

The Art of Unknowing – The joy of amateur practice as a space for emancipation from the constraints of academic discipline.

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The Art of Unknowing

The joy of amateur practice as a space for emancipation from the constraints of academic discipline.

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Senior Lecturer Visual Communication

Katy Carroll

Principal Lecturer Critical Theory (25 years in Service)

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Being immersed in the Art School for the most part of your professional life is a privileged position to find oneself in. But what if this immersion also presents a certain entrapment in the connoisseurship and knowledge that you have acquired, embodied, and are passing on. This paper is about the creative liberation of two female visual communication academics, through the pursuit of amateur practices in un-professional curatorship of personal obsessions.



'...tastes are acquired through instruction, through the acquisition of knowledge and the development of values.'

Roger Scruton (1996)

All the aesthetic and behavioral values I had embodied over years of seeking the disciplines acceptance had started to make me feel like never wanting to design anything again in my life.

Design became the prison of my own making.

Amateur Practice Amateur Making

Disclaimer

This presentation is entirely fictional and any resemblance of any of the practice mentioned to any real amateur practice or any real amateur makers is completely coincidental and pure good luck.

'An open, self-regulating, peer to peer system that operates without the centralised rules and regulations of professional intervention – yet manages to sustain a cohesive and productive culture.'

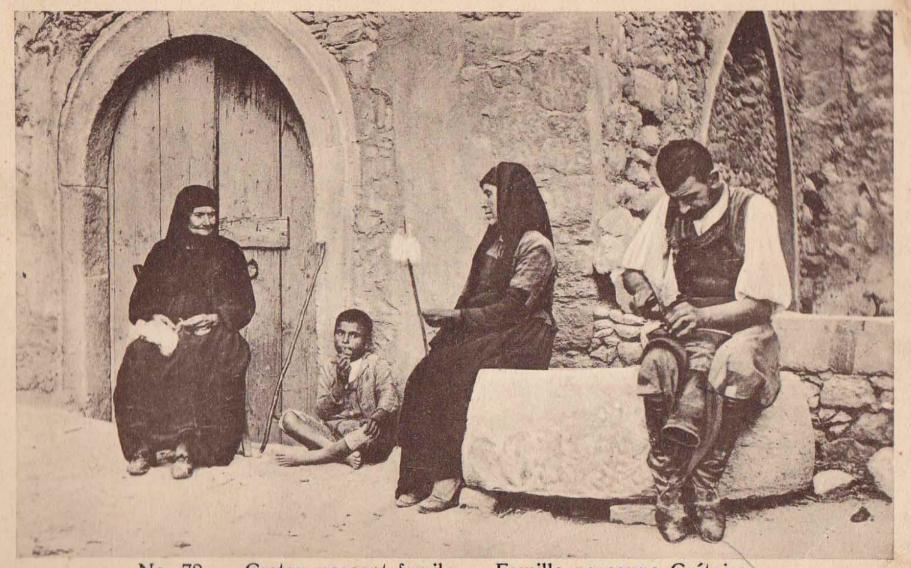
Andrew Jackson 2008

'... they appear closer to a Rancierean act of archive excavation into forms of expression that fall outside professional realms.'

Lucia Vodanovic 2013



'Such gazes are constructed through difference.'



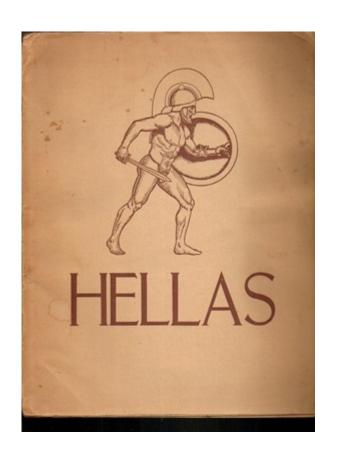
No. 78 — Cretan peasant family — Famille paysanne Crétoise

