Sheffield Hallam University

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

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Willkommen/Bienvenue/Welcome!

The Art of Unknowing

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

Katy Carroll

Principal Lecturer Critical Theory

Melanie Levick-Parkin

Senior Lecturer Visual Communication

Katy Carroll

Principal Lecturer Critical Theory

(25 years in Service)

Melanie Levick-Parkin

Senior Lecturer Visual Communication (12 years in Service)

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.

connoisseurship

'...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

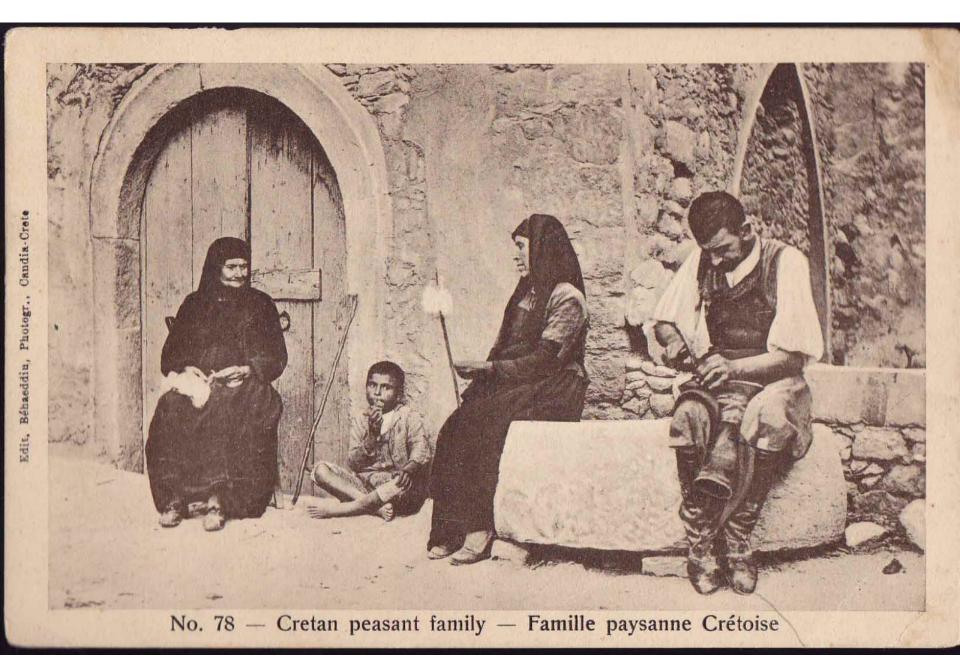
'... they appear closer to a Rancierean act of archive excavation into forms of expression that fall outside professional realms.'

Lucia Vodanovic 2013



'Such gazes are constructed through difference.'

John Urry 2002

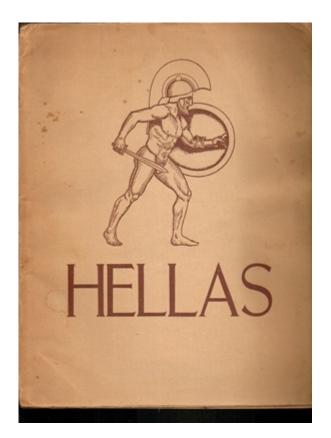


Souvenir de Crète. Mia Hapaozevý elé tá zéptérőv Xaviov. Un Vendredi dans les environs de la Canée

