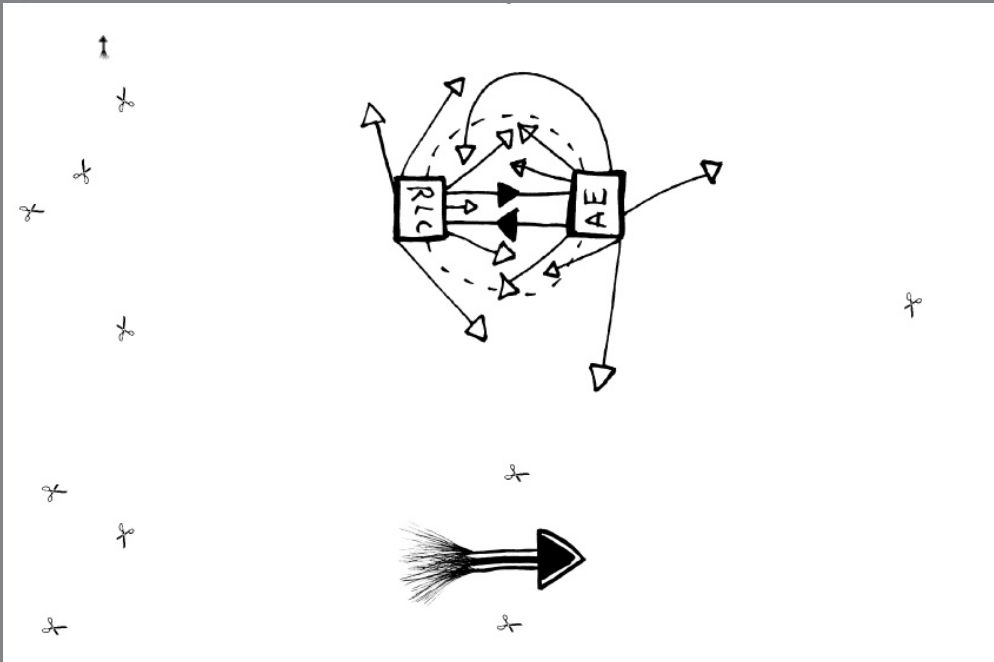


# (W)reading Performance Writing

## A Study Room Guide on performance writing



Compiled & written by Rachel Lois Clapham  
2010



Live Art  
Development  
Agency

## LADA Study Room Guides

As part of the continuous development of the Study Room we regularly commission artists and thinkers to write personal Study Room Guides on specific themes.

The idea is to help navigate Study Room users through the resource, enable them to experience the materials in a new way and highlight materials that they may not have otherwise come across.

All Study Room Guides are available to view in our Study Room, or can be viewed and/or downloaded directly from their Study Room catalogue entry.

Please note that materials in the Study Room are continually being acquired and updated. For details of related titles acquired since the publication of this Guide search the online Study Room catalogue with relevant keywords and use the advance search function to further search by category and date.

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**Writing Experiment**

93. [http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study\\_Room/pubs\\_articles.shtml](http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study_Room/pubs_articles.shtml)

Go to find. Insert number. Consider the movements in your search, note them.

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**Writing Experiment**

93. [http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study\\_Room/pubs\\_articles.shtml](http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study_Room/pubs_articles.shtml)

or [http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study\\_Room/dvd\\_video.shtml](http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study_Room/dvd_video.shtml)

Go to find. Insert number. Consider the movements in your search, note them.

(W)reading [ ]  
A Guide

Assembled by Rachel Lois Clapham (RLC) in dialogue with

Charles Bernstein (CBN) // Caroline Bergvall (CBL) // David Berridge (DB) // Emma Cocker (EC) //  
Mark Caffrey (MC) // Alex Eisenberg (AE) // John Hall (JH) // Claire Hind (CH) //  
Richard Kostelanetz (RK) // Johanna Linsley (JL) // Claire MacDonald (CMD) //  
Rebecca May Marston (RMM) // Marit Münzberg (MM) // Nature Theatre of Oklahoma (NTOO) //  
Tamarin Norwood (TN) // Mary Paterson (MP) // Joshua Sofaer (JS) // Danae Theodoridou (DT) //  
Peter Walsh (PW) // Simon Zimmerman (SZ) //

(P1433) HALFTITLE

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Collections of [ ]

Event Scores: A Fluxusconcert

From, For, On, Of ... : prepositional force

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Invitation to (W)read

Pedagogy and [ ]

[ ] Index

Performing Theory x 2

See, Work, Think, For [ ]: a syllabus

The Performative / Performativity

Touchstones

(W)reading this Guide

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// CBL //

THINK / THINK: a score

// DB //

Fantastic Diagrams

// DB // RLC // AE //

Starting points and neglected spaces

// CH //

writing between performance

// CMD //

attached to

// MM //

Chorégraphie

// NTOO //

What is it?

// DT //

The Writing of Performance

// TN //

## The Performative / Performativity

“When is saying something doing something? And how is saying something doing something? If they aren’t coeval with language itself, these questions certainly go back as far back, even in European thought, as – take your pick – Genesis, Plato, Aristotle. Proximally, posed explicitly by the 1962 publication of British Philosopher J. L. Austin’s *How to Do Things with Words*, they have resonated through the theoretical writings of the past three decades in a carnivalesque echolalia of what might be described as extraordinarily productive cross-purposes. One of the most fecund, as well as the most under-articulated, of such crossings has been the oblique intersection between performativity and the loose cluster of theatrical practices, relations, and traditions known as performance.”

(Parker and Sedgwick *Performativity and Performance* 1)

(Schechner *Performativity*)

**N.B.** A term hard to pin down. See Things to Think About and Things To Do. Approach the cross dressing task with caution. The author is not advocating a simple adoption of habits or wearing of the performative.

(Austin *How to Do Things With Words*)

**N.B.** happiness, illocution, perlocution

(Butler *Excitable speech: a politics of the performative*)

**N.B.** speech act, utterer, affect

### Writing Experiment (CBN)

47. [Removed for further study]

## Starting points and neglected spaces

Claire Hind

I often begin the process of writing through collection – I am a text collector. It usually begins with 3 sources – I watch an art film, I visit a public yet private space and I compose a series of sentences at random. Whilst playing the text collecting game, I have momentary bursts of energy and it seems to happen within a 5 minute time frame where millions of images come to mind and I speak them into the nearest recording device (or tell the nearest stranger ... )

*Man with a pink balaclava ...*

*Donkey Hill as a meeting point ...*

*Get inside a closet with a composition in 52 parts*

*Microphone in one hand sitting on the bus*

*Get Carter*

*Climb a ladder 450 times*

*Bauhaus the in-law's ornaments*

When the list stops I edit my ideas – editing is writing.

I teach [ ]. I teach through performativity and conceptual writing rather than working from dramatic literacy. We look at how language operates as performative action either for a space or for the page and I usually start by looking at the work of Tristan Tzara and Zürich Dada. We look at *The First Celestial Adventure of Mr Antipyrine*, *Fire Extinguisher* and attempt it and then move into Gertrude Stein's *Tender Buttons*. Stein's work has an amazing ability to seduce students into conceptual writing not only for the page but also for the studio or the bigger picture. Tzara teases the student's unconscious. I move through time in relation to the avant-garde throughout the semester and end up with reading contemporary work – Caroline Bergvall, the Wooster Group (in particular their scores) and Cathy Lane's *Playing With Words: The Spoken Word in Artistic Practice*. Workshop practice may begin with writing for chairs, or the dark corners of the space, writing for the floor, writing for the table, if the objects could speak what would they say? I tend to put solo work together as one ensemble and play around with compositional strategies and invite the students to invent new rules for editing, shaping and writing. We usually score all of our workshops on giant rolls of paper and then I invite the students to go miniature – re-writing for smaller spaces.

Some of my practice is anecdotally present in both mind and spirit and I always remember the teachers of my past – Professor Noel Witts invited us to write a radical text and shared the work of Umberto Eco and Tadeusz Kantor, Tim Etchells taught me [ ] at De Montfort University in the 1990's – he asked us to 'write for an impossible space'. I remember feeling totally liberated by that idea and by Claire MacDonald's practice – Claire invited Tim onto the course and she once asked us to write for the 'neglected space'. Ever since [ ] at De Montfort my eyes have been wide open to new spaces and ideas.

My teachers were inspirational – they still are and Etchells' book *Certain Fragments* reminds me of that fact and supports my students' practices.

One text I love to repeat in a space for a long time is *Captain Walter Arnold* by Gertrude Stein. Say it, learn it, repeat it, feel it. Texts that have a multitude of possibilities within a handful of words generate exciting acts of composition. Act two of Stein's play writes "A dazzling dress. We dazzle altogether.", and that is it! I love the fact that act two consists of two sentences and leaves the performer to 'write' the rest.



## The Writing of Performance

Tamarin Norwood

To call something a performance is to separate it from the world and then present it back to the world as something distinct. This double movement of separation and re-presentation is the **writing** of the performance, and it is in this writing that performing exceeds doing. Being written gives the performed thing the simultaneous immediacy and distance of language, by which its separation from the world permits the fullness of its expression.

[ ] can slip into play quite unnoticed, and so the line it draws between doing and performing is indistinct. Its operations are insidious and difficult to spot: for a start, they need not be textual at all. Any moment of framing, however brief or inchoate, provokes this double movement of separation and re-presentation and in a flash transforms doing into an awareness of doing: a performance of **doing**. Moreover, although performance only comes into existence once it is written, the anteriority of writing to performance need not be temporal. A thing, a moment, an action might be interrupted by or imbued with a feeling of self-consciousness that is simultaneous to the thing itself, and which writes it into performance in real time. This slip of self-consciousness is sufficient to write the performance into being, and precedes the performance not by coming before it in time but by standing outside it, containing it and circumscribing its form.

Conceiving of [ ] in this way blows wide open the field of performance to the point that any action, at any moment, risks slipping into performance. It stretches a **continuum** from traditionally delineated 'theatrical' performances

This is an active and weighted form of 'writing' that implies both 'writing into existence' and 'naming'. One developer of this conception of writing is Maurice Blanchot, who writes in *The Gaze of Orpheus*:

"Is it that words have lost all relation to what they designate? But this absence of relation is not a defect, and if it is a defect, this defect is the only thing that gives language its full value, so that of all languages the most perfect is the language of mathematics, which is spoken in a rigorous way and to which no entity corresponds."

"A word may give me its meaning, but first it suppresses it. For me to be able to say, 'This woman' I must somehow take her flesh and blood reality away from her, cause her to be absent, annihilate her. The word gives me the being, but it gives it to me deprived of being. The word is the absence of that being, its nothingness, what is left of it when it has lost being – the very fact that it does not exist." (Blanchot *The Gaze of the Orpheus* 41–42)

This conception of language presents a particular field and definition of [ ], which has its foundation in 'lifelike' performance (see the third note) but equally extends through the wider performance spectrum.

Jean-Paul Sartre's 1938 novel *Nausea* reads as an oblique description of the uneasiness of this double movement, and the vertiginous exchanges between doing and performing it provokes in everyday life. The surface of the world appears as a kind of performance that occasionally and horrifically ruptures, revealing a prelinguistic reality churning underneath. Roquentin writes in his diary:

"This is what I have been thinking: for the most commonplace event to become an adventure, you must – and this is all that is necessary – start recounting it. This is what fools people: a man is always a teller of tales, he lives surrounded by his stories and the stories of others, he sees everything that happens to him through them; and he tries to live his life as though he were recounting it". (Sartre *Nausea* 61)

To transform doing into performing, it suffices only to step outside of the doing and write it into a narrative. The transformation is sufficiently insidious, Roquentin implies, that one could spend one's whole life inside performance and barely suspect a thing.