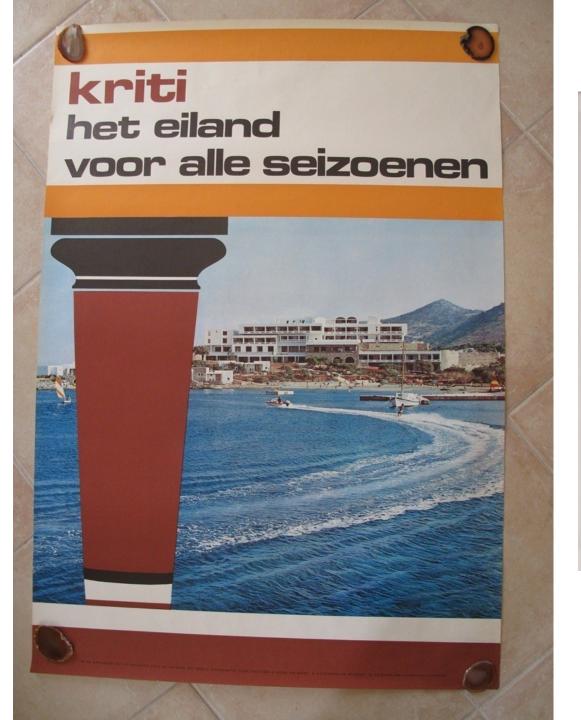


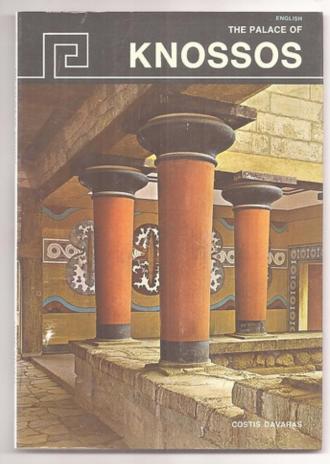


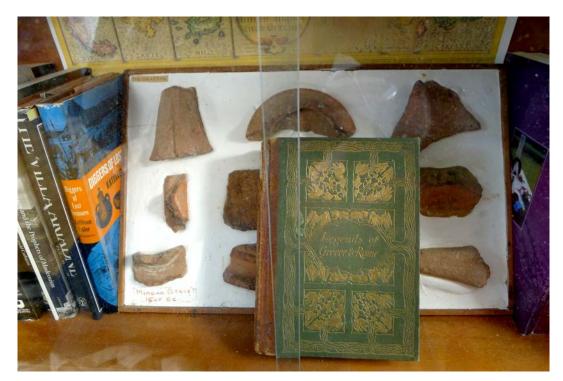


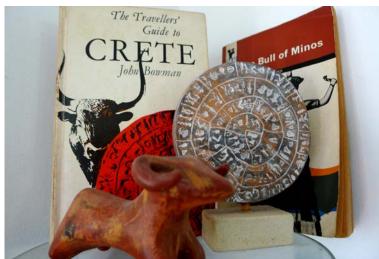


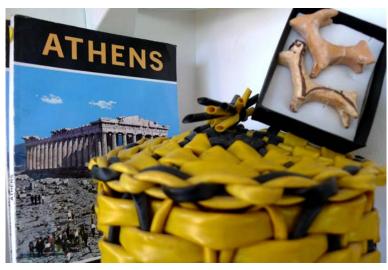










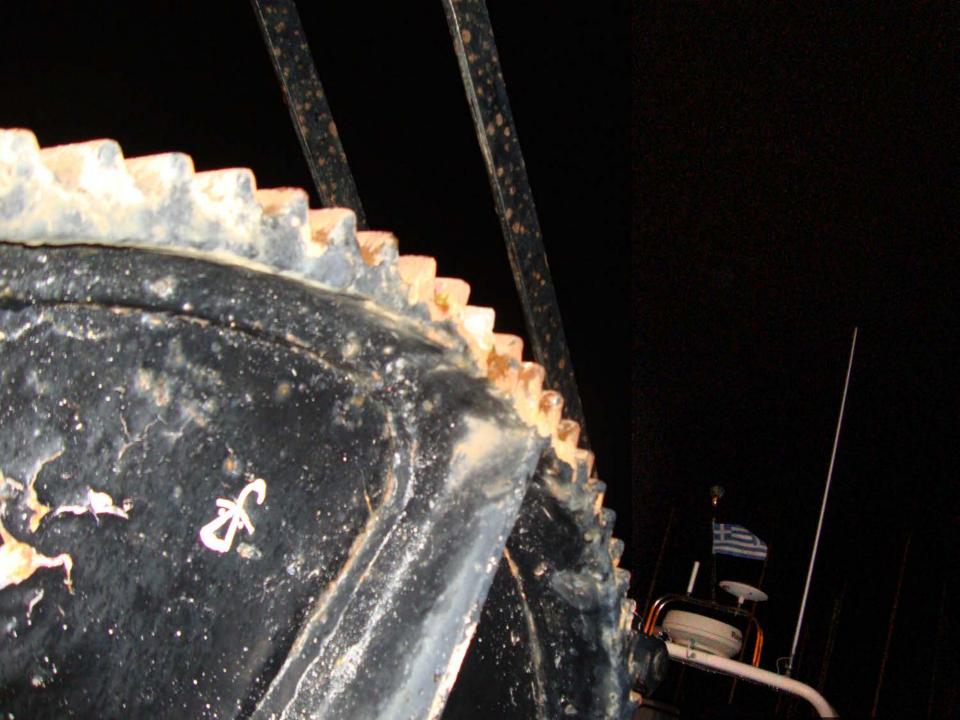














"MUM, YOU **ARE GOING** TO GET AR-RESTED"

KRITI MOU On loving foreign places

Badly designed postcards with naff type that swoons: 'I love Crete' are to be found in abundance on the island, even though one wonders who even still bothers sending them these days.

I am repulsed by their aesthetic as much as I am drawn to their

How do you love a place that does not belong to you and where you do not belong? Is my love for Crete any more meaningful, than any lame postcard sent to colder climates by a sun, sea & sand tourist holidaying in a resort in Malia?

Lam really not convinced, but what I am sure of is that my love for the island has led me to an engagement with areas of knowledge I'd have never guessed I'd be interested in one day. Like Archaeology for example. Or ancient European

Maybe becoming interested in this kind of stuff only happens to you when you get older.

Fotini and I used to make fun of the stupid tourists who would stop to ask her directions to the ancient local Tholos tombs. Like the good Cretan girl she was, she would politely give them directions in her best English. But once they had turned the corner we would fall about laughing, imagining middle aged people stroking their chins whilst looking at piles of old rubble. Why waste your time with that when the sun was shining and there were people to meet? All we wanted to do was to escape the dutiful supervision of Fotini's older brother because - as the song went, girls just sit quite well with that and are said wanted to have fun.

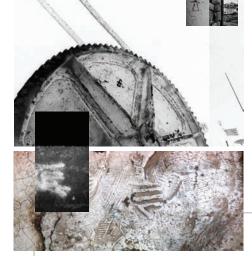
Now we are both fully grown, somewhat middle aged women, with husbands, families and duties to fulfill, we have found ourselves finding it fun to look at mounds of old stone and discussing if the Phaestos disc really is a genuine Minoan artifact or just an ancient

import. Meanwhile I am also busy trying to formulate a visual research project that engages unsuspecting young people with Minoan script. Oh, the irony and arrogance of growing older.

One slight hitch remains. Though the archaeological artifacts in the context of their history fascinate me. I find it very difficult to engage with them aesthetically. One reason may be that through my design education I am firmly wedded to a primarily modernist aesthetic, but then - many Minoan designs should to have actually influenced certain aspects of modernism.

I have the suspicion that the more deciding factor is that I first became familiar with Minoan artifacts by seeing bad replicas in tasteless tourist displays. Not that I wasn't taken/dragged to the museums when younger. But looking is not the same as seeing. And most of

KINDLING - ANSWERS



my seeing at that time took place³ try to engage though? This is what in the afore mentioned tourist shops, figuring out what I was we said in the research application:

on. It would be years before I would actually spend time looking really closely at the originals in the museum. When I finally did. some of them made me weep with their traces of human thought and creativity transmitted with such clarity through the ages. Yet, the aesthetic barrier somehow lingers. - I first 'met' these artifacts in the context of cheap, art-less, re-productions and it is difficult to fully loose that visual aftertaste now, ever when an original is re-produced at high quality. Maybe it's the reproduced antiqueness that doesn't help – aging something artificially just never seems to work, just like fake wood laminate never does.

Cutting a long story slightly

shorter, - I am currently involved in a research-project that is about visually re-contextialising the ancient scripts of Linear A and Linear B. It is plamorously called Visual translations of ancient heritage – re-contextualising ancient European script through contemporary visual communication methods and media. We will be working with an Archaeologist advisor and a select number of designers to explore how the script can be woven into contemporary visual practice. Our reasoning behind thinking this is worthwhile an investigation is the idea that this re-contextualising could potentially lead to a more successful engagement of a younger audience with their European heritage. Thanks to decades of adventurer movies, most young people will be familiar with Egyptiar

our history by allowing us encounters with remnants of the past. How these remnants are translated for us, read by us and what we believe that they tell us is intimately tied up with the context of our own contemporary culture. This makes any interaction with history also a potential interaction with the present and future. Any 'reading' of the past, is also a reflection of our presence (Gamble 2001)(Gere 2009) (Havden1993).

