-crossed lovers”: infrathin idolization of romantic love and the romance of failure.

903

Béla Bartók’s Night music: the infrathin fusion between stylistic composition and natural phenomenon.

904

Between language and sound: mantras, chants, and prayers.

905

It is sure to be dark if you shut your eyes.

906

Light and dark become infrathinly separated by subjectivity.

907

Diacritical signs modify pronunciation by infrathin degrees.

908

Subtweeting: tweeting about an individual without explicitly naming them.

909

The limit does not exist.

910

The expiration date on a pill bottle is an infrathin truth.

911

Solastalgia, an infrathin affliction, an unconscious response to changing environment.

912

Sehnsucht, a wistful yearning, an ambiguous emotional occurrence.

913

Rosy retrospection is an infrathin cognitive bias.

914

The diffusion of milk with freshly brewed coffee.

915

Two forms cast in the same mold, differ from each other by an infrathin separate amount.

916

The semantic distinction between trivial and quadrivial.

917

The pun: the foundation of letters exploiting formal resemblance to establish meaning.

918

Silent letters, an example of the shifty infrathin relationship between letters and sound.

919

Pictorial nominalism; the transformation from word to signs, creating the plastic being of language.

920

Rose Sélavy.

921

Botched capital punishment.

922

Translation: infrathin separation between the detonation noise of a gun and the apparition of the bullet hole in the target.

923

Fog lingering on the mirror after a hot shower.

924

Tangible heaviness of air on a humid day.

925

The dizzy feeling when blood rushes to the head after getting up too quickly.

926

The demarcation of transitions in a color gradient.

927

The bouncing of a speaker when the bass is too high.

928

Heat lightning is an infrathin union of storm and sun.

929

The ringing in your ears is an infrathin remainder of sound.

930

Right of passage ritual; liminal change in social status within a culture.

931

“Or” can be used to divide alternatives or string synonyms.

932

South Park (vulgar animated shows), infrathinly adult.

933

The third place of a bar, barbershop, or club; infrathin between work and home.

934

Nominations at an awards show—infrathin glory.

935

Psychogeography, infrathin physical memory.

936

The electric shock-like sensation produced by bumping your funny bone.

937

The multiple types of treatment for the same disease vary by the infrathin.

938

The overhead bridges between buildings, infrathin institutional merging.

939

Bloodletting.

940

Placebo effect.

941

The possible, implying the becoming.

942

Hand lotion sounds.

943

Scopophilia, voyeurism.

944

Iridescents

945

Sleep No More infrathins actor and audience.

946

Multitasking.

947

The use of Lux Eterna in Requiem for a Dream is an infrathin reminder of desperation.

948

The mutt, infrathin breed.

949

A cutter is infrathinly wedded by a curveball and a fastball.

950

A humorous meme, claimed by a hateful group, is at once both.

951

Nude tights, infrathin skin.

952

Although anonymity is degree zero, it too includes gradations, false anonymities, or cryptic onymities.

953

For a person in shock, time passes infrathinly different in relation to everyone else.

954

Withdrawal symptoms as delay.

955

Writing in dust.

956

Simulacra.

957

Remaindered books.

958

Cryptocurrencies.

959

Simulations, the reproduction of behavior.

960

Special relativity, the difference in time on Earth and in Space.

961

Tremors, the aftermath of shock.

962

Semicolon vs em-dash.

963

Gradually turning into your mother.

964

Between passion and purpose.

965

Same penis, infrathinly different measurements during different times of day.

966

Art, infrathin subjectivity.

967

ASMR.

968

The inexplicability of cute.

969

Unisex names.

970

Heat from your leg melting chocolate in your pocket.

971

Patina on old leather shoes.

972

Webbed cracks in glazed pottery.



973

Fabric sounds.

974

A blank cheque.

975

Language becoming infrathinly more intelligible aurally than when read.

976

Digital privacy, infrathin security.

977

What's lost in translation.

978

Versions of identical religious texts.

979

Healing, an infrathin process.

980

Asymptotes.

981

When a bubble lands intact on the ground.

982

The infrathin effect of heat on flavor.

983

Not following the instructions of a recipe, infrathin disobedience.

984

The letters in the middle of words are infrathin; It doesn't matter in what order they come in, the only important thing is that the first and last letters be at the right place.

985

Differences between snowflakes.

986

Purgatory.

987

Heterotopias.

988

The UN building; infrathinly 192 countries.

989

Feeling numb: physically alive, but not seeming it.

990

Diplomatic immunity, infrathin transfer of law.

991

US embassies and military bases in foreign countries; infrathin American soil.

992

Limbo child: separated from own culture yet not incorporated into host culture.

993

The cracked texture of scooped ice cream.

994

Interest in someone you've slept with, infrathinly dissipating.

995

Method of consumption infrathinly affects the experience with drugs.

996

Digital footprint as infrathin identity.

997

A heavy metal umlaut's infrathin relationship to a conventional umlaut.

998

Between difference and repetition.

999

Eyelids as light switch.

1000

Hangnails, infrathinly attached.