In his 1976 essay *Nontheatrical Performance* Allan Kaprow explores this continuum further, testing the boundary between 'lifelike' art and life itself. He carves the spectrum into five broad kinds of artistic activity, of which the fifth and most lifelike of all is to "work in nonart modes and nonart contexts but cease to call the work art, retaining instead the private consciousness that sometimes it may be art, too".

The field of performance is blown so far open that it almost ceases to be a category. The writing of performance is so slight here that performing teeters on the brink of disappearing into doing. Kaprow goes so far as to conclude that "all artists can locate themselves among these five options. Most belong to the first, very few occupy the fourth, and so far, I know of no one who fits the fifth who hasn't simply dropped out of art entirely." (Kaprow *Nontheatrical Performance* 175–176)

At the far reaches of Kaprow's delineation of artistic activity, then, what remains is a shred of tentative writing in the private consciousness of the performer: 'sometimes it may be art'. Is this the limit of [ ]? Can writing give names to things more thinly and more indistinctly than this without performance dropping out entirely?

– with script, stage, actor, curtain, audience – all the way to impromptu, personal and barely distinct 'lifelike' performances, in which it might suffice to merely notice an action taking place and, once noticed, to let the action continue all the same.

This conception of performance indicates furthermore a particular tension between performance and the world to which it is re-presented. Because a performed thing is written it exists, like language, both within and at one remove from the world. The performed thing recedes into the distance behind its name: behind the performance of **itself**. Giving a performance is to give the word for a thing rather than the thing itself; and yet the world that receives it is a world of things, not words.

Giving a performance means redeeming the distance of the thing being performed: re-presenting the word as though it were a full and immediate thing within the world. Yet the thing itself is precisely what performance can never give, or it will slip back from performing into mere doing.

If performance is to sustain the particular duality of its expression, then these delicate contradictory tugs of separation and representation must be incorporated and obliterated by the supreme fiction of **performance**: the fiction that there is no writing at all.

Roquentin continues: "But you have to choose: to live or to recount. For example, when I was in Hamburg, with that Erna girl whom I didn't trust and who was afraid of me, I led a peculiar sort of life. But I was inside it, I didn't think about it. And then one evening, in a little café at St Pauli, she left me to go to the lavatory. I was left on my own, there was a gramophone playing *Blue Skies*. I started telling myself what had happened since I had landed. I said to myself: 'On the third evening, as I was coming into a dance hall called the Blue Grotto, I noticed a tall woman who was half-seas over. And that woman is the one I am waiting for at this moment, listening to *Blue Skies*, and who is going to come back and sit down on my right and put her hands around my neck.' Then I had a violent feeling that I was having an adventure. But Erna came back, she sat down beside me, she put her arms around my neck, and I hated her without knowing why. I understand now: it was because I had to begin living again that the impression of having an adventure had just vanished." (Sartre *Nausea* 61)

For a moment the ordinary living of a life is written into a performance of itself. It acquires the glamorous distance of a word – an adventure – but words and things collide when the flesh and blood reality of Erna returns. The words dissolve and the performance stops abruptly, leaving the ex-performer unprepared to redeem the gap between performing and doing – word and thing – adventure and everyday life.

In theatre, as in painting, the supreme fiction of performance is that the word is flesh and occupies the world. Denis Diderot's salon reports of the 1760s suggest one approach to redeeming the distance of the thing being performed:

"It is rare that a being who is not totally engrossed in his action is not *mannered*. Every personage who seems to tell you: 'Look how well I cry, how well I become angry, how well I implore,' is false and *mannered*. [...] If you lose your feeling for the difference between the man who presents himself in society and the man engaged in action, between the man who is alone and the man who is looked at, throw your brushes into the fire. [...] Whether you compose or act, think no more of the beholder than if he did not exist. Imagine, at the edge of the stage, a high wall that separates you from the orchestra. Act as if the curtain never rose." (Diderot cited in Fried *Absorption and Theatricality* 82 – 132)

What performance must sustain at all costs is the immediacy of word and world. And yet it must sustain this immediacy not as a matter of fact but as a matter of fiction. Every personage must seem engrossed, engaged, alone – and yet the beholder must exist. It is not that the curtain never rises, nor even that there is no curtain, but that the performer must act as if the curtain never rose.

about		
above		
across		
after		
against		
along		
among		
around		
at	BEFOREMATH	
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below		
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like		
near		
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off		
on		
onto		
out		
outside		The book is
over		The book is
past		The book is
since		The book is
through		
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till		
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toward		
under		
underneath		
until		
up		
upon		
with		
within		
without	//RLC//	

**FROM, FOR, ON, OF ... : prepositional force**  
prep·o·si·tion [prep-uh-zish-uhn]

**FROM, FOR, ON, OF**

Indexical, bound, parasitic, supplemental – to the thing they cleave **TO**

A critical fall-out from the **before of** [insert object, verb, noun or thought]

The **BEFOREMATH**

(Quick <i>The Wooster Group Work Book</i> )	writing >>>>	<b>FROM</b>	<<<<	performance
(Deeney <i>Writing Live</i> )	writing >>>>	<b>FOR</b>	<<<<	performance
(Goldberg <i>Performance Art</i> )	writing >>>>	<b>ON</b>	<<<<	performance
(Goulash 39 <i>Microlectures</i> )	writing >>>>	<b>OF</b>	<<<<	performance

In each case something **SHIFTS**

Movement is implied

This is not just words. (Basically, there's a lot in a preposition)

There's a lot in >

from the table.  
for the table.  
on the table.  
of the table.

### Writing Experiment (CBN)

58. Write a poem consisting only of prepositions, then of prepositions and one other part of speech, then three parts of speech. (Coolidge *Oflengths*)

***What is it?***

**Towards a re-enactment of the experience of performative writing.**

Danae Theodoridou

A friend is giving you a book. It writes:

Certain Fragments Contemporary Performance and Forced Entertainment Tim Etchells  
Foreword by Peggy Phelan.

And it HAS to be returned. You are reading it. You return it. Then you buy it. Twice.

*What is it?*

You are in the theatre. You hear a phrase.

'The bad thing with experience is that it can't be transferred.' (Keep these words.)

*What is it?*

You are at a café. Or in your room. Or at a park. Or out at the balcony. Or on bed. Or at the library. You are reading a second book. It stays with you in all these places, like a personal Bible. Here is its cover:

matthew goulsh 39 MICROLECTURES in proximity of performance How do we understand something? We understand something by approaching it How do we approach something? We approach it from any direction We approach it using our eyes, our ears, our noses, our intellects, our imaginations. We approach it with silence. We approach it with childhood. We use pain We use history We take a safe route or a dangerous one. We discover our approach and follow it.

*What is it?*

'The bad thing with experience is that it can't be transferred.' (Remember these words?)

*What is it?*

You go back to it, you try to describe it, you try to analyze it, you try to show it, you try to tell it, you try to express it, you try to share it, you try to transfer it.

*What is it?*

Performative words. Their experience. It can't be transferred.

*What is it?*

No need for describing words, analyzing words, showing words, telling words, sharing words, transferring words.

Just words to re-enact the experience. If it can be transferred, it can be re-done and it can be re-lived.

Here they are, they don't transfer, they re-create. The experience of one who read a book and bought it twice, of one who carried a book everywhere like a personal Bible, of one who since that day knows that 'the bad thing with experience is that it can't be transferred'.

Here they are. The experience of you, here, now.

It starts by reading this:

1	A series of accidents has brought you to this book.
2	You may think of it not as a book, but as a library, an elevator, an amateur performance in a nearby theatre.
3	Consider this book like an interrupted performance. The writer left the stage because of a sudden illness, which has now become prolonged. The writer will not return. I have been asked to stand in.
4	When listening please bear in mind: I have tried to compose some of your most particular experiences.
5	... the sense that the words not only mean, but also live, and affect an irreversible change on the reader.
6	For there can be no learning without the presence of others.
7	Zen Stories are never about other people. They are always about you.
8	The other in all his or her forms gives me /. It is on the occasion of the other that / catch sight of <i>me</i> ; ...
9	My poems are meeting places ...
10	Sometimes the reader comes to the realization that all the printed words make up only half of the book. Silence makes up the other half.
11	I would like to find people who in the depths of their souls feel the same way as I do.
12	Everything is true.
13	By now you must be tired of reading and ready to turn off your light. But wait.



It goes on like this:

1	You know it when you see it.
2	Performance as a way of going to another world and coming back with gifts.
3	Not even a game anymore. Go too far. Go too far. Go too far. Edges of the game – where it comes back to the real.
4	Make up a story to explain this: A dead man in England in winter with a stomach full of strawberries.
5	A text of lines from half-remembered songs.
6	A love letter written in binary.
7	A text composed of fragments.
8	A text for people to find in their wallets, days later, when you are forgotten.
9	A text to come through people's doors – perhaps a letter.
10	A text for someone to find in the street, caught in one of those eddypools of blown leaves and ragged polythene bags.
11	A text written in condensation.
12	A text written, learned and performed to pass a polygraph test.
13	A series of texts written on a lover. In biro, in lipstick, in permanent marker, in blood, and semen.
14	An invisible text.
15	The same text written every day for a year, in different places, in different locations.
16	A text written on the floor of an old factory.
17	Language like a camera on endless tracks, zooming everywhere, close-up, wide-shot, tracking shot, point of view. Language jumping you from one story, one world, one discourse to another.
18	A text written at 3am in the middle of a war.
19	A text written in the fast food court of a large European shopping mall.
20	A text which raises questions of ownership.
21	... – copied language like precious stones. Authentic has not really been in it.
22	... writing (or even speaking) as a kind of trying on other peoples clothes ...
23	here are 26 letters: a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z now write a text for performance.



You are now almost there.

Read this:

That's the thing you have to do with a voice after all – make it speak of the things it cannot deal with.

(p0135 107 lines 36–37)



Words cannot deal with it.

*What is it?*

This is the last part.

Now it's time to do exactly what you've been doing so far, since you started reading these words. Just continue to use your voice to write the words you wrote between the phrases read above. To produce the texts you write when you look up. Continue to write about things words cannot deal with.

Take your time. Go on, go on.

Don't stop looking up . . .

Write, write, write . . .

Lose your way, go there and there and there, come back and depart again, look up, look up.

And write, write, write . . .

Now you know too.

**This is it.**

Writing Experiment  
93. [http://www.thisishiveart.co.uk/resources/Study-Room/pubs\\_articles.shtml](http://www.thisishiveart.co.uk/resources/Study-Room/pubs_articles.shtml)  
Go to find. Insert number. Consider the movements in your search, note them.





## Invitation to (W)read

All works included, mentioned or touched in this guide are in the INDEX.  
Assemble the various parts of this guide together as you see fit. There is no right or wrong order, no beginning or end in mind.

Numerical references in ( ) relate to searchable items in the Live Art Development Agency online catalogue  
[http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study\\_Room/pubs\\_articles.shtml](http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study_Room/pubs_articles.shtml)

I hope you might consider the open nature of the guide and use these pages as an exercise book or base for your own notes.

I offer three open invitations to (w)read from others:

1. The artist may construct the piece.
2. The piece may be fabricated.
3. The piece need not be built.

*(Weiner Declaration of Intent)*

“A series of accidents has brought you to this book.  
You may think of it not as a book, but as a library, an elevator, an amateur performance  
in a nearby theatre.  
Open it to the table of contents.  
Turn to the page that sounds the most interesting to you.  
Read a sentence or two.  
Repeat the process.  
Read this book as a creative act, and feel encouraged.”