"Any 'reading' of the past, is also a reflection of our presence."

come up with the idea of tagging

paralysis and impotence in the face of overwhelming economic and political despair. So, I wanted to start testing this interaction of the past with the presence and future a little, but where and how to start? So in the context of this, my idea of decided that starting on Crete putting a few tags of ancient script into the Greek environment with would be good and using an element of the script seemed to make sense. Since I was planning chalk-based markers that would dissolve at the first heavy rain was somewhat suitably academic and a short trip to Heraklion and Athens in November with my 13year old son, I started to think about how bit pathetic. But hey, whatcha gonne to have a lo-key, simple interaction with both the script and the Greek

I nevertheless found myself well out of my comfort zone walking around Venetian harbor walls in sight of tourists, fishermen and the odd harbor official, looking for spots to put my tag. Near the acropolis in Athens I got a few looks from a bored looking entrance guard, but generally everybody ignored me. My son Dylan made sure to look like

Since the 2008 economic crisis Graffiti and street art in Greece has absolutely exploded. People

express their fury, opinions and

hopes in visual and written form

on any surface available in their

cities. Whilst this may not be ven

velcomed by the Greek tourist

board, there is an authenticity in

these visual outbursts that the

Authentic, but not necessarily

aesthetically pleasing. Another visual art form that I have never

really made friends with, although

street-art is now practiced through as many different visual styles as

there are practitioners. But then

is a way of saving 'Fuck your

this is still missing the point. The mere act of de-facing public space

aesthetics', even if the perpetrators are representing their message

in a style they themselves find attractive. The whole point is to

staying silent, trying to overcome

culture so obviously lack.

tagging, refusing to document my endeavors. Now and then he'd glide past me on his skateboard, passing judgments on the visual and hissing "Come on mum, you're going to go

For my tag I had chosen the Linear B logogram for woman. (An admittedly obvious choice.) Most of the writing found of Linear B is on pottery, the signs and symbols scratched into the wet clay with ease and often with obvious speed. I practiced the logogram for a while, so that I could omplete it as fluidly as possible, rithout having to lift the marker to many times. As for the visual results, - I lost some of my images due to equipment failure and I am not sure how much I like the ones I saved. The logogram as a tag looks as cheap to my eyes, as any other tag. But at least the logogram lived in a public space, in a contemporary medium for a little while and the process of doing this has helped me think about the project much further It's the process, not the artifact. It's a start – not a finish. Questions - not anwers

resort tattoo parlors and get me a Linear A logogram put on my butt-cheek right next to a 'I love Malia Or hopefully by then I will have a little



KINDLING - ANSWERS

Observation of Linear B Session





As it is a basement room the ceiling is quite low, with some exposed pipework and box cabling. There are work surfaces on both sides of the room, one is completely covered in various boxes and some big pithoi style jars in the corner, the other one is fairly clear and has a sink in the middle, with a sign asking for cleanliness.

There's a big grey shelving unit at the at the far end of the room, which also houses a glass display case and more shelves on the wall. The front of the room has a whiteboard and projection screen on it. There are more shelves at head hight, crammed full with different clay based artifacts, some easily recognisable as beautiful replicas of ancient objects others not so much, - sporting charming, but to my eyes slightly dodgy, decorative painted motives. Some of the vases are broken and most are very dusty.





The MA Archaeology students are here to re-create linear B tablets. In the middle of the table is a big slab of clay and examples of replica tablets produced by John Bennet in previous years. These examples have a variety of shapes, some oblong, some more tablet shaped, and all are full of Linear B inscriptions. The tablets have all been fired and their colour ranges from the light brown of oven fired clay, to the irregular dark brown/ black of clay fired in an open fire as an experiment, to emulate the accidental firing of the originals. Quite few of the tablets are broken.

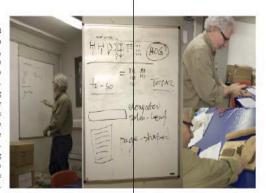




One of the instruments is a thumb-length machine out piece of cylinder shaped wood with a sturdy, blunt metal needle stoking out of one end. The other is a piece of hawthorne twig, with the end being formed naturally by the twigs pointy, thorn-like end to it. The natural writing implement is about the same length as the manmade one. It makes sense to me to offer this variation, as the choice of tool will ultimately impact on the production of the script. It would be interesting to compare these to original implements.



After the initial welcome and settling down, Angela cuts a piece of clay for every student, while John explain to the students the nature of the task about to be commenced. He asks them to start by creating a piece of table, in any shape they wish and to then transcribe their name in Linear B into the wet clay, using one of the writing instruments provided. He demonstrates the moulding of a sample tablet and writes some instructions for the Linear B script outo the whiteboard.







The students busy themselves discussing what syllables best to use to spell their names in Linear B and John highlights a few of the peculiarities of the script, such as the omission of last syllables and the order in which information was communicated in relation to numbers.

The students try out the different writing implements and in conversation reflect on how they are finding the usability of them. Some prefer the halowthorn stick and think it move more elegantly through the clay, whilst other prefer using the wire implement as they find it more controllable.

After having completed this first task the students move onto making a slightly larger tablet on which to record everybody's name one. This seems quite befitting for linear B as so many of the original tablets were lists of things. Goods, animals, people—lists of economic commodities, who paid what to whom, who owed and who possessed.