## AFTERWORD

What is infrathin? It's not really clear. Purposely. The French word *inframince* (translated into English as infrathin) was coined by Marcel Duchamp, but in typical Duchampian fashion, he claimed that it couldn't be defined. Instead, he insisted that one could only give examples of it. Over the course of his life, he gave a few:

- the warmth of a seat (which has just/been left) is infra-thin
- When the tobacco smoke smells also of the mouth which exhales it, the 2 odors marry by the infra-thin
- velvet trousers, their whistling sound is an infra-thin separation signaled

Without getting too specific, we can surmise that infranthin is the space between spaces, the sound between sounds, the sensation between sensations; neither here nor there, this nor that, but both—all at the same time. The closest metaphor is the fourth dimension, which is best illustrated by a cube collapsing in on itself and at the same time expanding. I know. It's not very helpful. But that's the whole point—it's a moving target, a ball of contradictions; just when you think you've got it, it's escaped you.

It's also a lot of fun. Once you start thinking about the infra-thin, it becomes a game, and soon you start coming up with your own examples. And once you start, it's hard to stop. At least we found it to be; it wasn't long before we came up with a thousand examples of them. We only wish we had time to do another thousand. We realized that after Duchamp's delicious smattering of infrathins, nobody else ever bothered to come up with more. We decided to do something about that. The result is on your screen—or in your hands.

The world is nothing if not infrathin. Once you put on the Duchampian glasses (very Large Glass[es], pun intended), you can't unsee it, as if all the world were hiding in plain sight. You

wonder how you lived so long, blind to it. After an encounter with the infrathin, the world becomes infinitely richer, infinitely bigger, and infinitely weirder. The infrathin does what all good art is supposed to do—it makes you see the world in an entirely new way. But Duchamp doesn't require you to leap through great intellectual hoops in order to do so; rather, he just asks that you open your eyes, and in turn, your mind. The great misapprehension of Duchamp is that he's difficult. It's just the opposite: he's so simple that he's sublime. Just think of your first encounter with his urinal. Once you get it, nothing is ever the same again. It's so easy. Suddenly, every object in the world is a sculpture. After that, the mere act of walking down a street is the equivalent of visiting a museum.

But you already know this and so do I. Duchamp is canonical, a part of our artistic DNA. But what about a group of students in their late teens and early twenties in the waning years of the second decade of the twenty-first century? Can this stuff—already one hundred years old—have any relevance to them? The great surprise is that the answer is not only yes, but how very much it means to them—in ways that are so different than it does to us. For them, the internet—their lifeblood—is totally infrathin, a world riddled with in-betweenness. From social media accounts that appear to be human but are actually robotic (or vice versa), to a president who employs doublespeak as policy, to having to reckon with contradictory ideas like “fake news” (something that claims truth and falseness at once), the digital falls squarely within the infrathin.

And beyond that, the digital travels invisibly but concretely across an infrathin medium, Wi-Fi. From the transference of images and sound (who ever thought you could email someone a movie or LP?), to 3D printing, the web's fluidity and constantly changing states is nothing if not Duchampian. Duchamp gives them the key to reconciling, even embracing contradiction; in a time of divisive partisanship, flexibility might turn out to be our most valuable tool. Ask any of these students and they'll tell you

in no uncertain terms: Marcel Duchamp predicted the twenty-first century.

Here's a hint for you academics: Duchamp is a pedagogical dream. This year-long class, which met once a week for three hours, could easily have been six hours, and extended an additional year. And even then we would barely have scratched the surface. You see, Duchamp never moves in straight lines; he turns back in on himself, contradicts everything he says, and each thing ends up connecting to all other things. Before you know it, you're miles from where you've started and the class is just about over. The whole point of Duchamp is that there is no point. No. That's not correct. There are too many points, all of which are equally interesting and fruitful. You take one path and suddenly you're lost in a forest of referents, a *dérive*, as the situationists called it. For an entire year, we got nowhere—and everywhere—and it couldn't have been more engaging, intellectually stimulating, or enlightening. Each week, we permitted ourselves to get lost, and it was a delight.

It's so easy. And so hard. Take something Duchamp said about art and try it out with literature. When he asks, "Can works [of art] be made which are not 'of art?'" we respond with "Can works of [of literature] be made which are not 'of literature?'" What could that possibly be? As you can imagine, we spent weeks on that one prompt. The conversation—and what a conversation it was—was as vital as the works we produced. Here's another: Create a readymade piece of writing which, in Duchamp's words, is "based on a reaction of visual indifference, with at the same time a total absence of good or bad taste." That one ate up another month. And so it went, for an entire year.

But we weren't alone in this, we consulted with the greatest Duchamp scholars in order to fortify our knowledge. We were visited by Thierry de Duve, who has written no less than eight books about the artist in English (there are many more books and articles in French). He walked us through his interpretation of *The Large Glass* for three solid hours. We met with Francis Naumann,

a historian, teacher, and art dealer who published a 530-page tome about Duchamp, a book that took him forty years to write. Or the artist Serkan Ozkaya, who to great acclaim last fall, meticulously reconstructed Duchamp's *Étant donnés* only to discover that, in fact, the piece was a camera obscura—something that was never known until he discovered it. Ozkaya installed the piece in Duchamp's former studio on 11<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City—and gave the students a tour of it there.