*(Goulish 39 Microlectures half title)*

### Writing Experiment (CBN)

92. Make up more experiments.

THINK / THINK: A SCORE  
David Berridge

THINK (1)  
The Space

THINK (2)  
A gathering

THINK (3)  
Writing-Drawing

THINK (4)  
Translation

THINK (5)  
Already existing

THINK (6)  
Erasing making

THINK (7)  
Gestures

THINK (8)  
Simultaneity

THINK (9)  
Your body = A4 page

THINK (10)  
Press PUBLISH NOW

[ ] = Performance Writing  
Term undecided and continually on the move.

- “ 1 A noun of action of quality (performance) behaves as an adjective that modifies the verbal noun (or gerund) (writing) that follows it.  
2 Two nouns stand side by side in dialogic proximity, perhaps with the ghost of an ‘and’ between them or an elided ‘in the context of’ that could work in either direction (performance in the context of writing; writing in the context of performance). There is decidedly no fixed preposition between the words such as an instrumental ‘for’ (writing for performance). Other prepositions (or prepositional phrases) may hover in readiness, sometimes inviting an inversion of the noun order: in, as, from, about, towards, in parallel with.  
3 There is even just the possibility of hearing performance as a noun followed by writing as a present participle: performance in the process of writing.”

(Hall / / 89)

## Performing Theory x 2

How might *doing* theory be a matter of performance,  
*how* might it matter to performance, and vice versa?

“[improvisation is] constituted by the very weave of  
“Isn’t an openness towards being affected what is  
the moment, place and circumstances of enunciation.”  
asked for when one acts to make with something  
(Seth *Itinerant Improvisations* 147)  
or someone else?”

(Lomax *Sounding the Event* 32)

### Writing Experiment (CBN)

42. Write down everything you hear.

[whilst reading the above two texts]

# THE POLITICS OF FRIENDSHIP

*Jacques Derrida*

Translated by George Collins



VERSO  
London • New York

## Contents

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attachment 2

free spirits  
Geister  
spirit

spirits

free spirits

*Vielleicht*

free spirits

*vielleicht*

*vielleicht*

*vielleicht*

free spirit

ghost

*vielleicht*

breathes

*vielleicht*

*souffle*

free spirit

*Vielleicht*

sigh

*Vielleicht* *Vielleicht* sigh

breath

*Spirits*

*Free*

free spirits

free spirits *freie, sehr freie Geister*

*vielleicht*  
*vielleicht*

free spirits



attachment 3





I\* (the)

OR

Speaking for yourself (and others) in [ ]



(A0289)

(A0286)

(A0287)

\* Akzidenz Grotesk Bold I



**Writing Experiment**

93. [http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study\\_Room/pubs\\_articles.shtml](http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study_Room/pubs_articles.shtml)

Go to find. Insert number. Consider the movements in your search, note them.

94. Publish your encounter with these lines.

**Writing Experiment (CBN)**

41. Write an autobiographical poem without using any pronouns.

# A syllabus for diagrams; Some singularity of purpose

David Berridge

Whitechapel, December 30th 2009

I couldn't find the book I was going to talk about so I decided to try to improvise a diagram syllabus – although maybe reverie is a more appropriate word. It starts in 1948 with Claude E. Shannon's schematic diagram of a general communication system – where information source, transmitter, channel, receiver and destination get represented as a linear series of squares linked by arrows. Then there's George Brecht, whose notebooks – whilst attending John Cage's New School evening class – re-work the diagram via handwritten notes and drawings, into something more akin to the communication model of Fluxus scores and happenings. Then, in the aftermath of the December '09 COP15 conference in Copenhagen, I skip to Mauna Loa in Hawaii, where readings of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations since 1958 – often represented as a steeply rising jagged red line – provided one of the first graphic indications of climate change, and one that foregrounds how the scale and formal properties of the diagram inform our (emotional) response to its content.

Then it's Warhol's *Dance Diagrams* where he uses those how-to-dance plans, with their outlined feet linked by arrows, and then I was thinking of Rudolf Steiner and Beuys, both of them drawing schematically on the blackboard as they lectured. Such diagram-improvisations became seen and sold as art works. I look at books of them and enjoy them although I really have no idea what they are about. It's hard, too, for me to think of Beuys' diagrams without those stories of him in Cork, the caretaker – of course – rubbing everything off when he'd finished – clearing the fat off the chair, too!

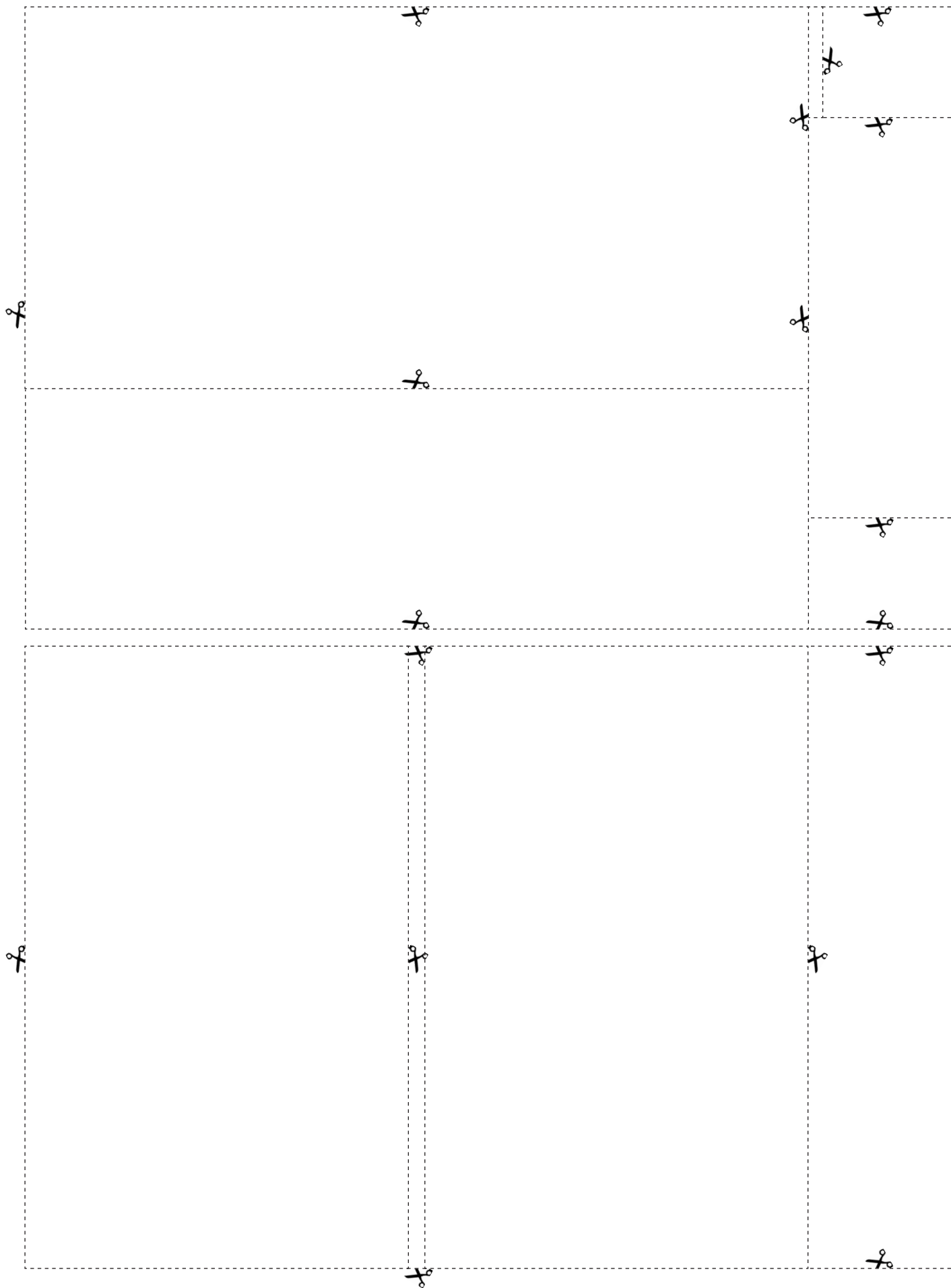
Next we're onto the diagram-drawing tension again: a conversation between Joan Jonas and the Korean artist Sung Hwan Kim where he shows her a plan of his house. Jonas calls it a diagram, but when Kim adds a hand drawn line of his route around the house she calls it a drawing. It's a fairly casual use of the word, but it's also revealing of the point at which something becomes an art work, becomes worked-with, becomes seen as either an experience or a representation of one or both.

Finally, I'm looking through Richard Kostelanetz's anthology *Scenarios: Scripts to Perform*, and its many diagrammatic performance scripts. I'm thinking of Julia Born's response to Kostelanetz's anthology as part of her "Secret Instructions"

project, which explores forms of diagramming – including stage instructions and Labanotation – on a spectrum from documenting to the prompting of new movement, and how her performances are chances to open up the schematics of such written systems to the indeterminacies and new schematics of live performance. This suggests what the Brazilian artist Ricardo Basbaum says about his Diagram [love songs] series:

"Always composed by words and lines, the diagram is a sort of drawing (or visual poem) that mediates the dynamic flow between words and images – discursive and non-discursive spaces – or literary and plastic spaces, etc ... Many times I have taken the diagrams as a tool to connect my practice as an artist to other roles in the art system – writer, critic, curator, agent – departing from the visual / verbal monochromatic composition for establishing dialogues with the other ... it is always interesting to look through the diagrams searching for the potentially implied fiction layers – then, each diagram points to different plots, as screenplays for movies yet-to-be-done."

Finally, Rodchenko: "Drawing as it was conceived in the past loses its value and is transformed into diagram or geometric projection."



## Event Scores: A Fluxusconcert

Various performances composed, re-written and punctuated (1984 – 2004).

Assembled and re-typed by Rachel Lois Clapham

dance with a large piece of chalk

mark up the nearest surface

and pay attention

to the movement of your feet

music optional

(Jonas *Instruction*)

The performer or performers shuffle into the performance area and away from it, above, behind, around, all through the audience. They perform as a group or solo ... but quietly.

(Knowles *Shuffle* #7)

Doing Nothing

(Fang [*Doing Nothing*])

Make a salad.

(Knowles [*Proposition* #2])

Place the palms of your hands side by side on this piece of paper. After a short time; raise hands and place your eyes at the same level as the palms. Notice the possible and coincident unus multurom retardation in the situations etc.

or something else

(Anderson, *Opus* 50)

This sentence should not be read by more than one person at the same time.

(Anderson *Opus* 46)

1. Two persons are situated on the stage.

One of them pronounces the sound 'A'.

2. (Optional) The person who started with the sound 'A' is only allowed to pronounce the sound 'B'. The other person is only allowed to pronounce the sound 'C'.

3. The performance is finished when one of the persons pronounces the sound 'D'.

(Anderson *Opus* 17)

Get 180lbs. of a local wrapped candy and drop in a corner.

(Gonzales-Torres *Untitled*)

Burn this book. ASAP.

(Cantor [*Burn this book. ASAP.*])

DON'T do it!

Refuse

Do as your told! (this means you!)

(Golub [*Don't do it!*])

Arrange to observe a NO SMOKING sign

Smoking / No smoking

(Brecht *No Smoking Event*)

Turn on a radio. At the first sound, turn it off.

(Brecht *Instruction*)

The audience is instructed to leave the theatre.

(Brecht *Word Event, Fluxversion* 1)

Performer enters, bows, then exits. This is executed once for every member of the audience.

(Heflin *First Performance*)

I imitate the Dove and often I throw a blade of grass to the drowning ant.

