

DOUGLAS HUEBLER



"Douglas Huebler is a real artist" — C. C. Cook, Director

The Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, Massachusetts

May 8 — June 14, 1970

The objective facts of nature and the laws of science impose no conditional norms upon us, for, in themselves, they are meaningless and neutral to value.

The artist sets the language of his work but need not designate its meaning.

Words and numbers, like all other *things*, must, for an instant at least, be *perceived* before concepts may form.

To insist that every conversation shall be conducted in one's own language is, in men of the world, only bad manners; in philosophy sophistry as well.

Since all sentences of logic are tautological and devoid of content we cannot draw inferences from them about what was necessary or impossible in reality.

Fabrication is the issue of art: its product redundant; the function of a work should be co-extensive with its facts.

The *subject* of art is the percipient engaged in a self-producing activity that, itself, replaces appearance and becomes the virtual image of the work.

The language organizes a system, logical or random in form, that appropriates undifferentiated phenomena into a continuum that makes empirical verification "meaning" - less thereby shifting all information within the system beyond perceptual experience.

This retroductive procedure, this reasoning back from observations to formulae from which the observation statements and their explanations follow, is fundamental in modern physics.

Because we have the notion of the sign, our task is that of bringing secondary qualities to the business of truth at the level of the intelligible; we are no longer limited to the perceptible.

Variable Piece #20  
Bradford, Massachusetts

In March, 1970 twelve one sentence "statements" originated by the artist for the purpose of this piece were mixed, in a container, with eight one sentence quotes taken from various other sources; each sentence was written onto a separate piece of paper. Ten statements were drawn by "blind" selection and, in the exact order of their selection, join altogether to form the "catalog statements" for the artist's exhibition at the Addison Gallery of American Art (May-June, 1970).

(In the following bibliography the sources for the eight borrowed quotes may be found although no specific statement is keyed to its actual author).

Wild, John. "Authentic Existence", in *An Invitation to Phenomenology*, ed. James M. Edie. (Chicago 1965), p. 62.

Collingwood, R. G. *The Principles of Art*, (New York 1958), p. 174.

Ayer, A. J. *Logical Positivism*, (New York 1959), p. 143.

Levi-Strauss, Claude. "Overture to *le Cru le cuit*", in *Structuralism: Yale French Studies*, ed. Jacques Erhmann. (New Haven 1966), p. 58.

Cage, John. *Silence*, (Cambridge 1969), p. 206.



Melko, Matthew. *The Nature of Civilizations*, (Boston 1969), p. 84.

Hanson, Norwood Russell. *Patterns of Discovery*, (Cambridge 1958), p. 109.

Nakamura, Hajime. *Ways of Thinking of Eastern People*, (Honolulu, 1968), p. 352.

Douglas Huebler  
March, 1970

This surface is, at this instant, reflecting the imperceptibly changing physical essence of its percipient.



The line above is rotating on its axis at a speed of one revolution each day.

La linea qui rappresentata si protende verso l'infinito ad una velocità che è visivamente impercettibile.

Oben dargestellt ist der Schatten einer Linie, die in Wirklichkeit 7 cm der wahrgenommenen Linie vorausliegt, und zwar beginnend mit dem Punkt, der direkt in Augenhöhe liegt und sich parallel ins Unendliche bewegt.



Variable Piece # 18  
Andover, Massachusetts

"I love a parade!"  
"You can't have everything!"  
"The feet! The feet!"  
"From stamping out burning ducks!"  
"Your Ma's spoiled, thats all!"  
"Everybody's got to be someplace!"  
"Up tight, out of sight and in the groove!"  
"That's nice! Don't fight!"  
"Off we go to Scotland Yard!"  
"If it were 12 inches, it would be a foot!"

During the time that this piece is on exhibition at the Addison Gallery each person visiting the gallery is invited to submit an original "text" for 5 jokes that climax, in each case, one of the "punch lines" from the above 10.