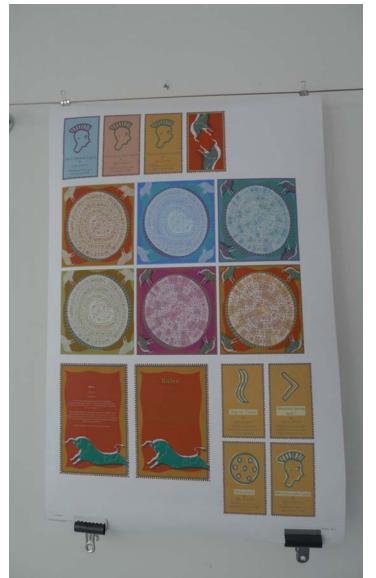




















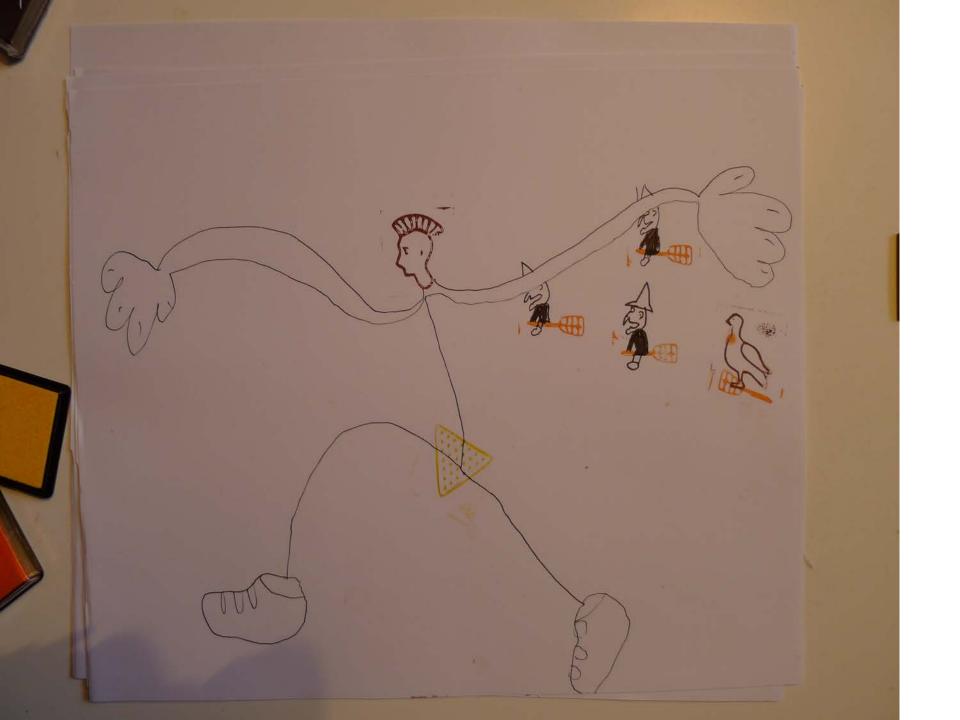






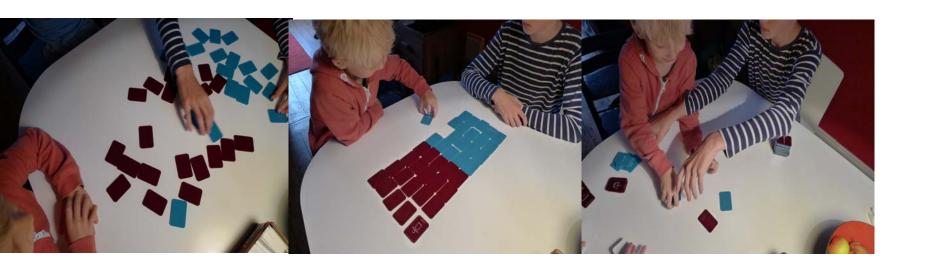


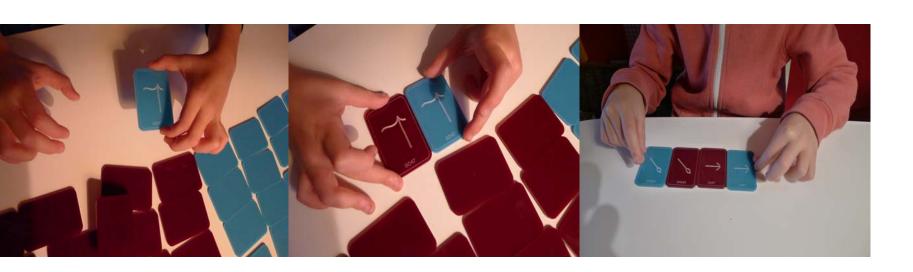












BUT

'... amateur work, however 'personal' in its pursuits of curiosity, always exists in a relation — of aspiration, antagonism, or both — to the structures that govern the conferrance of legitimacy on practices: the school, the worksplace, informal systems of judgment, the art institution, the state.'

Tom Roberts 2005 (in Vodanovic 2013)

'It is, therefore, the manifestation of (again) a distance, a separation but also an engagement with this distant relationship what makes something to be amateur.'

Vodanovic 2013

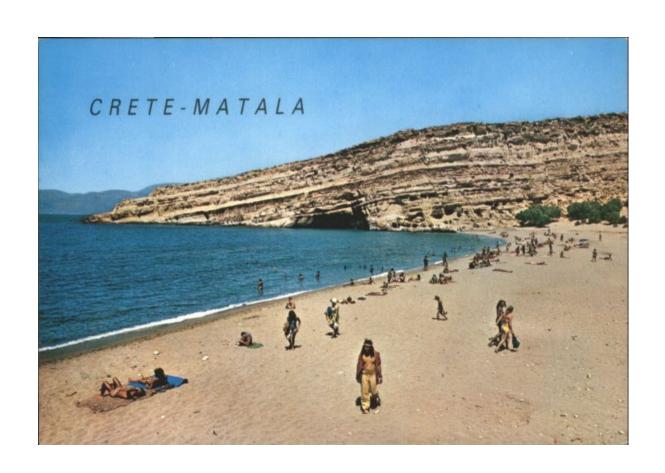
The gaze therefore pre-supposes a system of social activities and signs which locate the particular tourist practices, not in terms of some intrinsic characteristics, but through the contrast implied with non-tourist social practices, particularly those based within the home and paid work.'