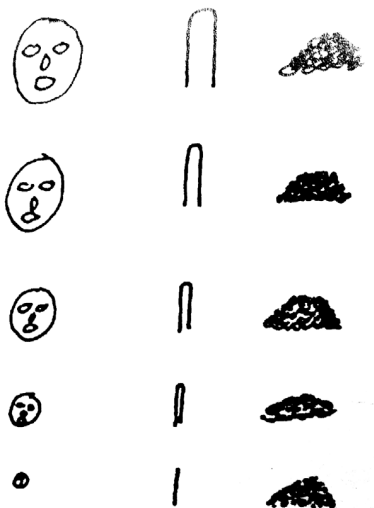
(Joubert [1784])

If the earth must perish then astronomy is our only consolation.

(Joubert [1784])

Water.

(Ono *Piece for Nam June Paik No.1*)



FOR THE DURATION OF AN EXHIBITION A  
BOUNDARIED, UNMARKED, PRE-ALLOCATED  
SPACE OF 46,656 CUBIC INCHES IS TO REMAIN  
UNOCCUPIED.

(Bochner *Territorial Reserve no.4*)

None of the above

(Armleder [*None of the above*])



(Askevold *On Shrinking a Head*)



This being a keynote, an opening gesture I won't dwell too long nor go into too much depth. I suppose it will suffice here to air a number of questions and provide some overall pointers as a general background for the papers and panels and work we're going to be engaging with for the next two days.

Part of the pleasure in wishing to establish cross-disciplinary dialogues around a resonance such as [ ] is the fact that we all, as practitioners and critics meet here in the knowledge that only the very diversity of, at times seemingly incompatible starting-points, in both theory and practice, can turn the possibility of [ ], beyond a BA degree, into a culturally networked area of investigation.

I suppose this is the time to ask why are we here, exactly.

I think we all have a vague sense of what [ ] might entail, which we can link back to our own work and approaches but what of the overall idea that brings us here. Is there an overall idea. What is [ ]?

I think that's a good starting-point so let's do a Gertrude Stein on it and talk about it for what it is not. This won't stabilise any answer particularly but it will hopefully guarantee that it doesn't get looped into itself prior to the question being fully asked. So, what is [ ] not?

Is [ ] not writing?

Is it writing which performs not writes?

Is it not performance which writes?

But then does writing not perform?

And when does writing not perform? And what kind of not performance are we talking about? Is it not performance to write or is it not writing to not perform?

Some examples. Is it not [ ] to site some text in a space or on a wall or on electronic boards or is that not installation art? or is that not public art? Is it not [ ] to treat spoken writing as part of a sound composition or is that not music? or not sound art? Is it not [ ] to inscribe words on a canvas, spray them on a wall, layer text into photographs or carve them into wood, steel or other solids or is that not visual art? or is that not graffiti art? or is that not poetry? Is it not [ ] to use text as part of a body-related piece or is that not performance art or is that not dance or theatre? Is it not [ ] to bleed a word into flesh or is that not Jenny Holzer? or is that not tattoo art? or is that not activism? Not is it [ ] to generate text for the page or for the screen or for a book or is that not video art? or is that not literature? or is that not visual art? or is it electronic art?

You might be starting to think that [ ] is all of the above, or you might start to think that it is none of the above. Mostly you might think that the dialectics of either /or induce a slight irritation, some vague déjà-heard. That at a deeper level what is at stake might be less a question of classification than one of applied definition.

I wouldn't like you to think that as soon as I read "This is not a pipe" I go "Oh [ ]". Well, I might. But bearing in mind that, for all the push and shove of postmodern practice and discourse, the overall historical classifications (music, literature, theatre et al) are proving all the

time less appropriate to read formally and place critically the kind of language work which is being produced. Some concerted excavation of the intradisciplinarity of much textual work, or work which features writing in one form or another, is called for to establish through and beyond the literary, a broader understanding of writing, its structural and functional strategies.

I would like to suggest that each artistic discipline (writing, or rather literature, among them) with its specific histories and developments and points of collapse and regeneration should be read more and explored more. Explored not merely according to its specific discourses and histories, with the inevitable narrowing down and cocooning which ensues, but as so many criss-crossings of sophisticated skills borne out of these histories and questioned through the mental and material constructs of textual contemporaneity.

The contemporaneity of the notion of [ ] is that it can only locate itself as part of the atomisation of literature, music, theatre and so on. In that, of course, it inscribes itself in line with the aesthetics of suspicion, disruption, and reappraisal which have to such a large extent determined the frame of mind of this century's effusion of experimentality. In this sense, [ ] needs to highlight the many kinds of tensions which arise from the concerted pooling of differing writing practices and explore the kinds of relationship text-based work entertains when developed in conjunction with other media and other discourses.

The act of writing becomes then as much a question open to literary analysis as one open to the broader investigation of the kinds of formal and ideological strategies which writers and artists develop textually in response or in reaction to their own time and their own fields.

I'm aware that much has been and is being written along those lines. But it all remains generally dispersed across so many fields and tucked away as so many side-projects that, unless one happens to make cross-disciplinary text-work a specific area of research, the likelihood is that much will escape one's attention.

It is also important to point out that, although much theoretical and poetic work has been done, this is especially true of exploratory poetry and deconstructive philosophy, to widen the literary debate and incorporate to it various notions of materiality (and the materiality of writing is an essential aspect of [ ]); it is largely true to say that the whole approach to writing remains in these fields primarily located on the page. This ignores and cuts short the debate on all writerly work which extends beyond the page.

The poet and critic Johanna Drucker points out that if much post-structuralist analysis has usefully conceptualised the idea of textuality and textual performativity, it still falls short of addressing and critiquing the range and scope of materials available to writing and how this range may affect the very idea of writing.

Marcel Broodthaers's work is a useful case in point. Indeed a large part of his work concerned itself, sometimes at a sarcastic level, with the investigation of poetic means and poetic conventions. However, he chose to do so by locating a writerly activity not primarily on the page but into objects and spatial constructs. He would locate the points where objects and words, syntax and

architecture apply direct, difficult pressure onto each other. Both in intent and product, his work displays an awareness of the act of writing and of its points of fission. So is the literary field's indifference to his work an example of literary blindspot? Is it lack of vocabulary? I would argue that along with the development of a shared terminology, it is a shift in attitude with regards to what defines the writerly that we should wish to operate.

A number of debates in the visual and performing arts as well as in cultural studies have applied deconstructive theories to question and articulate the importance of the contextualisation of practice, the siting of work and the locations (and relocations) of identity in the contemporary arts. It is questions like these which could provide the extra-literary pointers we need to get to grips with the wider implications contained within the idea of [ ]. Hence the textual does not only throw up the question of the literary, it also urgently prompts an interrogation of the impact the use of writing applies on visual, sonic or movement arts. And vice-versa. It is also paramount that the impact of this cross-fertilisation does not remain fixated at a formal level, but that it acutely and insistently, one might say intravenously, makes a point of examining the personal motivations and urgencies for work, the ways in which such forms are used and function in their relation to social, cultural modes of identification and, often oppressive, models for representation. Indeed, writing's link with language inevitably forces the appraisal of writing as so many activities which at one level or other grapple with the psycho-social and political violence of any collective language, however localised.

I don't know whether the idea of [ ] can in itself provide the means to instate theoretical grounding and clarity of practice in the cacophony of textual cross-disciplinarity but I certainly hope it provides a step on the way.

So rather than entertaining ideas of aesthetic orgy or formal fusion, anything goes as long as there's something like a bit of something which looks like writing in it and leaving it at that, my sense is that [ ] would wish to inscribe itself within debates that revel in conflict.

Conflict at a formal as well as an ideological level. The conflicts and tensions at work within and between any of the elements a writer may choose to explore, sometimes collaboratively. The conflicts and tensions exposed by the expressed or subtextual semantics of such a piece. The way it resonates at a local-subjective as well as a wider cultural level. [ ] would be about detail. A close attention to the workings, the sitings and the political dimensions of atomised writing practices – whether on or beyond the page.

It is in this complex and responsive reading of the performance of writing that one can most clearly make sense of this field, not primarily as a unified academic discipline, not even necessarily as one delineated, hybridic artform, but rather as an area of joint practical and critical investigation of the many uses writing and language are being put to and push themselves into. In this sense, Lorna Simpson's stylised photographic combines of portraiture and verbal clichés, Heiner Goebbels' text-sound theatricalities, Gary Hill's conceptual use of text and video as sculptural environments, or Susan Howe's acute paginations of some of her poetic texts, to name but a few, do not merely read as inherently divergent or potentially parallel activities. More importantly, they read in relation

to the act of writing, the performance of writing itself. The extent to which its literarity is sine qua non (or not) to both the process and production of the overall piece whatever its media and context of reception.

As Susan Hiller could have said, a frame is not square by nature. Similarly could one not argue that there is more, not less, to writing than the page, more, not less, to writing than language, more, not less, to text treatment than syntactical or morphological experimentation. And that to engage with writing in such extensive material terms, both as writers and readers, is what inscribes the performance of writing. A performance of itself at a relational level.

You might think that all of this really provides a very stretched out definition of performance. And doesn't fully address the writing traditions which come out of theatricality and are still being carried through in much live work. Should theatrical writing be privileged in our appraisal of [ ] on account of its longstanding history? If anything this does make writing's relation to performance more strenuous and difficult to disengage from established conventions of production.

This is a long debate. Indeed, how do we clarify the ambiguity between performed textuality and spoken writing? Perhaps I could sketch it out in terms of process. What is the process of live performance in its relation to writing? Is it writing's role, in that context, to function as a guiding background, as the blueprint of a live piece? This would mean that the text remains absorbed, subsumed by the live performance.

What if the writing were to openly interfere with the live piece? What if it were to force a disjunction between performing a hidden text and performing writing? Can one turn the hour-glass and argue for the specificities of a live writing (I use the term with caution) where the performer's presence is cut open, emptied out, absented by the writing's own presencing (mise-en presence), much like late-Beckett, The Wooster Group, Laurie Anderson and Forced Entertainment's *Speak Bitterness* would seek to instigate. I remain excited by this idea of a live situation where writing is another performer and as such needs to be addressed explicitly during and as part of the live piece.

In other words, the performance of writing would be this observation which seeks to locate expressedly the context and means for writing, both internal and external to language, whether these be activated for and through a stage, for and through a site, a time-frame, a performer's body, the body of a voice or the body of a page.

This does not really imply spontaneous and magical multi-layering, simultaneity of process and product, cooking and eating at one and the same time. But it does rest with the idea that everything about a piece of work is active and carries meaning. Any treatment, any font, any blank, any punctuation, any intonation, any choice of materials, any blob, however seemingly peripheral to the work, is part of the work, carries it, opens it up, closes it in, determines it. This is its performance. Its points of impact.

So where does the text start or end? In the case of a text for the page, does it start and end at the words? at the fonts? at the presentation lay-out? at the edges of the page? or in the case of a

text-sound piece, does the text start and end at the recitation? at the vocal treatments? at the overall composition? How are we to articulate this? The critic Marjorie Perloff talks of contemporary poetry as an activity which increasingly defers the activity of reading. Which increasingly highlights the tensions between the visual and the verbal aspects of writing. One could take this further and say that practitioners who engage with a process of writing inevitably forward an intervention of language and of reading which destabilises and refocusses the processes of looking and/or of listening.

Of course, we might start to wonder whether writing can function as a sound-effect or as a mark-making device. Whether writing can be fetishised into a word-thing or a word-sound. Whether reading can be turned into looking and listening. I said earlier that writing's link with language inevitably forces the appraisal of writing as an activity which grapples with the psycho-social and political dimensions of any collective language. Only at the risk of turning writing into a look or a decorative device can this be played down.