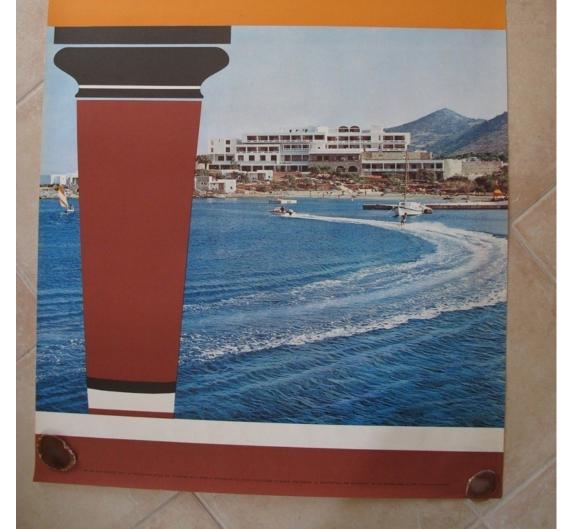


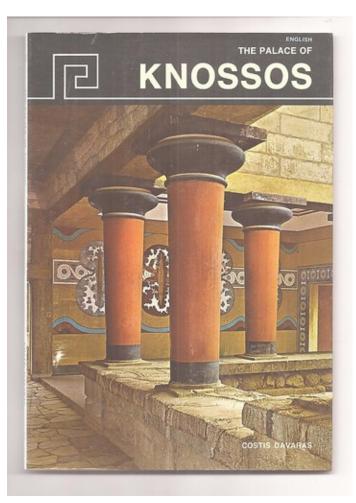


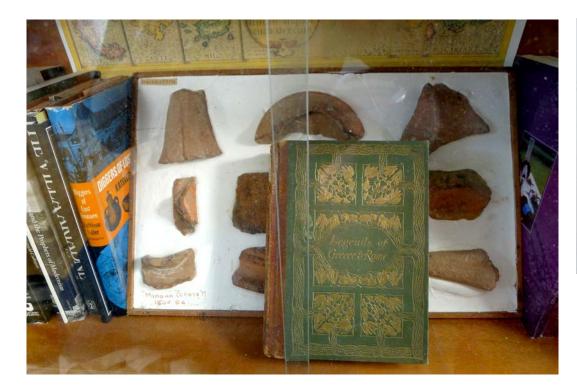


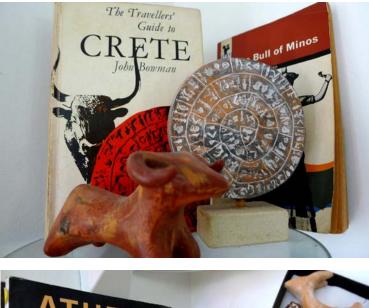


kriti het eiland voor alle seizoenen





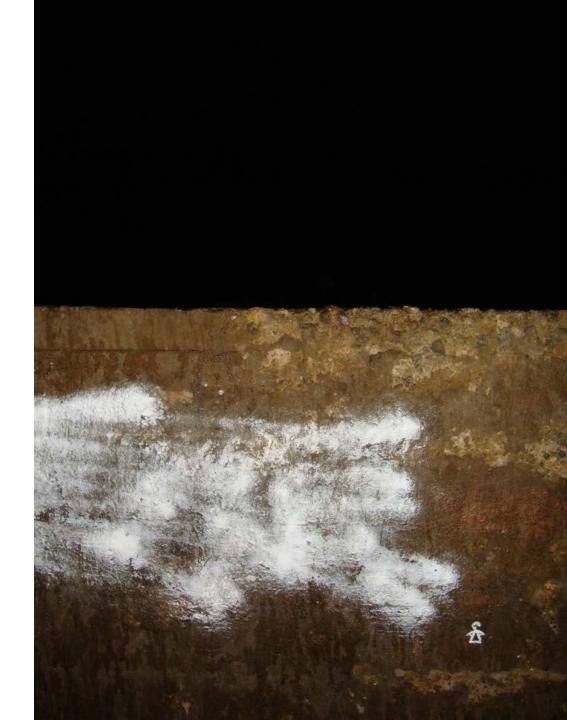


















"MUM, YOU **ARE GOING TO GET AR-RESTED**"

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 sentiment.

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? I am 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 auessed I'd be interested in one day. Like Archaeology for example. Or ancient European script. Maybe becoming interested in this kind of stuff only happens to you

when you get older.

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 wanted to have fun.

Fotini and I used to make fun of

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

KINDLING - ANSWERS

2

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 because - as the song went, girls just sit quite well with that and are said 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 -

my seeing at that time took place³ in the afore mentioned tourist shops, figuring out what I was 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 alamorously 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 hieroglyphics, but few have heard of the oldest deciphered and undeciphered European Scripts, Why

try to engage though? This is what in Linear B we said in the research application

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).

of the past, is also a

reflection of our presence."

So, I wanted to start testing this interaction of the past with the presence and future a little, but where and how to start? decided that starting on Crete would be good and using an element of the script seemed to make sense. Since I was planning short trip to Heraklion and Athens in November with my 13year old son, I started to think about how to have a lo-key, simple interaction with both the script and the Greek environment. Though it seems obvious now, it took me ages to come up with the idea of tagging the streets of Heraklion and Atk



is a way of saving 'Fuck your aesthetics', even if the perpetrators are representing their message in a style they themselves find attractive. The whole point is to put your message out there, not staying silent, trying to overcome



tagging, refusing to document my

So in the context of this, my idea of Linear A logogram put on my butt-cheek right next putting a few tags of ancient script into the Greek environment with chalk-based markers that would to a 'I love Malia dissolve at the first heavy rain was 2015!' tattoo somewhat suitably academic and a Or hopefully by bit pathetic. But hey, whatcha gonne then I will have bucked up my i I nevertheless found myself well out a little

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 he didn't belong to me whilst I was



KINDLING - ANSWERS



Observation of Linear B Session



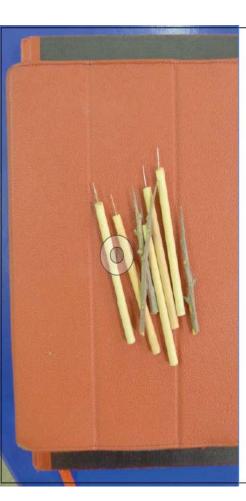
As it is a basement room the ceiling is quite low, with some exposed pipework and box cabling. There are work surfaces on both sides of the room, one is completely covered in various boxes and some hig pithoi style jars in the corner, the other one is fairly clear and has a sink in the middle, with a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

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 elay 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 elay, 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.



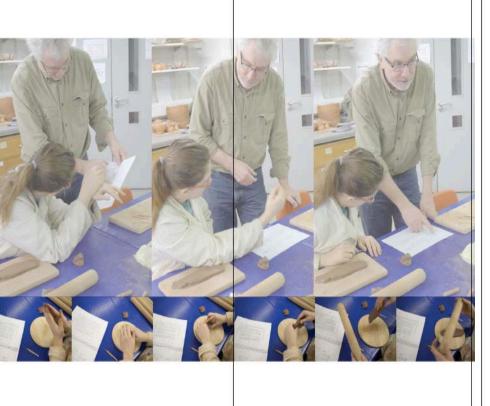
One of the instruments is a thumb-length machine cut piece of cylinder shaped wood with a sturdy, blust metal needle sticking out of one end. The other is a piece of hawthorne twig, with the end being formed naturally by the twigs pointy, thorn-like end to it. The natural writing implement is about the 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.



A first 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 witting intuments provided. He demonstrates the moulding of a sample table and writes some instructions for the Linear B scipt outo the whiteboard.