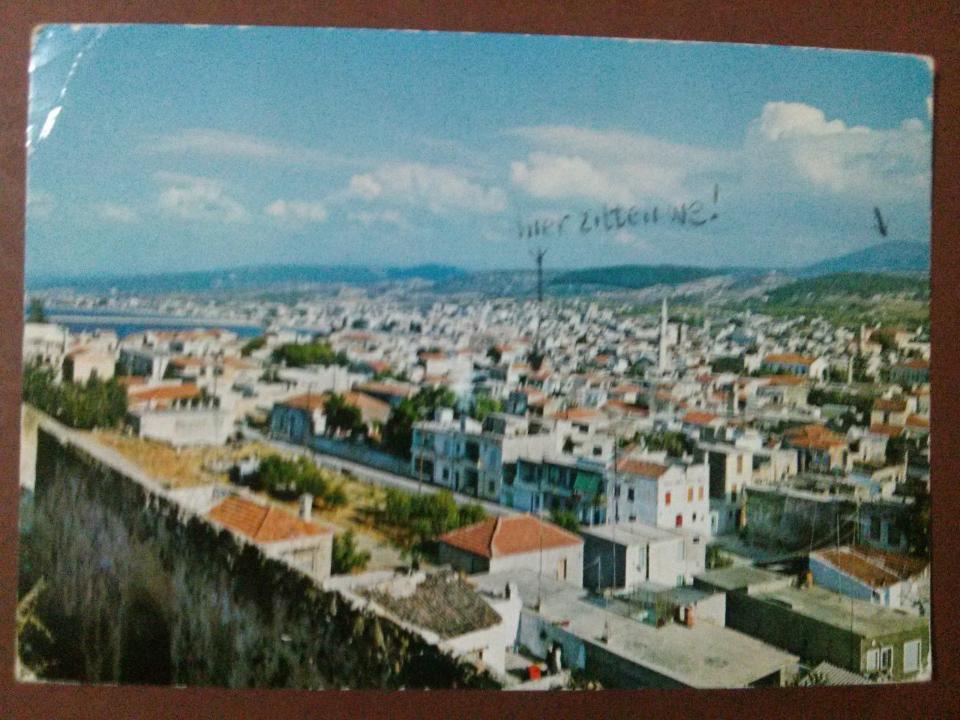
John Urry 2002





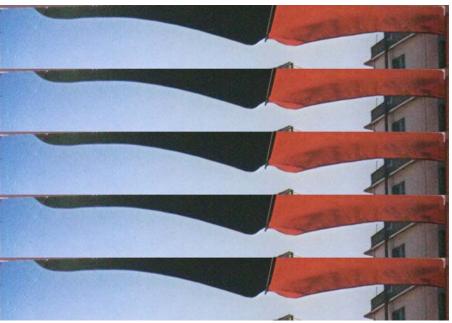


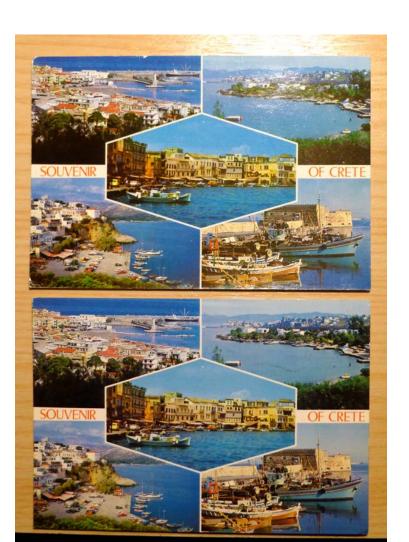






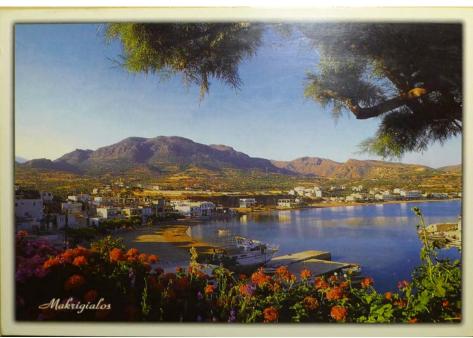












ENAÓSa - Greece - Griechenland · Kpntn - Crete - Kreta

Here we are wain
hazing around ordin
the water on the Taverhae!

(De of good tood

while - of course.

Great excitement - we
want on a banana boat

v got typed in at the
end: going to a
mondain village to cloub
210 ore; up to a church
tomaran: Are we had?

Whathe I reall; good

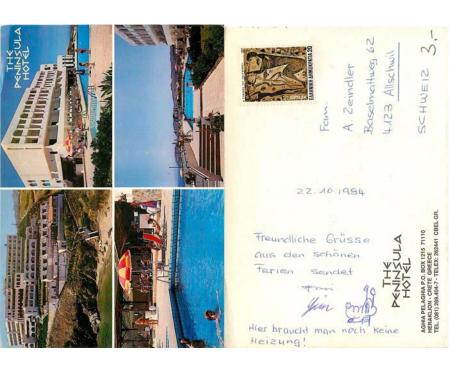
EAST with in october

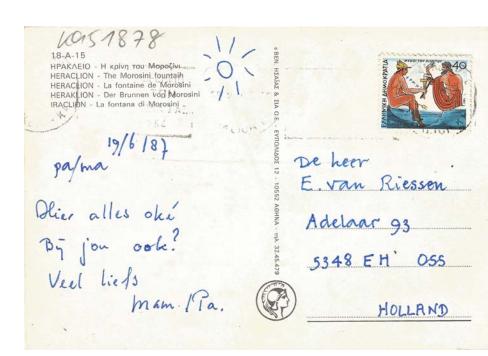
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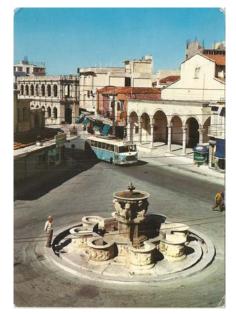
























Fountain, 2013

Apropos of "Duchamp Tourism"



















Marcel Ray







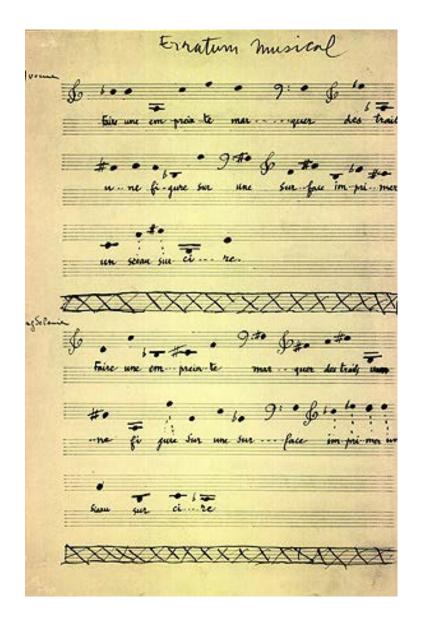








Duchamp's Parental Retirement Home Rouen



Marcel Duchamp, Erratum Musical, 1913



Duchamp Family Grave Rouen Cemetery

THEORY.ORG.UK TRADING CARD



Marcel Duchamp

Probably rolling in the grave for the academic write up: Duchamp, 1887-1968, was part of the Dada movement proclaiming art dead and dealing with the unconcious, absurd and the relative. Among Ducamp's famous works are the moustache on the Mona Lisa and the Nude Descending the Staircase (which, like the cubists, broke up an image into slices of time). His policy of making art out of random items, dubbed found objects, inspired many clueless, lazy modern artists. He once brought a latrine to a fancy, mainstream art show.

For more, see http://www.zumbacombo.com/duchamp/

STRENGTHS: artistic hilarity and craziness ensuing

WEAKNESSES: half-assed artists missing the punchline

SPECIAL SKILLS: confuse the hell out of anyone

And then there is that oneman movement, Marcel Duchamp—for me a truly modern movement because it. implies that each artist can do what he thinks he ought to—a movement for each person and open for everybody.

Willem de Kooning

Talk delivered at the "What is Abstract Art?" symposium, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, February 5, 1951.



Apropos of "Readymades"

IN 1913 I HAD THE HAPPY IDEA TO FASTEN A BICYCLE WHEEL TO A KITCHEN STOOL AND WATCH IT TURN.

A FEW MONTHS LATER I BOUGHT A CHEAP REPRODUCTION OF A WINTER EVENING LANDSCAPE, WHICH I CALLED "PHARMACY" AFTER ADDING TWO SMALL DOTS, ONE RED AND ONE YELLOW, IN THE HORIZON.

IN NEW YORK IN 1915 I BOUGHT AT A HARDWARE STORE A SNOW SHOVEL ON WHICH I WROTE "IN ADVANCE OF THE BROKEN ARM."

IT WAS AROUND THAT TIME THAT THE WORD "READYMADE" CAME TO MIND TO DESIGNATE THIS FORM OF MANIFESTATION.