Writing questions the authority of language with language, through language, as well as beyond language. No performance of writing takes place without it. This is part of the responsibility which comes with writing. What makes writing, writing. For at its most direct, writing (whether visual or spoken) takes its cue from the social body of language, however distended this cue may be. This may generate or force up formal, ideological unreadabilities, aesthetics of erasure or aesthetics of presencing, extreme dislocations, specific realignments of language through writing which do occur as a response to the psycho-social situations it highlights or undermines. Whatever the context or materials, the overt tensions and dynamics between language and writing are difficult to ignore. So can language be used as an image, can the text function as an object? Is that still writing?

Another example. The Mexican writer and performance artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña mentions in an interview that he uses performance in a very different way from his writing. That where performance might impede the materialisation of his point of view he goes with writing and vice-versa. This might seem logical. A question of moods. A question of appropriate skills for appropriate uses. And that's exactly the point. But it's got a catch. And it lies with us. Do we as audience as reader read Gómez-Peña as a writer or do we read him as a writing performer? Does it matter? Well yes if one considers the writerly an exclusive domain of the literary. But then what validates writing as literature? Is it writerly skills or is it cultural domain?

What of language occupies the writing, what enables it, what prevents it, what forces its relocations, what makes a piece readable, what occupies the making and the performing of writing, and what occupies the reading, the reception of writerly activities?

With this, I'll ask again: Where does a text start? Where does it not end?

## (W)reading this Guide

work (labour, hard, manual, physical, endeavour, process, try, art)  
hard (knotted, whittled, laborious, work, impenetrable, illegible, difficult, try-ing)  
try (endeavour, practice, gesture, essay, struggle, hard, grapple, handle, assemble, work)

This guide is only a score, one of many, for an introduction into [ ] as it is found by me – and in proximity of a small group of experienced practitioners – in the agency study room in April 2010.

These practitioners are from a diverse field of poetry, visual art and performance. What gathers them here is their particular focus on writing in the context of performance, including the performance of text.

As a score, it follows that there are others; two in the immediate vicinity are Pustianaz *In Search of Documentology* and Lone Twin *You may perform a spell against the madness*.

[As a score I am locating a good part of this guide, its work (work), off the page – in your (w)reading of it. It's hard (hard). At times this might mean a struggle. This is where the W of (w)reading, which is to say the work (work), comes in. But grappling (with the work of [ ]) is all important. This guide – any *guide*? – is centrally concerned with how I (we) might speculate in writing as pedagogy. Or how I (we) might navigate, essay or try (work) the not already known for good friends or strangers.]

### Repeat

This openness, it's the kind of room I like a text to have. But it's important in lots of other ways too.

[ [insert your own ways here](#) ]

Still on 'How to write a Guide (of [ ]) I located myself as author / expert in the main by my own journey through previously published works, including my own. And I invited contributions from collaborators and friends, or friends of friends, who are currently active in this field. Despite wanting to 'open out' the writing to others in this way, the nature of an invitation – made by someone, someone with permission, to someone else possibly without – inevitably creates something of a map of [ ] that circles around me. Their (or your) being or writing as +1 to me, to this guide, should be considered generative here. We are all +1. That said, there is a complex politics of acknowledgement in being +1 that I hope to have addressed explicitly.

The process of 'assembling' the different contributions has been rich. In particular, the mobility and physical gestures implied in the term has opened up my thinking on *how* writing manifests here – as handling, collating and designing.

I very much *felt* my self-appointed role as Assembler. The term seemed to invite self-definition and lent itself to the process of pressing against the edges of where others' work left off and mine began. Who is contributing what, and to whom? Generosity and trust on the part of the contributors has perhaps been the mainstay, the stitch binding the whole (work) together.

## A SCRIPT ABOUT FANTASTIC DIAGRAMS

David Berridge, Rachel Lois Clapham, Alex Eisenberg

Courier 9/13.5pt

Throughout summer 2009 David Berridge (DB), Rachel Lois Clapham (RLC) and Alex Eisenberg (AE) are reading Richard Kostelanetz's (RK) 1975 anthology *Essaying Essays*. Its abundance of forms – drawing on performance scripts, conceptual art, concrete poetry, experimental fiction and critical prose – feed into various individual and collective projects.

For a planned collaboration for Dance Theatre Journal the three return repeatedly to Kostelanetz's description of the diagram in his introduction to *Essaying Essays*, relating it to their own differing engagements with writing about and making performance. Throughout several months of meetings, phone and email conversations Kostelanetz's celebration of the diagram is repeatedly summoned to embody a certain sense of writerly possibility that is simultaneous, open and fantastic ...

### SCENE 1: 'THE ESSAY'

Garamond 10/15pt

**RK** One kind of innovation is the conceptually resonant chart, which ideally reveals the essayistic function of compressing a large body of perceptions and / or connections into remarkably little space. Though necessarily simplifying, a chart offers the compensating advantage of vividly documenting the entire picture – a concise image of the whole that reveals contrasts and connections that would not be so apparent if spread over many pages of prose.

A chart is particularly useful in documenting multiple relations among several discontinuous elements. Since charts tend to lack explicit beginnings or definite ends, they cannot be read in the conventional way – steadily, in one predetermined direction, at an even speed. Instead, charts must be read around and about, indeterminately, much like geography maps which are, after all, visual essays of a different sort; for a rich chart offers many levels of meaning, generalization and relatedness ...

## **SCENE 2: 'MAKING CONNECTIONS'**

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[IN WHITECHAPEL, LONDON DB SITS  
IN A CAFÉ ON BRICK LANE WRITING  
AN EMAIL]

Helvetica 9.5/15 pt

**DB** I've been thinking about George Macunias. Macunias is best known for his amazing charts chronicling the history of Fluxus, such as *Expanded Arts Diagram* (1966). These demonstrate all RK says about the diagram as condensing and simultaneous. But actually what interests me about Macunias is the other charts that he makes, such as *Chronology of Russian History*. These are handwritten, on sheets of lined notebook paper glued together. As the amount of information increases, Macunias' charts get bigger and bigger. He adds more sheets, and then adds flaps and fold out sections to the existing sheets. His investment in the chart form begins to negate what attracted him to it in the first place. These charts – written in his neat and tiny handwriting – become almost impossible to read, and, unlike the fluxus charts, never get translated into Macunias' trademark bold graphic design. As their historical breadth increases these diagrams also become ever more private, gnomic utterances. Macunias, incidentally, was a chronic systematizer, and also set up a typology for his friends' bathrooms.



### **SCENE 3: 'UNKNOWN PRODUCT'**

[IT'S DAYTIME AND RLC SITS ON THE STAIRS OF HER AUNT'S HOUSE IN BRADFORD ON THE PHONE TO AE, WHO IS IN HIS PARENT'S HOUSE, IN NORTH LONDON]

Baskerville 9.5 / 15pt

**RLC** ... and so the critical aspect of diagrams is that they are speculative. And in terms of a document they leave lots open by way of meaning. In that sense diagrams are an unknown product.

**AE** For me that's the exciting part actually, the opportunity they have through a certain non linearity to really activate someone that reads them. It goes into a notion of 'room'.

**RLC** Yes. In a traditional essay you start at the beginning, by the end you have got to your idea, and that is what your thinking on your subject is, and you have come to it and displayed it in a linear way. For me, the diagram leaves off from where the bottom of an essay would be, it's an opening up of the conclusion, or what you think your conclusion might be.

**AE** The two things work in conjunction. In some ways I don't see a diagram necessarily as a replacement of an essay. It's just a different form of an essay ...

**RLC** ... yes, as a different form of ordering knowledge, a different form of writing. Not even form as in formal or academic. To diagram is a gesture; to write, to do or to perform. It makes the document more performative because the reader has input into how they read across the page, the diagram allows multiple connections.

[LATER, READING THE TRANSCRIPT, DB INSERTS HIMSELF RETROACTIVELY INTO THE CONVERSATION]

Helvetica 9.5 / 15pt

**DB** This is a pretty personal sense of 'diagram' we're coming up with here. We're asserting our right as writers / artists to define this term any way we want, to appropriate it. It almost becomes a made up nonsense word. I love this sense of diagram as gesture but I think it's also good to leave things in their own tradition and relate to them there.

For example, when we met at Victoria Station to talk about this article I had been reading about the designers Otto and Marie Neurath and their concept of The Transformer: the person who listens to experts and then transforms their data into a single poster image. In their work with isotype charts the Neuraths found ways of translating social issues into instantly recognisable graphic forms, even exploring the possibility of the isotype as an international language. I'd like to have some of that singularity of purpose when I consider how diagrams relate to my own writing. Well I think I would.

...

Baskerville 9.5 / 15pt

**RLC** I like the idea that diagramming is simultaneous writing, in the sense that the reading of it is a performance and it's also a 'working through' of knowledge on behalf of the writer; it's a live writing, a self conscious writing ...

**AE** It's much closer to the surface, the choices that are made are a lot more spontaneous in diagram making than in words

**RLC** ... Yeah.

**AE** ... Are you finished or shall I contribute something?

#### **SCENE 4: 'THE DIAGRAM — "DIAGRAM" SPECTRUM'**

TAKE 1

Helvetica 9.5 / 15 pt

**DB** I've made up a spectrum. This is a bit cartoon like. At one end it's, well, like social scientists, or my idea of them. All plotted and X and Y axes and pie charts and bar graphs. Percentages and correlations.

Baskerville 9.5 / 15 pt

**AE** LITERAL, MEANING 'OF THE WORD', SEE ALSO LITERARY. GRAM OF DIA-GRAM COMES FROM THE GREEK MEANING 'OF WRITING'.

Helvetica 10 / 15 pt

**DB** In the middle of the spectrum our concerns shift. We are less concerned with pie charts and percentages, more with a growing sense that ideas, experiences, and places, can be represented together in some form of writing, but we don't know what. I call this *sensing the diagram as a possibility*. It's less an actual method of diagrams than an impulse to a particular way of seeing.

What happens along the spectrum beyond this? Beyond that it all gets really crazy. It's all about putting the pie back in pie chart, which is where writing really becomes a performance itself rather than something that might be about performance.

#### **SCENE 4**

TAKE 2

INSERT DB *A Syllabus for diagrams* from *A SCRIPT ABOUT FANTASTIC DIAGRAMS*

#### **SCENE 5: 'MAKING DIAGRAMS'**

TAKE 1

[IT'S DARK OUTSIDE. AE AND RLC ARE STILL ON THE PHONE]

Baskerville 9.5 / 15 pt

**AE** What I have become interested in is the linking of making or drawing or writing of diagrams to presence, actually. To the idea that diagrams are a very ... they don't have to be of course, but for me there's something quite exciting about how spontaneous ... diagrams can be – I've picked out some words here – processual, accidental, spontaneous, emergent, intuitive and informal.

Obviously diagrams don't have to be those types of things. You do get diagrams that are incredibly detailed. But for me, also given the link to performance that we might be thinking about here, it was those elements that I really liked.

**AE** I also had a little moment of thinking about the word 'drawing' but also 'making' a diagram. I wrote this series of sentences down like 'draw a diagram of a journey you make regularly.' I was thinking particularly about acts, things that are analogous to a performance – small acts.