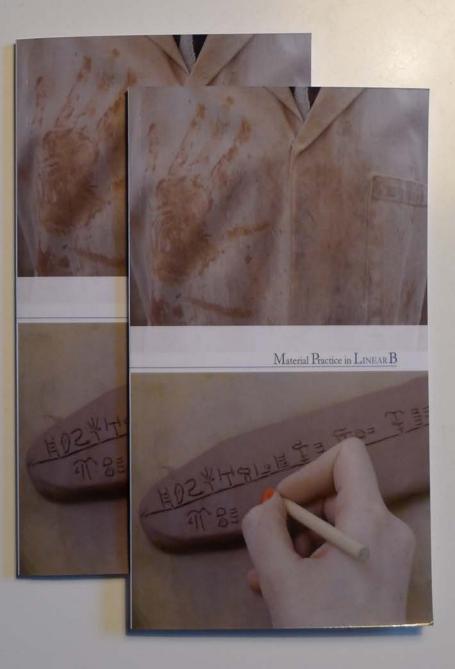


The students busy themselves discussing what syllables best to use to spell their names in Linear B and John highlights a few of the peculiarities of the script, such as the omission of last syllables and the order in which information was communicated in relation to numbers.

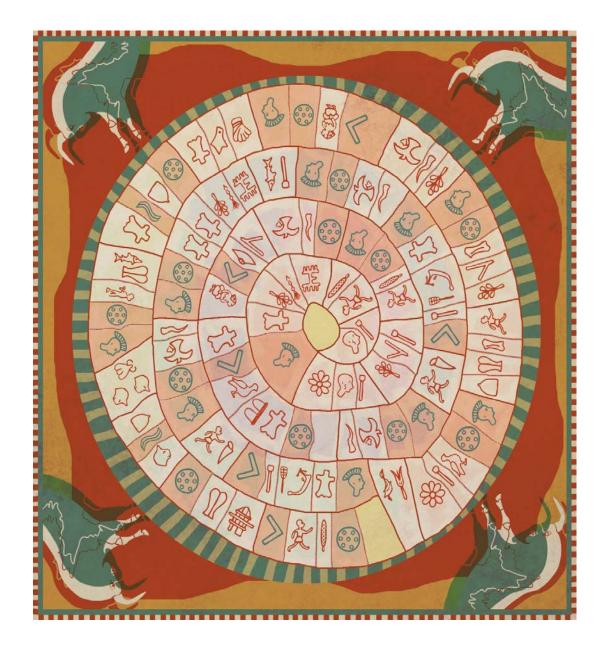
The students try out the different writing implements and in conversation reflect on how they are finding the usability of them. Some prefer the halvethom stick and think it move more elegantly through the elsy, whilst other prefer using the wire implement as they find it more controllable. After having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

After lawing complete this note 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 thing. Goods, animals, people – lists of economic commodifies, who paid what to whom, who owed and who possessed.