A POINT WHICH I WANT VERY MUCH TO ESTABLISH IS THAT THE CHOICE OF THESE "READYMADES" WAS NEVER DICTATED BY ESTHETIC DELECTATION.

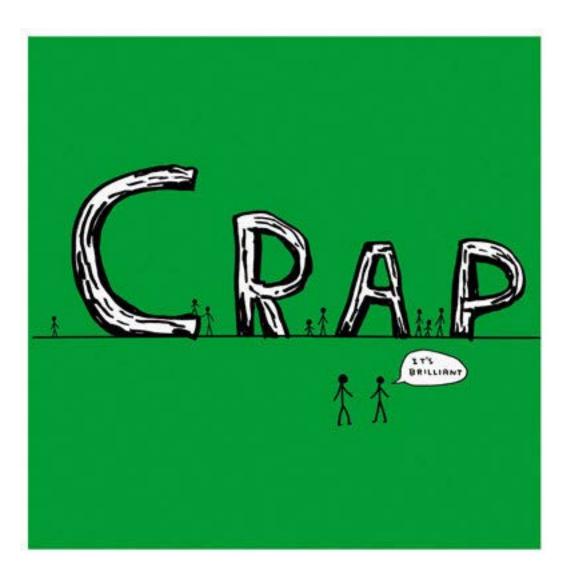
THIS CHOICE WAS BASED ON A REACTION OF VISUAL INDIFFERENCE WITH AT THE SAME TIME A TOTAL ABSENCE OF GOOD OR BAD TASTE . . . IN FACT A COMPLETE ANESTHESIA.

ONE IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTIC WAS THE SHORT SENTENCE WHICH I OCCASIONALLY INSCRIBED ON THE "READYMADE."

THAT SENTENCE INSTEAD OF DESCRIBING THE OBJECT LIKE A TITLE WAS MEANT TO CARRY THE MIND OF THE SPECTATOR TOWARDS OTHER REGIONS MORE VERBAL.

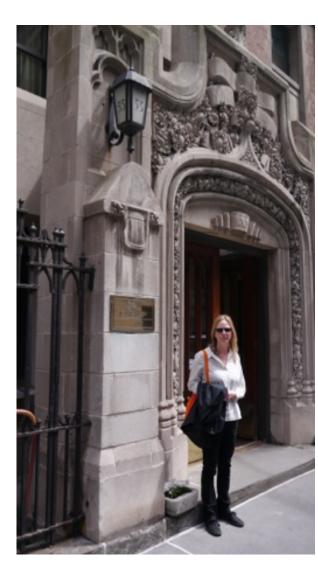
Talk delivered by Duchamp at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Oct. 19, 1961. Published in *Art and Artists* (London), 1, no. 4. (July 1966), p. 47. The original text is in the Simon Watson Taylor collection.

- Travel / Holidays (Breathing / Living / Dwelling)
- Working Environment (Making / Working / Being)
- Mapping (Planning / Recording / Documenting)
- Souvenirs (Collecting / Making / Displaying)









Marshall Chess Club New York

Herne Bay

Apartment nr Central Park New York



Hamburg



Yport



Paris



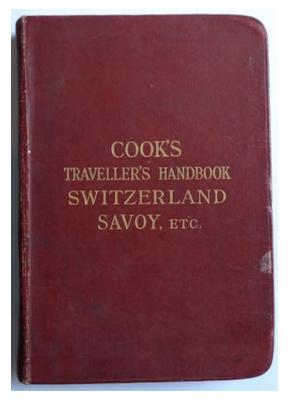
Cadaqués

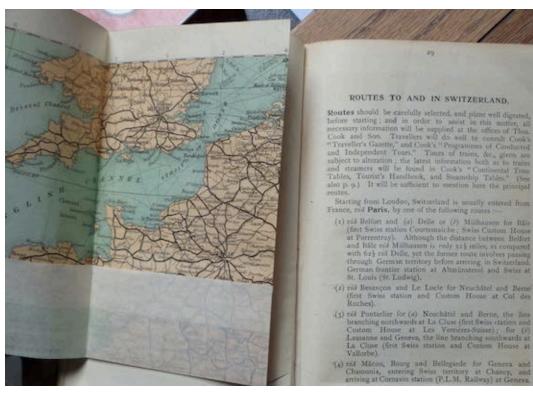


Café Meliton, Cadaqués, Spain.