[IN WHITECHAPEL, DB HAS BEEN SLEEPING BUT SUDDENLY SITS BOLT UPRIGHT AND SPEAKS ALMOST ANGRILY INTO THE DARKNESS]

// DB // RLC // AE //

Helvetica 9.5/15 pt

**DB I want to reject drawings for their associations with thought and supposed presence! Reject them as metaphors for writing or performance! I want us to attain presence through an artificiality of diagrams, through their opacity to thought and the body! Do NOT dissolve body, writing or thought into them! Let us celebrate the marvellous mechanical artificiality of diagrams!**

[DB FALLS BACK ONTO THE BED AND SLEEPS SOUNDLY FOR MANY HOURS]

Baskerville 9.5/15 pt

... **RLC** Maybe diagrams are a way to get as close as you can get in, ... well I was going to say in writing, but actually, as close as you can get to the performance without actually being the performance.

## **SCENE 5**

TAKE 2

INSERT AE *diagram* OF A SCRIPT ABOUT FANTASTIC DIAGRAMS

## **SCENE 5**

TAKE 3

[THE THREE PROTAGONISTS PICK UP THEIR COPIES OF ESSAYING ESSAYS AND READ THE INTRODUCTION AGAIN, SILENTLY]

## **SCENE 6: 'FLASHBACK'**

[THE THREE PROTAGONISTS PICK UP THEIR COPIES OF ESSAYING ESSAYS AND READ THE INTRODUCTION AGAIN, SILENTLY]



Helvetica 9.5/17pt

**The Spirit of DB** In the work of Gabriel Orozco we find the production of objects that are diagrams, drawings, icons, sculptures, and paintings. The diagram is both end point and tentative proposition, between 1D and 3D, inanimate and animate, social scientist and insider-outsider artist. It's multi-scaled. Orozco himself says: "You can look at the paintings as diagrams and think in terms of molecules, or atoms, or DNA chains, but at the same time they're not claiming to be scientific, of course. They're also ludic, they look childish and I think that is good also."

I think this echoes a lot of what we have been exploring – that something about the present moment enables us to combine both the mechanistic sense of the diagram in, say, Shannon's model of communications systems, and the way the diagram is an intuitive, gestural tool.

Baskerville 9.5 /15 pt

**RLC** As part of *Out of Now* Adrian Heathfield responded critically to Hsieh's performance by following part of his route around Manhattan, physically mapping his movements. He tried to last out for 24 hours, I think he only managed 12 ....

## **SCENE 7: 'MAKING DIAGRAMS'**

TAKE 2

[IN THE CAFÉ ON BRICK LANE DB IS FINISHING HIS EMAIL]

Helvetica 9.5/15 pt

**DB** Orozco talks about how important 'disappointment' is to his work. Yes, the diagram is disappointment. For all these possibilities, one cannot just present magazines full of diagrams. It lacks the commonality that language brokenly attains. Its possibilities remain resistant, its sociality is, well, odd. It tantalizes with its ambition, yet must be rationed. I say farewell to the diagram here.

writing between performance

A sequence  
a possible list  
description of an object

inadequate to the task

wrong.

A means of framing, introducing or explaining the subject  
But failing to make it more than its elements.

Rearrange to make sense.

I stand in between  
open-handed

always have

clueless  
at sea.

The challenge has been to write not well  
neither  
clearly  
nor expertly

but to understand writing as a condition and as a land  
es  
scape  
that I inhabit as a reader writer.

Writing between performance I stand  
undecided  
in a world made only of the specific words either side of me  
or the space that drops away at either end.

Before story  
before list

dressed in the simplest of circumstances  
in white linen  
scrubbed  
ready.

work (labour, hard, manual, physical, endeavour, process, try, art)  
hard (knotted, whittled, laborious, work, impenetrable, illegible, difficult, trying)  
try (endeavour, practice, gesture, essay, struggle, hard, grapple, handle, assemble, work)

[As a score I am locating a good part of this guide, its work (work), off the page – in your (w)reading of it. It's hard (hard). At times this might mean a struggle. This is where the W of (w)reading, which is to say the work (work), comes in. But grappling (with the work of [ ]) is all important. This guide – any *guide*? – is centrally concerned with how I (we) might speculate in writing as pedagogy. Or how I (we) might navigate, essay or try (work) the not already known for good friends or strangers.]

**Repeat**

or

[ ], in retaining its fluidity, currency or criticality is perhaps best guided or taught not as a distinct field of work (work) but instead as a process, an endeavour (work) or “a lens through which to view all writing practice” (email from JH to RLC on 20.02.2010 at 10.52am). As such, the pedagogic implications for [ ] run deep and weave throughout many of the texts included in this guide. Some are waywardly pedagogic, others have more regular scholarly lessons to teach. I assemble them here as an exercise in cramming or revision.

SEE Olson

WORK *Projective Verse*

THINK field composition, generative pages, objects, percussion, bodily pressure, breath

SEE Hall

WORK *Reading (Illegible) Pages*

THINK obfuscation, illegibility and difficulty

SEE Blanchot

WORK *Communication and the Work*

THINK Radical (W)reading, engagement and affect

SEE Bergvall

WORK *What Do We Mean by [ ]?*

THINK (k)NOT: Is [ ] not writing? Is it writing which performs not writes? Is it not performance which writes? But then does writing not perform?

SEE Hind

WORK *Starting points and neglected spaces*

THINK workshops on writing for chairs, or the dark corners of the space

SEE Shechner

WORK *Performance Processes*

THINK writing in/as/with these performance processes. [N.B. the text-boxes and diagrams]

SEE Marcolo

WORK *Failing to do without: writing as classical documentation of post-classical choreographic documentation*

THINK how [ ] might feature in a performance practice-based PhD

SEE MacDonald

WORK *How to do things with words: textual typologies and doctoral writing*

THINK on teaching writing in the Fine Arts

SEE Berridge

WORK *THINK / THINK*

THINK THINK

SEE Goldsmith

WORK *Paragraphs on Conceptual Writing*

THINK uncreative writing, concept, writing the BEFORE

SEE Bernstein

WORK *Writing Experiments*

FOR teaching poetry



## Chorégraphie (detail)

Nature Theatre of Oklahoma

The following text is from a piece by the company entitled [Nature Theater of Oklahoma](#) (after one of the earliest books defining a system of choreographic notation by baroque dance master Raoul-Auger Feuillet - *Chorégraphie; ou l'art de décrire la danse*.)

The text for the piece was created from a series of recorded phone conversations, in which the directors asked the company's three main performers to describe in full detail the complex eight-minute dance they all do at the end of Act 1 of the company's epic dinner theater melodrama, *No Dice*.

As the three performers have no formal training in dance and lack a common vocabulary to speak about it, each of them describe the same choreography quite differently (and with difficulty). What we are interested in is the process and effort of translation, or transcription, of the physical language of dance into the abstraction that is spoken English, and from there back into dance again.

The piece when performed is the staging of a process of translation and transcription which takes place in three parts. I should also mention that during performance, the original phone calls are played in-ear as a prompt, and the performer's task is to stick as closely as possible to the exact description, including breaths, sighs, coughs, etc.

### Part 1

Kelly, one of the directors, appears onstage in a professional showgirl dance costume and orally performs one of the descriptions. (The dance is left to the audience to imagine.) She walks off.

### Part 2

A group of ten professional dancers is led onstage. Pavol, one of the other directors, introduces them one by one. They have only met the directors an hour before the show. They are told that this performance is actually an audition and that they will be eliminated based on their accurate and artful performance of the described dance moves.

(The audience is measuring and evaluating the performance of the dancers against the language they hear.) Kelly describes the dance, and one by one the dancers are eliminated until only two remain.

### Part 3

Kelly again describes the dance to the two remaining who listen. She walks off and they are fitted with in-ear monitors. The music comes up, and the two dance as again the description is played on the in-ear. (The audience sees only the dance that they have just heard described. They hear no more language. They link the performance perhaps with their memory of its description.) The translation is complete. *Chorégraphie* premiered at Tanzquartier Wien in Vienna on April 13, 2008 as part of the performance panel: *Nichts is aufregend. Nichts is sexy. Nicht is nicht peinlich.*

## Section 1

We begin –  
Jumping up and down ...  
Um – you're making a –  
Vague –  
(Well, not *vague* ... nothing's vague.)  
Uhhmm.

A kinda –  
A – T-shape with your feet –  
The – the right foot  
Is coming in – the right heel is coming in for this one.  
So, that leg is a little bit more bent –  
Than the left – foot.

Uhm ...  
You're mostly jumping on your left foot.

And while you're doing the jumps –  
Your – arms are going crazy, so ... the –  
Left arm – is in – a loose fist ...  
With – uh, the thumb – extended.  
And that's –  
Bending at the elbow.  
So your arm is sticking –  
OUT of your body –  
And bending at the elbow ...  
And the first move the – the hand comes up.  
So when you jump the – left hand comes up,  
The – right arm – is –  
You've got the index finger pointing –  
And that's going up, too, so –  
Although the –

(pause)

The left arm is – is –  
Just coming out from your – shoulder.  
Bent elbow, and all of the move –  
Movement comes from – the elbow,  
You know, you don't extend the – left arm.  
The right arm is fully extended – above – your  
head.  
So when you jump – um.  
Your arms are –  
Your right arm especially is extended

'Cause we gotta uh make this a really big  
movement.  
So that's for a count of eight with the jumping.  
Then – you're – we're gonna head –  
Stage left.  
And we're still in a line here.  
We stay in a line.  
For this entire –  
We travel together ...  
Uh.  
Um.

The second move we're – traveling stage left.  
The – right arm is coming in a sweeping circle  
from behind ...  
A li – it's like your hand comes behind your  
shoulder ...  
(that's the goal ...)  
And – and travels in front of you in this sweeping –  
A sweeping circle.  
Uhhm.

(pause)

So.  
And while you do that the left leg shoots out.  
When the right leg JOINS the left –

When the right foot JOINS the – left foot,  
You – snap.  
With the left hand.  
So.  
Wi – it's:  
Circle with the arms,  
Step with the left foot ...  
Bring the right foot in,  
SNAP!

(pause)

Uhhmm.  
We got four of those.  
As we're traveling stage left.  
Then – we're gonna –  
Bring it – tiiny bit back stage right –

With this – next move ...  
Where –  
Uh, you step with the –  
Right FOOT, toward your right  
And as you're doing that,  
Your right arm is doing angular – movement.  
This part is the part where we may not look  
completely in unison, because – we –  
We choose how exactly we want to move our arms  
in that angle.  
Uhm.  
And it –  
This is just bending at the elbow, too.  
And moving the hand.  
Again with the fingers – STUCK together.  
Uh, and the thumb – separate.

Uhhm.  
So we – step to the right ...

(pause)

Uh, and –

(pause)

It's: step and bring the left foot in.  
So ...  
For both of those foot movements –  
The arm is moving, so: angle,  
(While you step with the – right),  
Angle again when the left foot joins it.

Then we've got, uh – step, step step.  
With –  
Starting with the left foot, and pointing down with  
the left hand.

Uhhm.