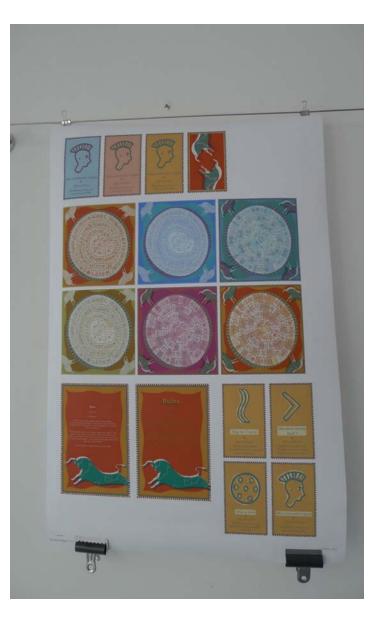












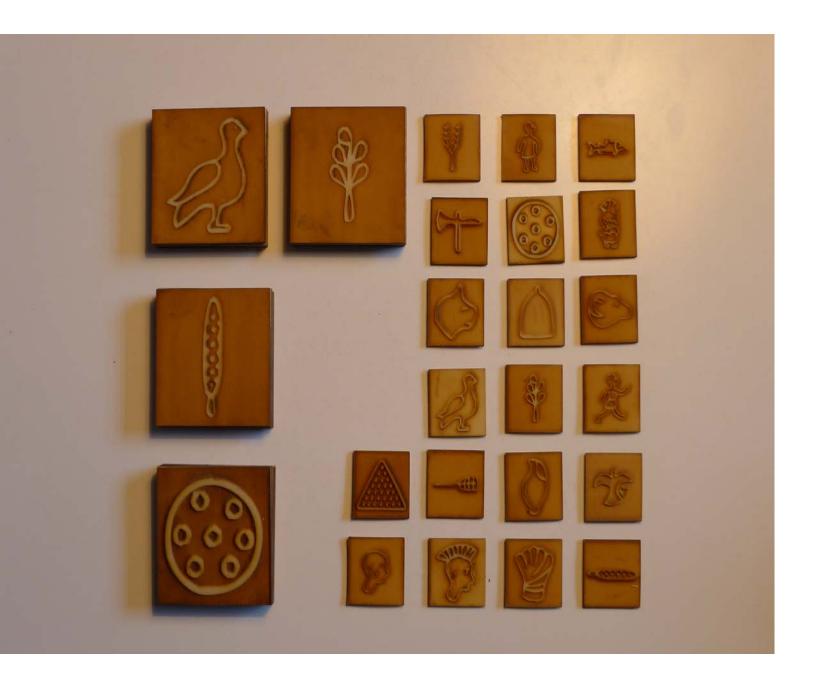








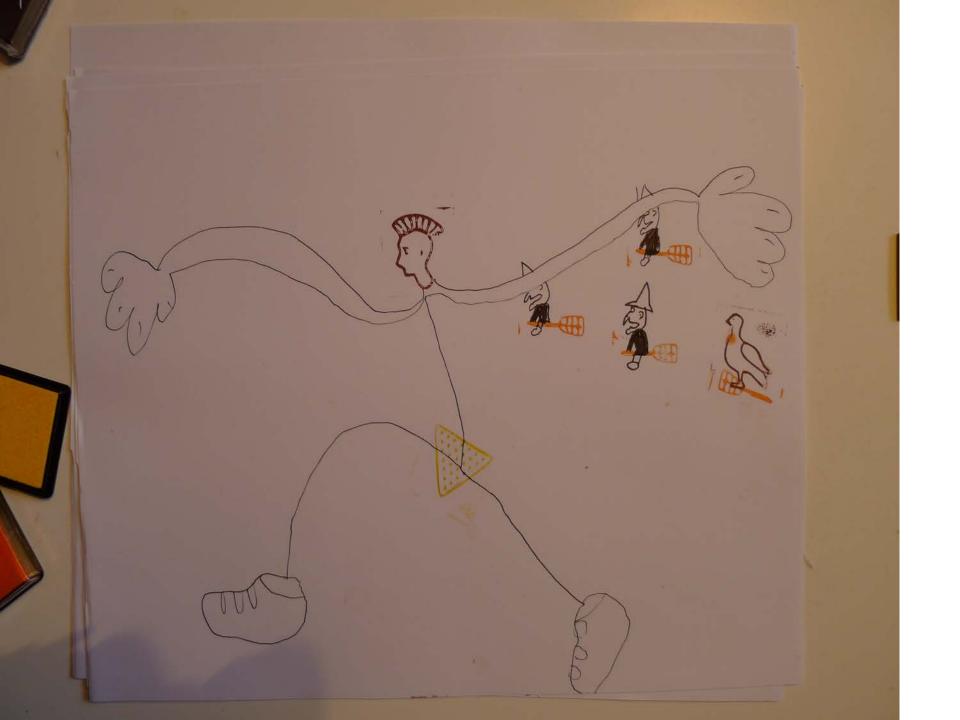






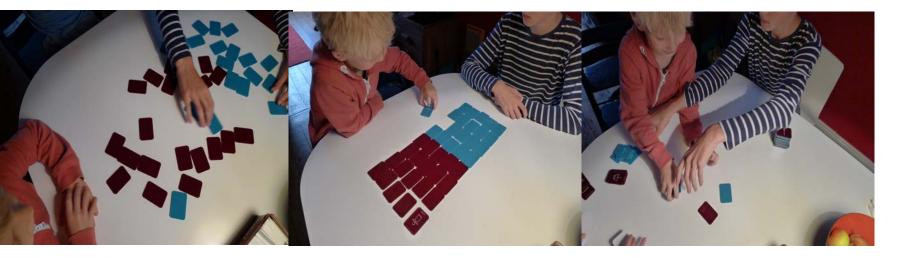


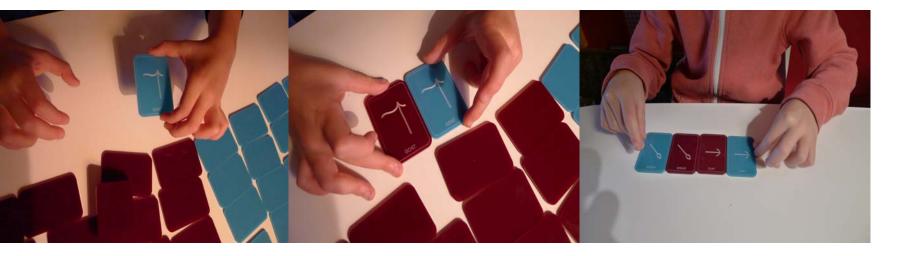












BUT

'... 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

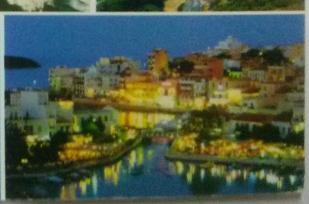
The gaze therefore pre-supposes a system of social activities and signs which locate the particular tourist practices, not in terms of some intrinsic characteristics, but through the contrast implied with non-tourist social practices, particularly those based within the home and paid work.