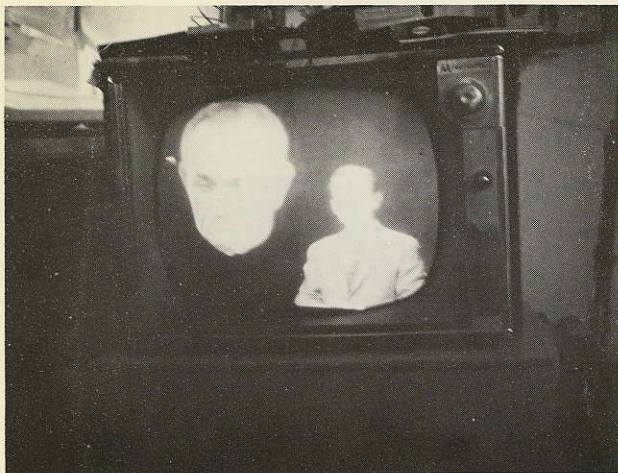
(Each entry will be judged according to its intrinsic merit, and *not* by how closely it approximates the text of the joke from which it was taken).

FIRST PRIZE            \$50        SECOND PRIZE            \$25        THIRD PRIZE            \$10

The decision of the judges will be final, and all entries will become documents of this piece, joining with this statement to constitute the final form of this piece.

Douglas Huebler  
April, 1970





Variable Piece # 17  
Bradford, Massachusetts

On March 13, 1970 a one hour cassette tape recorded audio aspects, and 48 Polaroid photographs recorded visual aspects of portions from the following television "information" programs: *David Frost Show*, *Huntley-Brinkley*, and *Eyewitness Newsday*.

35 mm slides were made of the Polaroids and altogether they join with the tape and this statement to constitute the form of this piece.

(Whenever "exhibited" there will exist no sequential relationship between the slides as projected, and information on the tape).

Douglas Huebler  
March, 1970



Variable Piece #6  
Paris, France

On January 7, 1970 a point was inscribed, (with a ball point pen), somewhere within the general location described by the photograph that accompanies this statement; the location of that point establishes the initial "step" of this piece.

It will be the responsibility of the owner of this piece to design, and execute, every aspect of a system that will actually complete the piece. Duration in "time" or location space, or both, will structure, logically or randomly, the form of the system.

The initial location was selected arbitrarily and is documented by the photograph mentioned above, as well as a map, but neither necessarily needs to be included in the final documentation of the piece.

The work on the piece should begin within 60 days from the time that its owner acquires it: its actual completion may occur any time thereafter.

All pieces within this series (10 altogether—Paris, 1970) may, at some future time, be brought back into one situation, if the owners agree, to be published or exhibited, or both.

The photograph, this statement and the map constitute the form of the piece until such time as they are joined by an indeterminate number of other documents that will accumulate within the system established by the owner for its completion.

Douglas Huebler  
January 1970





Duration Piece # 11

Washington, D.C. — Bradford, Massachusetts

On February 27, 1970 a letter (multilith) was sent to each of the 100 members of the United States Senate requesting a reply that would represent his, or her, opinion concerning a comment made by Senator John Stennis on a TV—radio program as reported in a Boston newspaper.

By March 27, 1970 ten senators had replied; Senator Alan Cranston ( D—Calif.) included a copy of the relevant page from the original television transcript. To each of the ninety senators who had not, at that time, replied another letter was sent that included the original wording as well as a new request based on the material sent by Senator Cranston and enclosed as additional multilith "copy".

All replies, (14 at this writing), and their enclosures will join with this statement to constitute the final form of this piece.

Douglas Huebler  
April 27, 1970



February 27, 1970

The United States Senate  
Capitol Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I am conducting a survey that will document the individual opinion of each United States Senator concerning his, or her, response to remarks made on Sunday, February 22, 1970 by Senator John Stennis (as broadcast within the context of CBS's "Face The Nation" TV-radio interview panel): specifically . . . "We will have to pass a constitutional amendment, to say under certain facts a person would forfeit their (sic) right to a trial". (Reported by the Associated Press in The Boston Globe, Monday, February 23, 1970, column 4, page 5).