(pause)

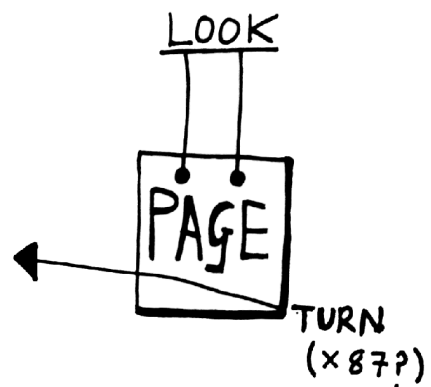
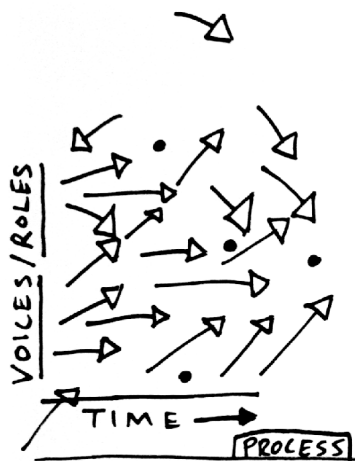
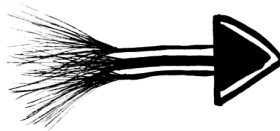
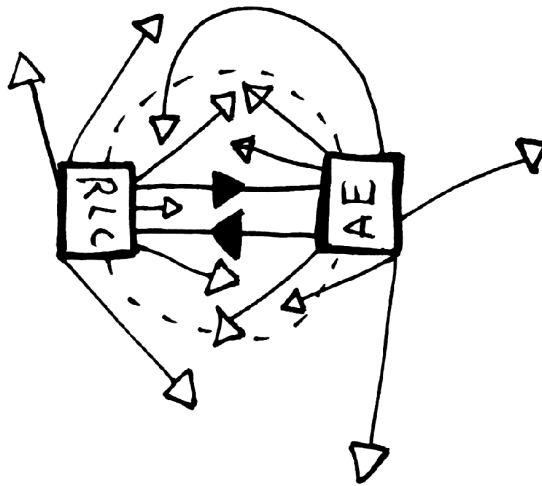
Now we've got –  
Uhh.  
The left hand – is – is – is going to shoot out with

the two fingers pointing –  
So it's like shoots out from the center ...  
And – and the leg is going to mimic –  
The –  
The movement of the arm.

So.  
So – while – you balance on your right foot,  
And the arm and the leg sweep out –  
And when the leg – comes back,  
When your foot comes back ...

(This – this isn't a traveling move, it – it's all in place.)

...



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Derrida, Jacques. <i>Signature Event Context</i> in <i>Limited Inc</i> Northwestern University Press 1977 1–21	signature, event, context	RLC	A0288	chapter in book	
Derrida, Jacques. <i>Loving in Friendship: Perhaps – the Noun and the Adverb</i> in <i>The Politics of Friendship</i> . Verso 2007 26–49	perhaps, vielleicht	MM		chapter in book	
Dickens, Charles. <i>Bleak House</i> . 1852–1853	performing disclosure	JL		book	
Diderot, Denis. <i>Essais sur la peinture: Salons 1759, 1761 and 1763</i> . Hermann 1984	'somebody has to paint the shampooed sheep...'	PW, TN		book	
Ehn, Erik. <i>The Saint Plays</i> . PAJ Books 2000	poem, theatre, page, space, voice, landscape	DB		book	
Etchells, Tim. <i>Certain Fragments, Contemporary Performance and Forced Entertainment</i> . Routledge 1999	benchmark, solid, clear, British	AE, DT, MP, RLC, CH	P0135	book	
Fang, Hu. <i>[Doing Nothing]</i> (2003). Do it, Ed Obrist, Hans Ulrich. e-flux / Revolver 2005	[ ]	RLC	P0645	text	
Field, Thalia. <i>Point and Line</i> . New Directions 2000	poem, theatre, page, space, voice, landscape	DB		book	
Forced Entertainment. <i>Imaginary Evidence</i> . 2003	fiction, anecdote, interactive, theory	MP	D0086	CD-Rom	
Fried, Michael. <i>Absorption and Theatricality</i> . University of California Press California 1980	the edge of the stage, beholder, curtain	TN		book	
Feuillet, Raoul-Auger. <i>Chorégraphie; ou l'art de décrire la danse</i> . [N. PUB.] 1700	de la, a la, Feuillet, la dance	NTOO		book	
Fusco, Maria, ed. <i>Happy Hypocrite</i> . Issue 2. Autumn 2008	bookworks for and about experimental art writing	RLC	P1116	journal	
Gob Squad, Aenne Quiñones. <i>The making of a memory: 10 years of Gob Squad remembered in words and pictures</i> . Synwolt Verlag 2005	misremembered facts, imperfect fiction	MP	P0646	book	
Goebbels, Heiner, Heiner Müller, <i>SHADOW/Landscape with Argonauts</i> . 1998	text explosion, voice, bodies of passers-by	CBL		audio CD	
Goldberg, RoseLee. <i>Performance Art: From Futurism to the Present</i> Thames & Hudson 2001	writing >>>> ON <<<< performance	RLC	P0157	book	



Goldsmith, Kenny. <i>Paragraphs on Conceptual Writing</i> .	uncreative writing, concept, writing the BEFORE	RLC		online text	<a href="http://www.epc.buffalo.edu/authors/goldsmith/conceptual_paragraphs.html">www.epc.buffalo.edu/authors/goldsmith/conceptual_paragraphs.html</a>
Golub, Leon. [Don't do it!] (2002). Do it, Ed Obrist, Hans Ulrich. e-flux / Revolver 2005	[ ]	RLC	P0645	text	
Gonzalez-Torres, Felix. <i>Untitled</i> (1994). Do it, Ed Obrist, Hans Ulrich. e-flux / Revolver 2005	[ ]	RLC	P0645	text	
Goode, Chris. Listened to 10.11.08 OPENED POETRY	writing, scene	JL		reading	
Goulish, Matthew. 39 <i>Microlectures: in proximity of performance</i> . Routledge 2000	description, nude text-portrait a nearby amateur performance, elevator, library, writing >>>> or <<<< performance	AE, DT, RLC, MP	P0198	book	
Haddon, Mark. <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i> . Vintage 2004	small, ordinary, strangeness	RMM		book	
Hall, John. <i>Missing Persons: Personal Pronouns in Performance Writing</i> in Performance Research Vol.3, No.1 Spring 1998 87–90	'I is I but you means a text, a conversation. And in that moment everyone else is not (quite) written.'	JH, RLC	A0289	journal article	
Hall, John. <i>Performance Writing</i> in Performance Research Journal Vol.11, No.3, September 2006 89–91	'[ ] seems to be used in three broad senses 1. as a convenient generic term for the production of scripts or script-like texts, including play-texts and film scripts: writing for performance 2. to refer to a field of practice and enquiry in which both words are seen as in a necessarily troublesome but productive relationship with each other 3. the writing of evaluative reports on the 'performance' of employees.'	RLC, JH	A0290	journal article	
Hall, John. <i>Performed Through: Grammar for Performance Writers</i> in Performance Research Vol.2, No.1, 1997 68–72	organ, tongue, actualisation, doing, vehicle, context	JH		journal article	
Hall, John. <i>Reading (Illegible) Pages</i> in Performance Research Journal, Vol.9, No.2 June 2004 15–23	closed pages, in / ill / il legibility, blocked reads	RLC	A0291	journal article	
Hall, John. <i>Sentenced To: Grammar for Performance Writers</i> in Performance Research Vol.1, No.1 Spring 1996 98–102	punctuation, breath, reader, performance	JH		journal article	
Hall, John. <i>Thirteen Ways of Talking about Performance Writing</i> . Plymouth College of Art Press 2008	'X is a performance writer she writes pages and she writes performance she performs writing she forms writing which informs performance...'	RLC, JH	A0110	book	
Hawthorne, Matt. <i>Degenerate Art Book</i> . Arnolfini 2001	degenerate, book, art	MP	P0280	book	
Heathfield, Adrian, ed. <i>Shattered Anatomies: Traces of the body in performance</i> . Arnolfini Press 1997	Pitch your literary questions to the objects in this collection. Endeavour (seriously) to write the answers.	RLC	P0199	book	
Heathfield, Adrian, ed. <i>Small Acts: Performance, The millennium and the Marking of Time</i> . Black Dog Publishing 2000	acts, small, millennial writing	MP	P0182	book	
Heathfield, Adrian, Tehching Hsieh. <i>Out of Now: The Lifeworks of Tehching Hsieh</i> . The MIT Press 2009	unfinished conversation, imperfect memory, time	AE, MC	P1193	book	

Heathfield, Adrian. <i>Writing of the Event in A Performance Cosmology: Testimony from the Future, Evidence of the Past</i> . Ed. Richard Gough, Judie Christie, Dr. Daniel Watt, Routledge 2006 179–182	[ ]	RLC	P0837	chapter in book	
Heflin, Lee. <i>First Performance</i> . [N.PUB.] [N.D]	[ ]	RLC		text	
Hendricks, Jon. <i>Fluxus Codex</i> . Harry N. Abrams Inc 1988	collection, scores, notes, events	RLC	P0629	book	
Hind, Claire. <i>Starting points and neglected spaces</i> . 2010	seduction, composition, collecting	CH	P1433	text	
Hughes, David, ed. <i>liveartmagazine</i> . Cross-Arts Publications 1994–2004.	hybrid work, scene writing	MC		magazine	
Hunt, R. Justin, Danae Theodoridou. <i>10 Performances</i> . Jubilee Theatre Roehampton University 2009	10 performances +1, performance matters, beyond text	RLC	P1417	performance	
Jonas, Joan, Sung Hwan Kim. <i>Three short conversations on seven different objects in Sung Hwan Kim</i> . Witte de With 2009 31–48	house plan, drawing, diagram, line, work	DB		book	
Jonas, Joan. <i>Instruction</i> (2002). The FluxusPerformanceWorkbook. Friedman, Ken, Owen Smith, Lauren Sawchyn, eds, Performance Research e-publications 2002	[ ]	RLC		text	<a href="http://www.performance-research.net/">www.performance-research.net/</a>
Joubert, Joseph. [1784]. <i>The Notebooks of Joseph Joubert</i> . New York Review Books 2005	notebooks, daily writing, 1784	RLC		book	
Joubert, Joseph. [1785]. <i>The Notebooks of Joseph Joubert</i> . New York Review Books 2005	notebooks, daily writing, 1785	RLC		book	
Jow, Lindsay. <i>Listened to 02.05.08 OPENED POETRY</i>	writing, scene	JL		reading	
Kaprow, Allan. <i>Nontheatrical Performance</i> in <i>Essays on the Blurring of Art and Life</i> . Kelley, J. ed. University of California Press 2003 163–180	‘The writing of performance is so slight here that performing teeters on the brink of disappearing into doing.’	TN		chapter in book	
Kavan, Anna. <i>Asylum Piece</i> . Jonathan Cape 1940	women and mental anguish	JL		book	
Kavan, Anna. <i>Ice</i> . Peter Owen 1967	women and mental anguish	JL		book	
Kaye, Nick. <i>Site Specific Art : Performance, Place and Documentation</i> . Routledge 2000	place, performance, document	RLC	P0195	book	
Killian, Kevin, David Brazil eds., <i>The Kenning Anthology of Poets Theatre: 1945–1985</i> , Kenning Editions 2010	poem, theatre, page, space, voice, landscape	DB		book	
Knowles, Alison. <i>Spoken Text</i> . Left Hand Books 1993	poem, theatre, page, space, voice, landscape	DB		book	
Knowles, Alison. <i>Shuffle #7</i> (1967). The Great Bear Pamphlet, Ed Dick Higgins, Something Else Press 1965–1967	[ ]	RLC		text	
Knowles, Alison. <i>Proposition #2</i> (1962). The Great Bear Pamphlet, Ed Dick Higgins, Something Else Press 1965–1967	[ ]	RLC		text	
Kostelanetz, Richard ed. <i>Essaying Essays: Alternative Forms of Exposition</i> . Out of London Press 1975	‘Books upon drama, upon poetry in its many phases, upon the novel even, a thing comparatively of yesterday, are as leaves in Vallebrosa for number, but books on the essay – where are they?’	AE, DB, RLC	P1413	book	