John Urry 2002





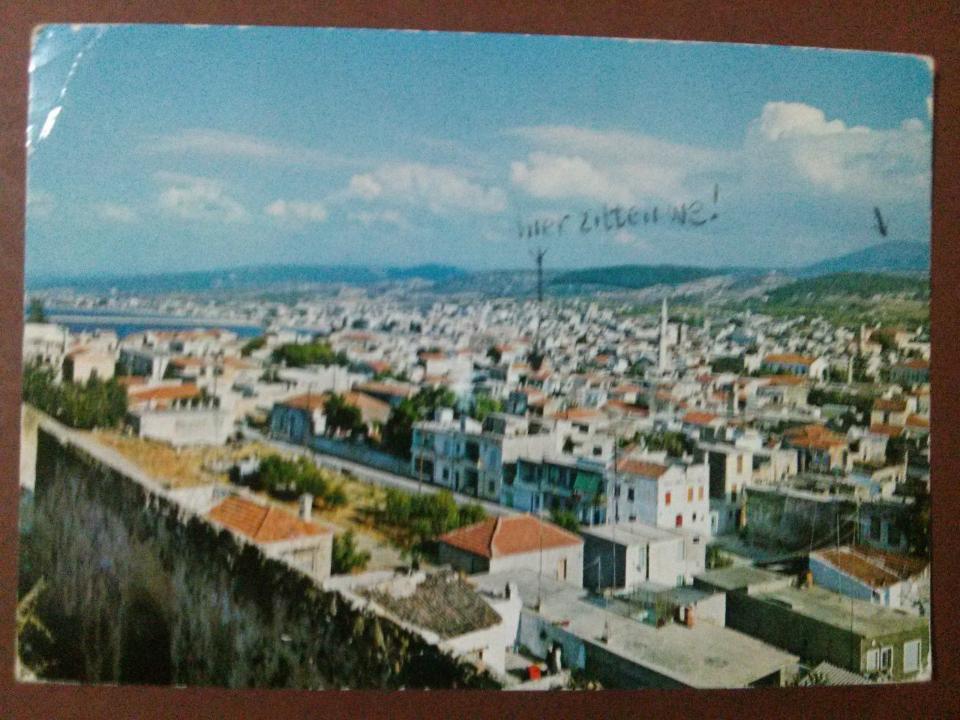
GRETE





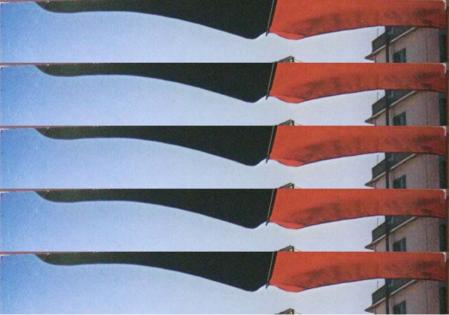








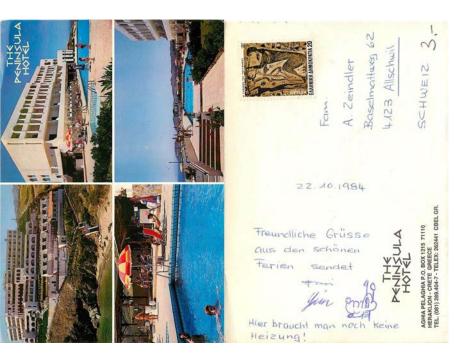






Hallo Lydio und concercomentano-conce Heiner, sounige Urlands - un gringe von der Pusel Men Par Arion Ihreta seuden Lina + Heiner Jochsberger Str. 7 Euch und die vertlide W 8801 Buch am Wald 171 Faullie CRETE-KRETA Germany MO 24/10/ 200 Herm u. Trau Hans a Amelias Dieta Fr. Marschnerste. 15 9112 Burystall/Sa Democratic Republike

ROUMUS The 11th Oct-Ελλάδα - Greece - Griechenland · Κρητη - Crete - Kreta Here we are again Lazung anonul on/in the water on the Sand & in the Tavernae! The wind is the wind is the method with the second of the COS of good food ~ wine - of course. Great excitement - we Seems to be the me Makrigialos Editions Art&Light. Photography: Manolis Tsantakis. Tel.: (0843) 61305-6 - (01) 9300733 I'm At



10151878 18-A-15 ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟ - Η κρίνη του Μοροζίνι..... HERACLION - The Morosini fountain HERACLION - La fontaine de Morosini HERAKLION - Der Brunnen von Morosini IRACLION - La fontana di Morosini ... 19/6/87 pa/ma Olier alles oké Drj jou ook? Veel liefs Mam. Ma. 64 De heer E. van Riessen Adelaar 93 5348 EH' 055 G HOLLAND



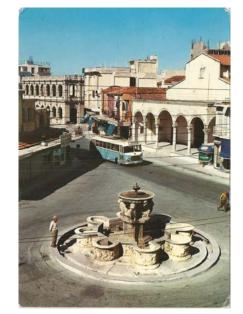














Άποψις Ήρακλείου Κρήτης. - Πλατεία Έλ. Βενιζέλου. - Κρήνη Μοροζίνη Piace E. Venizelos Candie-Grète. La fontaine Morosini











Fountain. 2013

Apropos of "Duchamp Tourism"



















Marcel



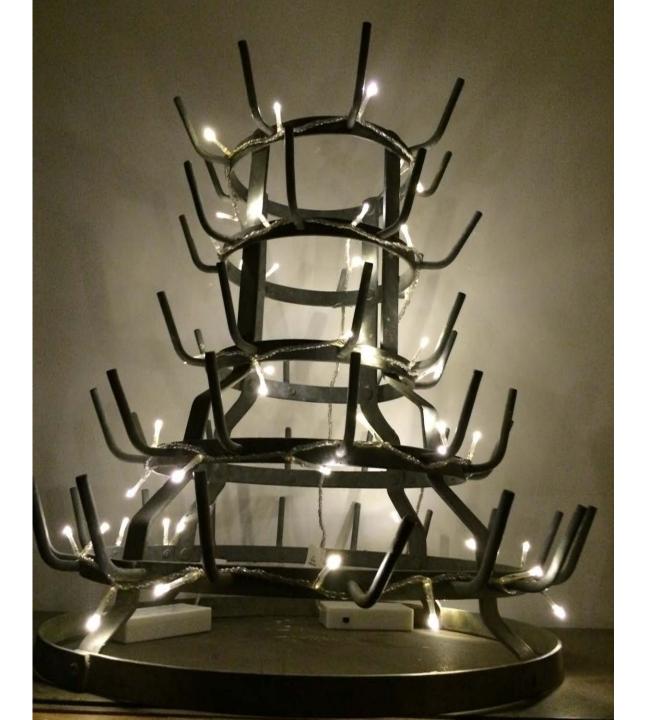




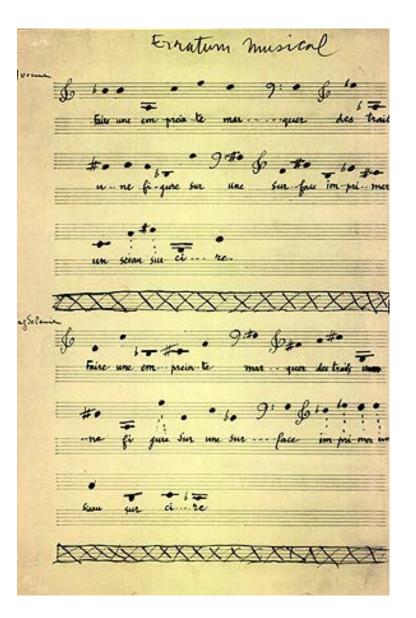












Duchamp's Parental Retirement Home Rouen

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.



Fountain, 1917

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 DELECTA-TION.