I fully understand that you are, no doubt, very busy with the many responsibilities of your office but I would very much appreciate a letter from you that I may use, as a public document, as one aspect of my survey.

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March 27, 1970

During the month that has passed since I sent you the above letter I have received a number of replies that have been thoughtfully responsive to the intent of my enquiry. One of your colleagues secured a copy of the page (here enclosed) from the original transcript of the program from which the quote was taken.

I hope that that authentication will serve as the proper instrument that you may use to now issue the response that I very much need to complete this survey.

Sincerely yours,

---

Douglas Huebler  
6 South Park Street  
Bradford, Massachusetts 01830

Thank you for your February 27 letter relating to remarks attributed to Senator Stennis in the context of the Chicago 7 trial. I did not see the program and therefore do not know if the news report quoted him accurately. I can only say for myself that I do not envision circumstances under which I would deny a hearing to any defendant on any charge. I just as firmly believe that our judicial system can survive only where the power of the court is recognized by the accused as well as the accuser and where that power is enforced against any who elect to flaunt or ignore it.

March 2, 1970

B. Everett Jordan, N. C.

Senator Eastland has asked me to answer your letter of February 26 concerning a constitutional amendment on the right to trial. The Senator was the author of the Federal Anti-Riot Statute under which the so-called "Chicago Seven" were convicted. However, he has made no public statement in regard to such a constitutional amendment as you refer.

March 3, 1970

James O. Eastland, Miss. (Larry Speakos, Press Secretary)

Thank you for your recent communication with reference to statements of Senator Stennis on "Face the Nation" regarding the right to a trial. I am opposed to any forfeiture of the right to a fair trial by any American citizen.

March 5, 1970

Herman E. Talmadge, Ga.

I wish I could help you, but on the basis of the fragmentary comment by Senator Stennis which you sent me I am simply unable to make a reasoned response. I did not hear that particular "Face the Nation" and I long ago learned as a lawyer and a public servant not to comment on the basis of incomplete evidence.

March 6, 1970

Edward W. Brooke, Mass.

I should be greatly surprised if our people could be induced to give up the protections provided by the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Admendments, particulary those words in the Fifth which read "No person shall . . . be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law . . ." This is in response to your survey sent me on February 26.

March 3, 1970

John Sherman Cooper, Ky.

Senator Bennett has given me your letter of February 27 asking me to the reply to the questionnaire survey which your are conducting. We receive anywhere from 10 to 20 such questionnaires every week, and the Senator has had a long-standing policy of reluctantly turning down all such requests to participate because of the heavy demands on his time during the day. Although yours is reasonably short, it is his feeling that if he were to reply to your questionnaire, he should reply to all of them, and rather than be unfair, he has decided to decline. We hope you understand his problem.

March 3, 1970

Wallace F. Bennett (Tom C. Korologos, Administrative Assistant)

Thank you for your letter concerning the remarks made by Senator John Stennis on the February 22 program of CBS News' *Face the Nation*. I have enclosed a copy of the relevant page from the transcript. The full statement appears to me to be directed toward the difficult question of disorderly conduct within the courtroom, misconduct which is sufficient to impede the orderly administration of justice. I do not here speak for Senator Stennis, but taken in this context the statement is somewhat less disturbing. I assure you that I would view any constitutional amendment to restrict the right to trial as a grave threat to traditional individual liberties and responsibility to guard aganist any legislation which may encroach upon our Constitutional rights.

March 10, 1970

Alan Cranston, Calif.



Thank you for your recent letter regarding a statement made by Senator Stennis on CBS's "Face the Nation" and covered in the *Boston Globe*.

After acquiring a copy of this article that appeared in the *Globe*, I am still unable to help you. The statement of Senator Stennis that you quoted in your letter did not appear in the above mentioned article and I am not able to decide what relevance it has to this article, as the subject matter is an all-volunteer army.