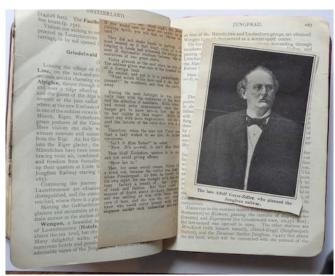












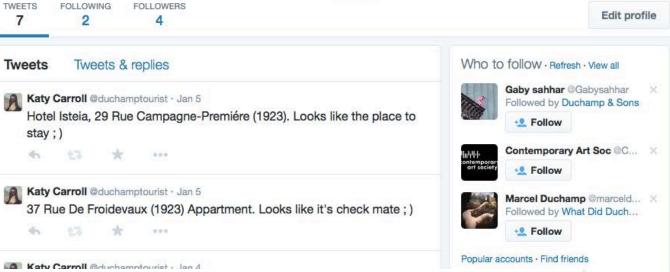




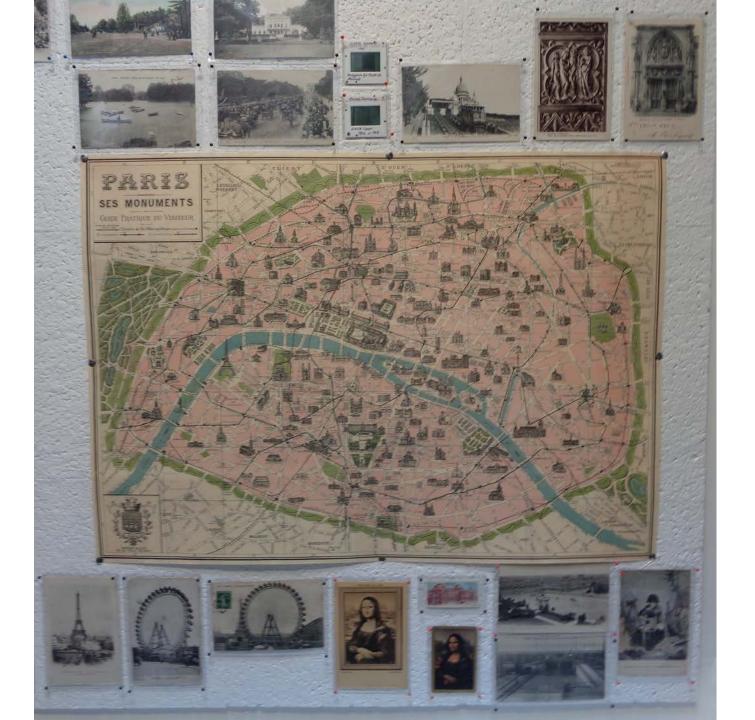


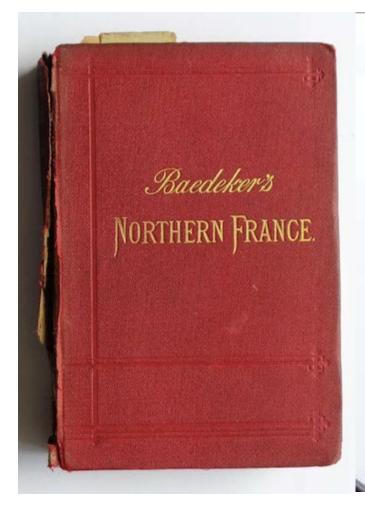


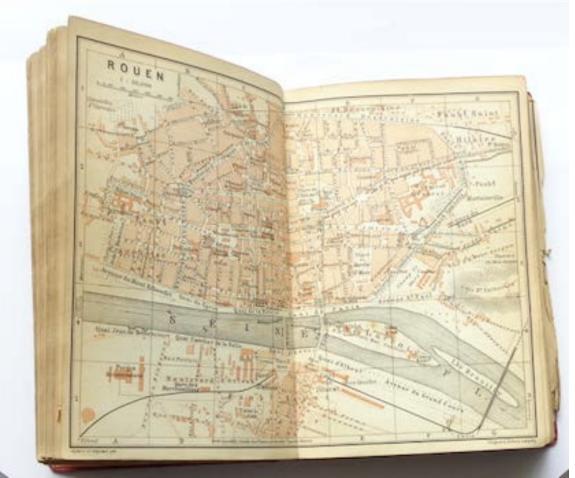
Katy Carroll @duchamptourist





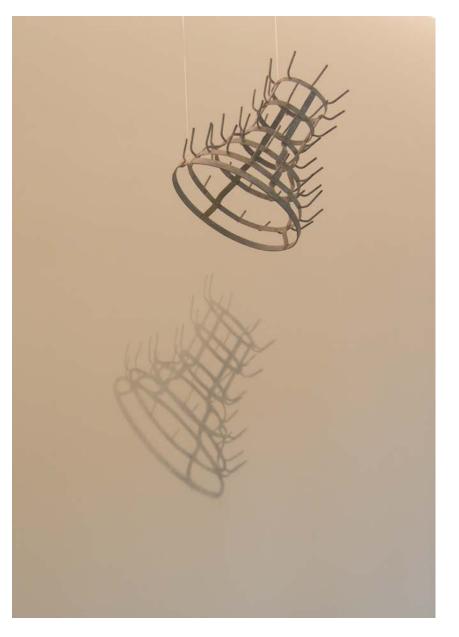












The Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rouen





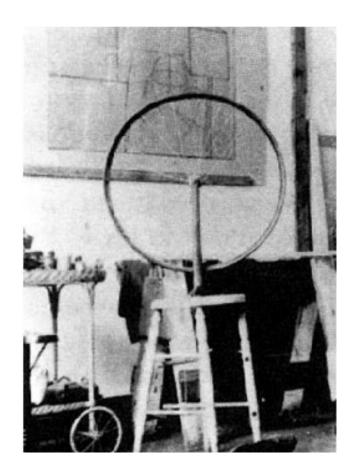
The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (The Green Box), September 1934

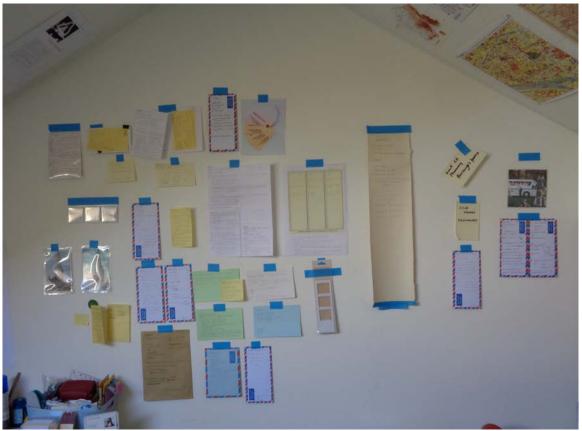


Box in a Valise (From or by Marcel Duchamp or Rrose Sélavy) 1935 - 41











































MARCEL DUCHAMP TEA TOWEL I LHOOQ

€12.90

€12.26 MEMBER'S PRICE

♥ FAVORITES

A ORDER

A funny tea towel to help you with domestic chores!

DESCRIPTION

Marcel Duchamp is an exceptional artist who is yet considered, in common modernist opinion, as the man who "killed painting".