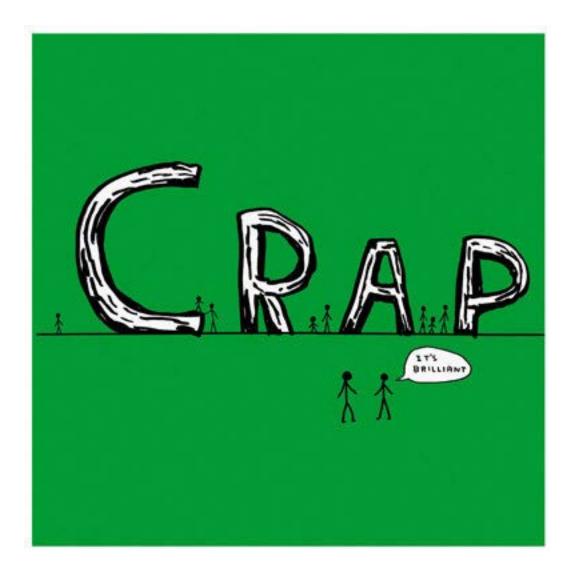
THIS CHOICE WAS BASED ON A REACTION OF VISUAL INDIFFERENCE WITH AT THE SAME TIME A TOTAL ABSENCE OF GOOD OR BAD TASTE . . . IN FACT A COMPLETE ANESTHESIA.

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 RE-GIONS MORE VERBAL.

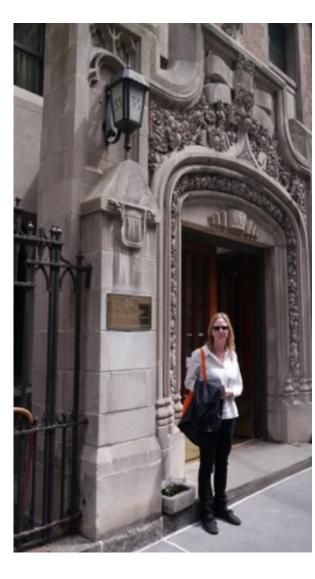
Talk delivered by Duchamp at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Oct. 19, 1961. Published in *Art and Artists* (London), 1, no. 4. (July 1966), p. 47. The original text is in the Simon Watson Taylor collection.

- 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



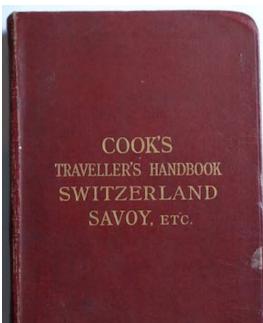
Cadaqués



Café Meliton, Cadaqués, Spain.









ROUTES TO AND IN SWITZERLAND.

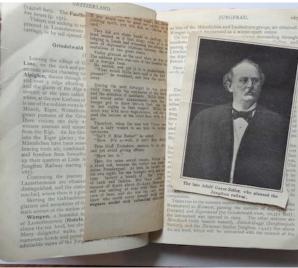
29

Routes should be calcularly selected, and plans well digested, before starting; and in order to assist in this unstter, all successary information will be supplied at the offices of That. Cook and Son. Travellers will do well to consult Cook's "Traveller's Gauetice," and Cook's "Programmes of Conducted and Independent Toons." Times of trains, &c., given are subject to alteration; the latest information both as to trains and steamers will be found in Cook's "Continental Time Tables, Tourist's Handbook, and Steamship Tables." (See also p. 9.) It will be sufficient to mention here the principal routes.

Starting from London, Switzerland is usually entered from France, rod Paris, by one of the following rootes :---

- (1) viä Belfort and (a) Delle or (β) Misihausen for Bale (fint Swiss station Courtensiche; Swiss Custom House at Porrentray). Although the distance between Belfort and Bale viä Milhausen is endy 31§ reides, as compared with 67§ reil Delle, yet the former name involves passing through German territory before arriving in Switzerland, German frontier station at Altmünsterni and Swiss at St. Louis (St. Ludwig).
- (a) rol Besançon and Le Locle for Neuclideel and Berne (first Swiss station and Custom Hoose at Col des Roches).
- (3) via Postarlier for (a) Neuchàtel and Berne, the line branching northwards at Las Cluse (first Swiss station and Custom House at Les Vernières-Susaig); for (b) Lausanne and Geneva, the line branching nouthwards at La Cluse (first Swiss station and Custom House at Valloebe).
- (4) nia Macon, Bourg and Bellegarde for Geneva and Chamonix, entering Swiss territory at Chancy, and arriving at Cornavin station (P.I. M. Railway) at Geneva.