If you can give me more information on your inquiry, I will try to answer your questions.

March 19, 1970

Birch Bayh, Ind.

Thanks very much for your letter concerning Senator John Stennis's comments on "Face the Nation", on February 22nd. Since I did not personally hear this broadcast, and so do not know the context or the precise wording of Senator Stennis's comments, it would not be appropriate for me to either condemn or condone him. Based upon my understanding, however, I would certainly be concerned over the implication that anyone should be denied a fair trial. This is one of the foundations of our democracy; and the thought of denying anyone his rightful trial is certainly appalling. I appreciate hearing from you on this.

March 23, 1970

Robert Packwood, Oreg.

I don't agree with these remarks.

March 30, 1970

Mike Gravel, Alaska

Thank you for your recent letter.

I am enclosing a copy of an excerpt from a recent Congressional Record regarding a resolution to request the Chief Justice of the United States to make an annual report to the Congress on the state of the Judiciary. I hope you will find this useful and informative.

March 30, 1970

Edward M. Kennedy, Mass.

Thank you for your form letter.

Amending the Constitution, as your enclosure suggested, is a serious matter. It requires a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Congress and ratification by 3/4 of the state legislatures. To many this is an unnecessarily complicated and time consuming procedure. But those who framed this basic document were well aware that the demand for emotional change in established institutions can seldom be sustained over prolonged periods-whereas well reasoned and realistic adjustments can "go the course" required for amending the Constitution.

Fortunately, they have seldom been successful. A government of law, not men, is essential to the democratic system. May it ever be so.

With every good wish.

April 1, 1970

George McGovern, S. Dak.

Because of the huge volume of communications I have been receiving recently, it is impossible for me to personally answer every communication I wish to use this means, however, to acknowledge receipt of your communication and to thank you for presenting your views, which will have my attention.

April 1, 1970

Strom Thurmond, S. Car.

Apart from questions about specific actions of the judge, the defendants and defense counsel during the so-called "Chicago 7" trial, that proceeding did raise very serious questions for me of how our judicial system could be protected against those who are determined to prevent an orderly trial.

Senator Stennis' remarks suggest he was bothered by similar questions. However, since Senator Stennis' appearance on the program to which you refer, the United States Supreme Court has handed down a decision outlining ways in which this problem can constitutionally be met by a trial court.

With best wishes,

April 15, 1970

Philip A. Hart, Mich.





Variable Piece #22  
Haverhill, Massachusetts

On April 20, 1970 C D HUEBLER, the addressee of a "Spencer Gifts" communication, returned an entry form with an *individualized* "Lucky Number" in order to learn if he had won a "Wildest Dream" prize.

A Xerox copy of the "Win Your Wildest Dream" Sweepstakes Entry Form, the original cover of the *SPENCER GIFTS* catalog, (and any subsequent communication or prize, or prizes), will join altogether with this statement to constitute the final form of this piece.

Douglas Huebler  
April, 1970

Two points, 12 inches apart, have been inscribed by a ball point pen onto the Earth's surface at a location 200 feet due West from the entrance to the Addison Gallery of American Art: between those points will pass, forever, an indeterminate amount of three dimensional space (at a speed of several hundred yards a second).

Duration Piece # 12  
Amsterdam, Holland

On January 12, 1960, at a point next to a canal in Amsterdam, 12 photographs were made in a sequence of time whereby the interval between each photograph was doubled by seconds. (beginning at "zero time").

1. 0
2. 1 second
3. 2 seconds
4. 4 seconds
5. 8 seconds
6. 16 seconds
7. 32 seconds
8. 1 minute 4 seconds
9. 2 minutes 8 seconds
10. 4 minutes 16 seconds
11. 8 minutes 32 seconds
12. 17 minutes 4 seconds

The 12 photographs, (none identified in relationship to its place in the sequence), join with this statement to constitute the form of this piece.

Douglas Huebler  
January, 1970









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