And of course Philadelphia is the home to the largest collection of Duchamps in the world, and we were fortunate enough to be able to spend time with them, our noses nearly literally pressed up against his Glass. There we were guided by the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Curator of Modern Art, Matthew Affron, who not only walked us through his centenary exhibition celebrating Duchamp's *Fountain*, but also spent hours guiding us through a rare Duchamp *Green Box* in the Museum's library, a privilege that few are afforded. And finally, we read and watched and listened extensively to the master, Duchamp himself, whose breathtaking eloquence and complexity intrigued and inspired us each time we encountered him.

And the result? These students are diehard Duchampians, devoted through and through. Their lives have forever been altered by having been exposed to his work and thoughts. Not all will go on to be artists, poets, or art historians, but no matter what they do, Duchamp has bestowed gifts that will serve them long past the time when they are sheltered by this institution. No encounter with Duchamp is casual, and his lessons pay a never-ending dividend.

Duchamp is not only a pedagogical gift, but an argument for strong liberal arts education in a time when such programs are being cut in universities across the country in favor of more "practical" endeavors. But Duchamp's impracticality is the perfect antidote to conventional thought; if there was anyone who thought "outside the box," it was Duchamp, who practically invented the idea (but also stayed inside, creating box-based artworks like his *Green* and *White Boxes*—I know, more contra-



diction). The students were fortunate enough to have prolonged exposure to his ideas which will tint their every encounter moving forward, making them infinitely more complex, unique, and sophisticated thinkers, proving that the traditional avant-garde has long legs that travel far into this still-newish century.

— Kenneth Goldsmith

## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

We observe some trends. First, among our students there is a new resistance to pre-professionalism, an embrace of the impractical as counter-intuitively useful for understanding the contemporary world. Second, there's a realization that digital living can inspire (again counter-intuitively) a special new appreciation of DIY making and archiving. And third, the classroom is not the right space for lecture—for one-way transmission of knowledge absent of mutual realization and multiform improvisation. Put these trends together and one can feel that the arts in higher learning, if arranged rightly, can provide a truly liberating education. As Kenneth Goldsmith—who has taught versions of this innovative course for many years—sincerely observes: “Duchamp is a pedagogical dream.”

Our students surely sense this dreaminess. Those who have been attracted to Goldsmith's experimental yearlong seminar on writing in/through/but-not-“about” contemporary art are among the finest and most intellectually daring, capacious, and powerful undergraduate students we have at Penn. And, to judge anecdotally from what visitors from other great universities have said after spending time with them, they may well be among the most intrepid in the U.S. It's a claim that can't easily be tested, but it does seem a fair and apt one.

The seminar is the result of an ongoing collaboration the Creative Writing Program in the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing (CPCW) and the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA). It is a beautiful convergence of the two entities: right there where Marcel Duchamp's infrathin space-between-spaces and the students' own experiments with language meet. Where “The dust in the crevasses of your keyboard” (#643) begins to appear as granulations in the writing. Where “misheard words or phrases that makes sense in your head, but are, in fact, entirely incorrect” (#593) are nonetheless sensibly heard. Where the space “Between saying and meaning” (#359) is also known as

the classroom. Where one is by design never forced to choose “Between passion and purpose” (#964). As Goldsmith has enjoyed saying to anyone within earshot, the poetry world is more than a half-century behind the visual art world; experiments in painting, sculpture and conceptual art have been doing things that most poets and poetics people have heretofore felt impossible or unnecessary. The term “behind” suggests a competition, but of course it’s not that. It’s not a course (as it were) with a finish line or single endpoint. It’s a means, a movement defying conventional academic evaluation, a way toward fresh conception through educational defamiliarization. The success of the project comes from putting the two worlds aesthetically—and pedagogically—together. Thus will emerge, we expect, a new generation of artists and arts-minded citizens who are actively uninterested in distinctions between the arts; they know it’s all one project.

You hold in your hands a wonderful instance of that resistance to distinction. And, too, an expression of young people who have been encouraged to think innovatively in that odd interstice created by this seminar’s transformation of Art History or English (or Computer Science) majors into “diehard Duchampians.” For some or perhaps most this transformation followed the quasi-accident of stray enrollment in an interesting-seeming seminar whose deep, intense encounters—such as spending three hours with Thierry de Duve looking at *The Large Glass*—were utterly unanticipated.

What’s not accidental is the support we receive in order to pull off this venture. We wish to acknowledge Mingo Reynolds of CPCW, and Julia Bloch, Director of the Creative Writing Program, for their support of Kenny and his students; Dirk Wittenborn and the Cape Branch Foundation for their ongoing grant funding for this innovative Penn project; and Matthew Affron of the PMA for his tolerance of our sometimes whimsical approach and for his shared vision.

— Al Filreis  
Kelly Professor  
Director, Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing

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