CHARACTERISTICS

100% cotton

EAN 3760146332171

Dimensions 480 mm x 680 mm

Publisher Centre Pompidou

Categories Home decor, Table art

Marcel Duchamp Tea Towel | LHOOQ

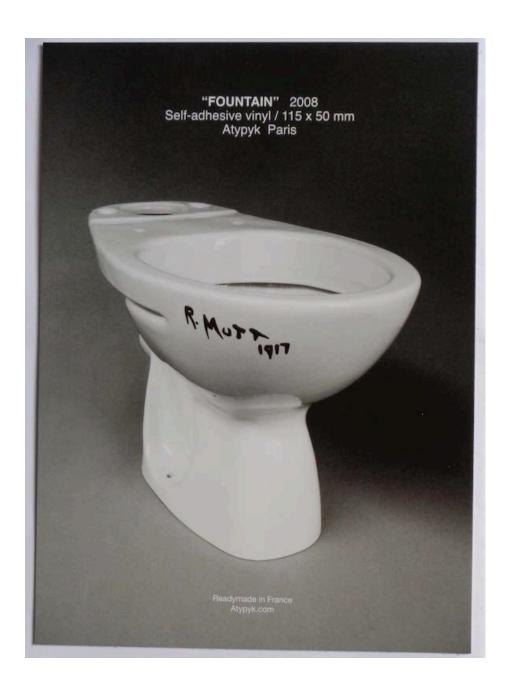






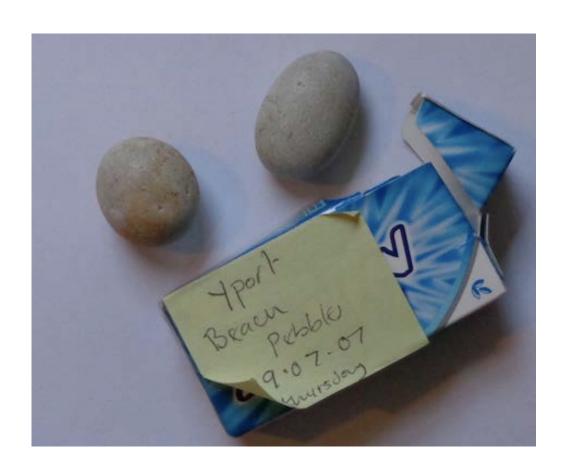








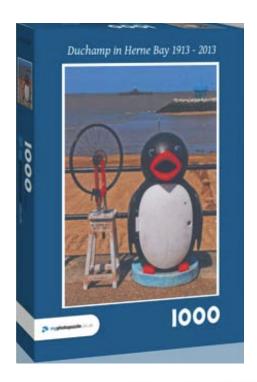


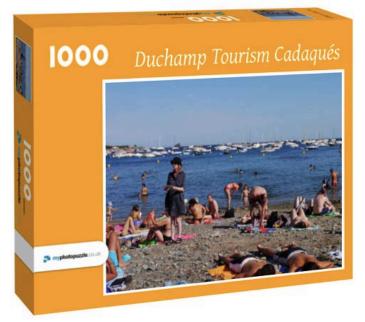




















Readymade

'work of art without an artist to make it'

'letting things go by themselves'



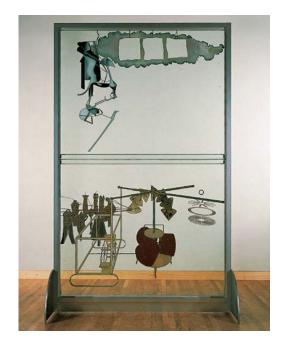






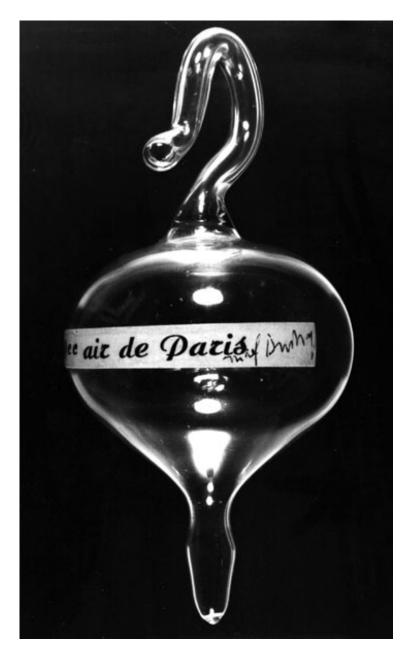














The gaze is as socially organised and systematised [...] it is not a gaze confined to professionals 'supported and justified by an institution' (Foucault, 1976:89).

Urry and Larson 2011 pgl





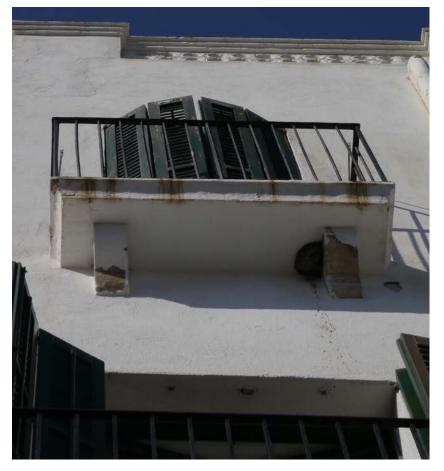




Duchamp was a great bricoleur; he enjoyed making and fixing.

Calvin Thompkins (1996: Pg.431)





Duchamp's Apartment Cadaqués Spain

The poetry of bricolage comes to the bricoleur also, and above all, from the fact that he does not limit himself to accomplishing or executing. [...] Without ever accomplishing his project, the bricoleur always puts into it something of himself. Lévis-Strauss

(in Loudrias, P. 1999. pg 520)

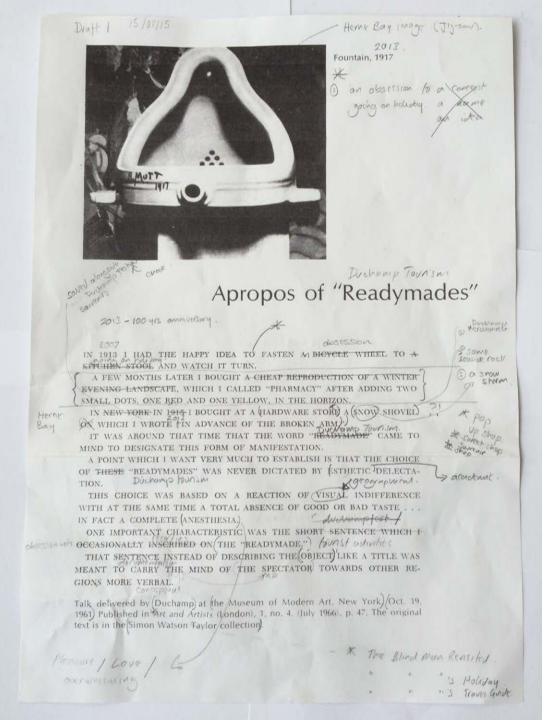
It (bricolage) creates structures, in the form of its artefacts, by means of contingent events. To arrive at a definition, bricolage is the creation of structure out of events.

(Loudrias, P. 1999. pg 520)

Gazing is a performance that orders, shapes and classifies rather than reflects the world.

Urry and Larson 2011 pg2

He once stated he preferred living than working, he claimed 'Je suis a respirateur.'





Fountain. 2013

Apropos of "Duchamp Tourism"

IN 2007 I HAD THE HAPPY IDEA TO FASTEN AN OBSESSION TO GOING ON HOLIDAY.

A FEW MONTHS LATER I ...

IN HERNE BAY IN 2013 I BOUGHT AT A SOUVENIR STORE A SNOW STORM ON WHICH I \dots considered the relationship between a /my collection and Duchamp / readymades?

IT WAS AROUND THAT TIME THAT THE WORD "DUCHAMP TOURISM" CAME TO MIND TO DESIGNATE THIS MANIFESTATION.

A POINT WHICH I WANT VERY MUCH TO ESTABLISH IS THAT THE CHOICE OF "DUCHAMP TOURISM" WAS NEVER DICATED BY ACADEMIC DELECTATION.

THIS CHOICE WAS BASED ON A REACTION OF GEOGRAHICAL INDIFFERENCE WITH AT THE SAME TIME A TOTAL ABSENCE OF GOOD OR BAD TASTE \dots IN FACT A COMPLETE LOVE.

ONE IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTIC WAS THE OBSESSION WITH RECORDING THE "DUCHAMP TOURISM" ACTIVITIES.

THAT DOCUMENTATION INSTEAD OF DESCRIBING THE HOLIDAY LIKE A TITLE WAS MEANT TO CARRY THE MIND OF THE SPECTATOR TOWARDS OTHER REGIONS MORE CONCEPTUAL.

@duchamptourist

Thank you!