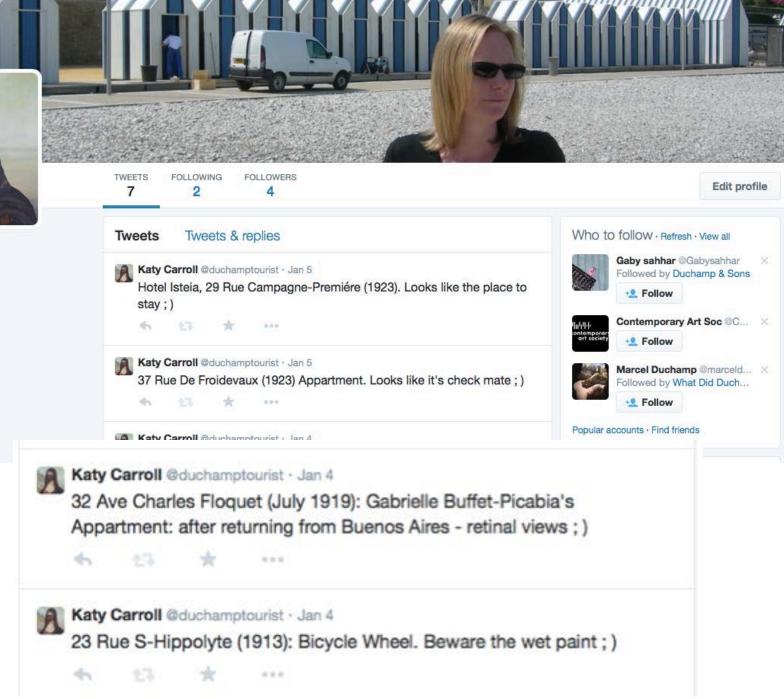


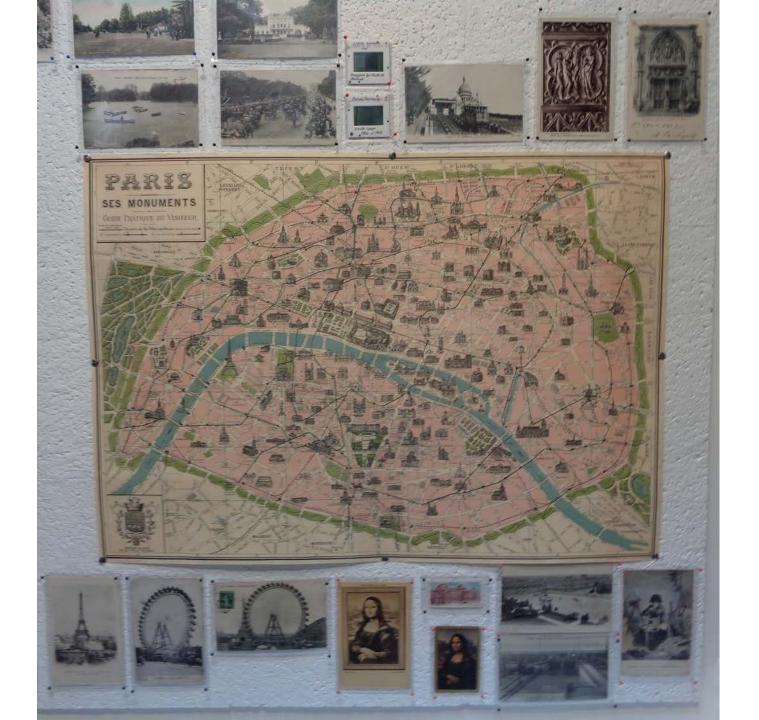


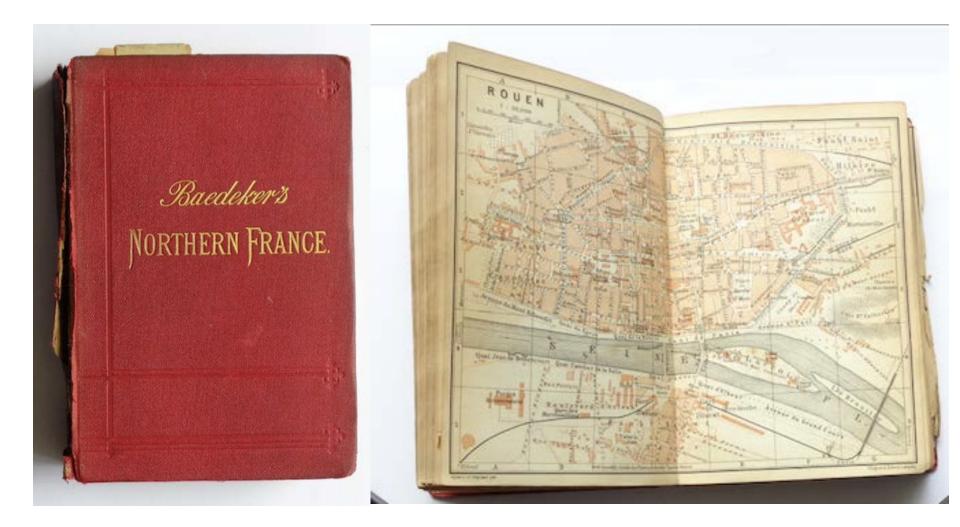




Katy Carroll @duchamptourist













The Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rouen





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

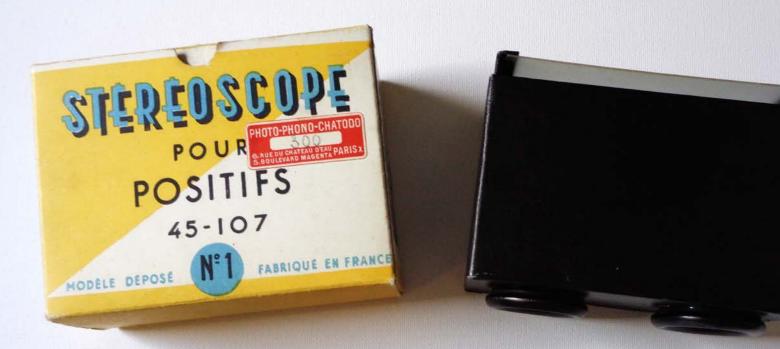


Box in a Valise (From or by Marcel Duchamp or Rrose Sélavy) 1935 - 41

























MARCEL DUCHAMP TEA TOWEL I LHOOQ

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

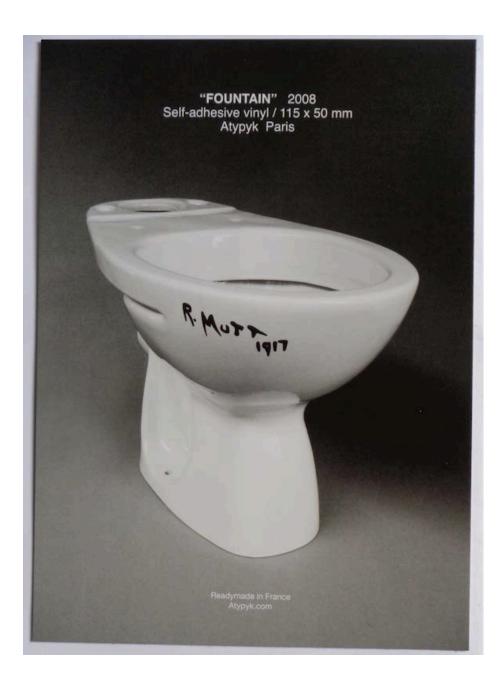






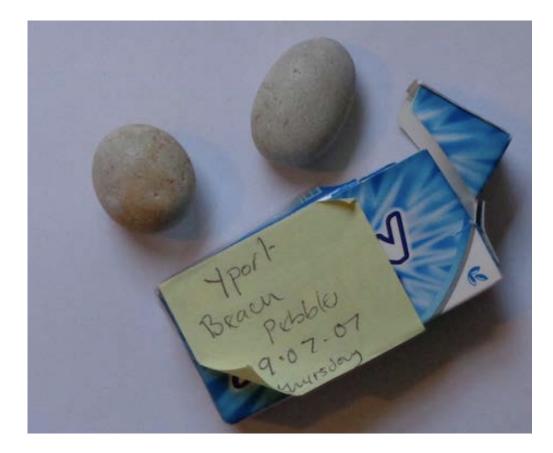








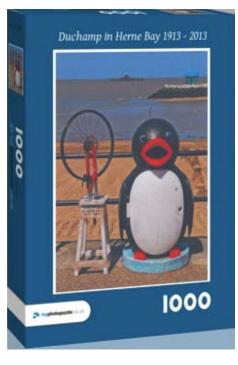


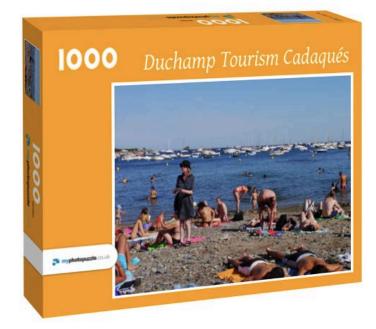




















Readymade

'work of art without an artist to make it'

'letting things go by themselves'

Marcel Duchamp











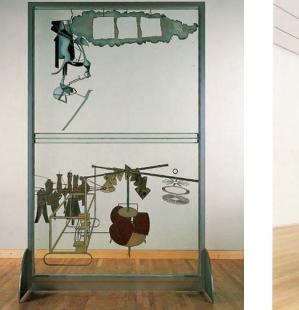


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AT SELECTED PHOTO, GIFT 44D DERMETWENT STORES







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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 pg1



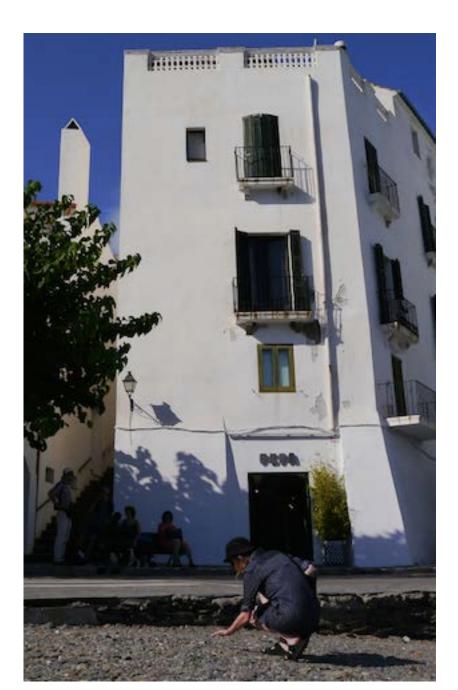


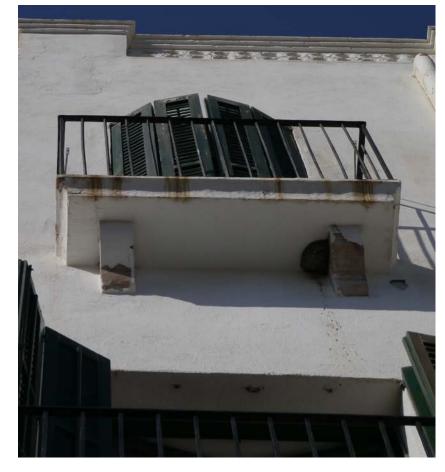




Duchamp was a great bricoleur; he enjoyed making and fixing.

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. pg520)

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. pg520)

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.'

Dratt 1 15/03/15 Herne Bay Imago (Jy-saw). 2013 Fountain, 1917 × () an obsersion to a concep going on holiday aved Duchump Tourismi Apropos of "Readymades" 2013 - 100 412 anniversing. 10 Marchaninge dosession Seaside Porch IN 1913 I HAD THE HAPPY IDEA TO FASTEN A BICYCLE WHEEL TO A KITCHEN STOOL AND WATCH IT TURN. () a show show A FEW MONTHS LATER I BOUGHT A CHEAP REPRODUCTION OF A WINTER EVENING LANDSCAFE, WHICH 1 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 STORD A (SNOW SHOVEL) X WHICH I WROTE IN ADVANCE OF THE BROKEN ARMINING TOWNS Bay 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 DELECTAacademic Duchampo hounin tooraphiral TION. 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.). - deschampfest ONE IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTIC WAS THE SHORT SENTENCE WHICH I domand OCCASIONALLY INSCRIBED ON (THE "READYMADE,") for st ochunet THAT SENTENCE INSTEAD OF DESCRIBING THE OBJECT LIKE A TITLE WAS MEANT TO CARRY THE MIND OF THE SPECTATOR TOWARDS OTHER RE-GIONS 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. * The Blind New Rensited Conver / Love 's Holiday "'S Traver Guide



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 ... 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 ... 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!