Kostelanetz, Richard ed. <i>Scenarios: Scripts to Perform</i> . Assembling Press, 1980	poem, theatre, page, space, voice, landscape	DB		book	
Lane, Cathy, ed. <i>Playing With Words: The Spoken Word in Artistic Practice</i> , CRISAP 2008	performance, play, print modalities	CH, CMD		book	
Larsson, Stieg. <i>Millenium Trilogy</i> . Norstedts 2005	performing disclosure	JL		book	
Lavery, Carl. <i>Mourning Walk in Walking, Writing and Performance: Autobiographical texts by Diedre Heddon, Carl Lavery and Phil Smith</i> . Roberta Mock ed. Intellect Books 2009 27–39	genesis, composition, construction	MC		book	
Lee, Rosemary, Niki Pollard. <i>Beached: A Commonplace Book</i> . ResCen Publications 2006	commonplace	MC	P0907	book	
LeGuin, Ursula K. <i>The Earthsea Quartet</i> . Parnassus Press 1968	speculative identity	JL		book	
Lomax, Yve. <i>Sounding the Event: escapades in dialogue and matters of art, nature and time</i> I.B Tauris 2005	[ ]	RLC		book	
Lone Twin. <i>Of Pigs &amp; Lovers (from The Days Of The Sledge Hammer Have Gone): A Lone Twin Research Companion</i> . Arts Council England 2001	location, travel, endurance	MC	P0205	book	
Lone Twin. <i>You may perform a spell against the madness</i> . Live Art Development Agency 2006	space, site and text	RLC	P0755	online text	<a href="http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study_Room/guides/SRoom_Guides.html">www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study_Room/guides/SRoom_Guides.html</a>
Loupe, Laurence, Paul Virilio, eds. <i>Traces of Dance: drawings and notations of choreographers</i> . Dis Voir 1994	movement is necessarily punctual	RLC	P1414	book	
MacDonald, Claire <i>writing between performance</i> 2010	scrubbed, ready, the before	CMD	P1433	text	
MacDonald, Claire, <i>How to do things with words: textual typologies and doctoral writing</i> in <i>Journal of Writing in Creative Practice</i> Vol 2, no. 1 2009 Intellect Ltd 91–103	[ ]	RLC	A0282	journal article	
Macdonald, Claire, <i>wordswork</i> in <i>Pores Journal</i> , Issue Two: Writing : Art : Forms of Politics	catastrophe, heavy metal rain, myths of lost girls	CMD		online text	<a href="http://www.pores.bbk.ac.uk/2/index.htm">www.pores.bbk.ac.uk/2/index.htm</a>
MacDonald, Claire. <i>Committed to Paper: Curating for the Page</i> in <i>Performance Research</i> 4:3 Routledge / Taylor and Francis 1999 60–66	curating, editing, page	CMD		journal article	
MacDonald, Claire. <i>Critical Assemblage – Granary Books and the Poetics of Publishing</i> . <i>Performance Research</i> Vol.8, No.2 2003 135–137.	assembling, there is always more	CMD		journal article	
MacLow, Jackson. <i>Thing of Beauty</i> . University of California Press 2008	poem, theatre, page, space, voice, landscape	DB		book	
Macunias, Georges. <i>Chronology of Russian History</i> . 1953	chronic, chronicle, gnomic, unreadable, negation of purpose, private utterance	DB		text	
Macunias, Georges. <i>Expanded Arts Diagram</i> . 1966	amazing chart, chronicle, condensing	DB		text	
Mallarmé, Stéphane. <i>Un Coup de dés Jamais N'Abolira le Hasard</i> . Editions de la Nouvelle Revue Francaise 1896	corset, water stains, dried stiffness	RLC		book	

Marcolo, Rita. <i>Failing to do without: writing as classical documentation of post-classical choreographic documentation</i> in Journal of Writing in Creative Practice Vol.2, No.1 2009 Intellect Ltd 105–116	time, text, movement, document	RLC	A0294	journal article	
Massumi, Brian. <i>Parables for the Virtual: Movement, Affect, Sensation</i> . Duke University Press 2002	[ ]	MP		book	
Mauna Loa Observatory. <i>Diagrams of Atmospheric CO2 Concentrations</i> . 1958 –present	jagged red line, emotional, graphic	DB		?	
Miéville, China. <i>Fifty Fantasy &amp; Science Fiction Works that Socialists Should Read</i> . 2001	speculative reality	JL		online text	<a href="http://www.fantasticmetropolis.com/i/50socialist/full/">www.fantasticmetropolis.com/i/50socialist/full/</a>
Miéville, China. <i>Perdido Street Station</i> . Del Rey 2003	speculative reality	JL		book	
Miller, Nancy K. <i>Autobiography as Cultural Criticism</i> in Getting Personal: Feminist Occasions and Other Autobiographical Acts Routledge 1991 1–30	‘There is no theory that is not a fragment, carefully preserved, of some autobiography.’	RLC	A0287	chapter in book	
Moorcock, Michael. <i>Mother London</i> . Martin Secker and Warburg Ltd 1988	speculative reality	JL		book	
Moorcock, Michael. <i>The Best of Michael Moorcock</i> . Tachyon Publications 2009	speculative reality	JL		book	
Münzberg, Marit. <i>attached to</i> . 2010	perhaps, vielleicht, [, (, ‘	MM	P1433	text	
Nature Theater of Oklahoma. <i>Script for Chorégraphie</i> . 2008 Section 1 607–611	de la, a la, Feuillet, la dance	RLC	P1433	online text	<a href="http://www.cipa.ulg.ac.be/intervalles4/52_nature_theater_of_oklahoma.pdf">www.cipa.ulg.ac.be/intervalles4/52_nature_theater_of_oklahoma.pdf</a>
Neurath, Marie, Robin Kinross. <i>The transformer: principles of making Isotype charts</i> . Hyphen Press 2009	transformer, person, data, image	DB		book	
Norwood, Tamarin. <i>The Writing of Performance</i> . 2010	[ ]	TN	P1433	text	
Olson, Charles. <i>Projective Verse</i> . 1951	one of the pressures of writing is bodily	RLC		online text	<a href="http://www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/poetics-essay.html?id=237880">www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/poetics-essay.html?id=237880</a>
Ono, Yoko. <i>Piece for Nam June Paik No.1</i> . Grapefruit. Wunternbaum Press 1964	generative elements, recipe book for action	RLC	P1289	book	
Open Dialogues, ed. <i>RITE</i> . New Work Network 2009	rite, write, rote, right and sometimes wrong ...	RLC	P1380	book	
Orr, Susan, Claire Hind, eds. <i>Journal of Writing in Creative Practice</i> Vol.2, No.1 Intellect Ltd 2009	writing encounters	RLC		journal	
Paley, Bradford. <i>TextArc: An alternate way to view a text</i> .	index, concordance, summary, visualization	CMD		online text	<a href="http://www.TextArc.com">www.TextArc.com</a>
Parker, Andrew, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, eds. <i>Performativity and Performance</i> The English Institute 1995 1–18	‘When is saying something doing something?’	RLC	P1276	chapter in book	
Peake, Mervyn. <i>The Gormenghast Trilogy</i> . The Overlook Press 1950	speculative reality	JL		book	
Perec, Georges. <i>Life: A Users Manual</i> Vintage Books 1987	room(s), knights, patterns	AE		book	
Perec, Georges. <i>Species of Space and Other Pieces</i> . Editions Galilee 1974	an opening, a signal of potential space for ...	AE		book	
Phelan, Peggy. <i>The Ontology of Performance: Representation without reproduction</i> in Unmarked: the politics of performance. Routledge 1993 146–166	one way [ ] has been, for the Left, for a while now	RLC	P0118	chapter in book	
Plath, Sylvia. <i>The Bell Jar</i> . Heinemann 1963	women and mental anguish	JL		book	

Poe, Edgar Allen. <i>The Murders in the Rue Morgue</i> . Graham's Magazine 1841	performing disclosure	JL		book	
Pollock, Della. <i>Performing Writing in The Ends of Performance</i> . Phelan, Peggy, Jill Lane eds. New York University Press 1993 73–103	6 ways [ ] should be: evocation, metonym, subjection, nervousness, citation, consequence	MC, RLC	A0284	chapter in book	
Pound, Ezra. <i>In a Station of the Metro</i> . Poetry: a Magazine of Verse 1913	movement, stanza, time, crumble	RLC		journal	
Price, Richard. <i>Clockers</i> . Bloomsbury 1992	performing disclosure	JL		book	
Pustianaz, Marco. <i>In Search of Documentology: walking (half) the study room</i> , Live Art Development Agency 2008	document, performance	RLC	P1115	online text	<a href="http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study_Room/guides/SRoom_Guides.html">www.thisisliveart.co.uk/resources/Study_Room/guides/SRoom_Guides.html</a>
Pynchon, Thomas. <i>Gravity's Rainbow</i> . Jonathan Cape 1973	speculative identity	JL		book	
Quick, Andrew, ed. <i>The Wooster Group Work Book</i> Routledge 2007	writing>>>> FROM <<<<performance	RLC	P0951	book	
Reason, Matthew. <i>Writing the Live in Documentation, Disappearance and the Representation of Live Performance</i> , Palgrave Macmillan 2006 205–230.	List of Illustrations * Acknowledgements * Introduction * Documentation and Disappearance * PART I * Archives * Proper Research, Improper Memory * Self-Representation * PART II * Video Documents * Screen Reworkings * PART III * Photography, Truth and Revelation * Photography, Publicity and Representation * PART IV * Reviewing Performance * Writing the Live * The Representation of Live Performance * Notes * Bibliography * Index	MC	P0871	chapter in book	
Rhys, Jean. <i>After Leaving Mr. McKenzie</i> . Jonathan Cape 1930	women and mental anguish	JL		book	
Rhys, Jean. <i>Good Morning, Midnight</i> . Constable 1939	women and mental anguish	JL		book	
Rhys, Jean. <i>Quartet</i> . Chatto and Windus 1928	women and mental anguish	JL		book	
Robinson, Sophie, ed. <i>Strictly Speaking On Caroline Bergvall</i> . How 2, Vol.3 Issue 3	how-ever poetics	DB		journal	<a href="http://www.asu.edu/pipercwcenter/how2journal/vol_3_no_3/index.html">www.asu.edu/pipercwcenter/how2journal/vol_3_no_3/index.html</a>
Robinson, Sophie. Listened to 27.05.09 OPENED POETRY	writing, scene	JL		reading	
Rothenberg, Jerome, Steven Clay, eds. <i>The Book of the Book: Some Works and Projections about the Book and Writing</i> Granary Books 2000	oral, material, virtual, spiritual	CMD		book	
Rotman, Brian. <i>Becoming Beside Ourselves: the alphabet, ghosts &amp; distributed human being</i> . Duke University Press 2008	word, consciousness, delivered language	MP		book	
Ruskin, John. <i>Unto This Last: Four Essays on the First Principles of Political Economy</i> . Oxford University Press 1877	criticism, economics, socialism, Ghandi, performance art	PW		book	
Sartre, Jean Paul. <i>Nausea</i> . Penguin Books 1938	doubleness, rupture, stories [ ]	TN		book	
Sayers, Dorothy L. <i>Gaudy Night</i> . Gollancz 1935	performing disclosure	JL			
Schechner, Richard. <i>Performance Processes in Performance Studies: An Introduction</i> , Routledge 2002 188–225	diagram, process, performance	RLC	P0289	chapter in book	

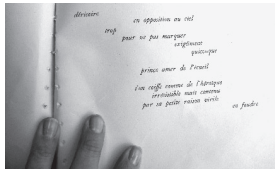
Schechner, Richard. <i>Performativity in Performance Studies: An Introduction</i> , Routledge 2002 110–142	text boxes, things to do, things to think about	RLC	P0289	chapter in book	
Seth, John <i>Itinerant Improvisations: from My Favourite Things to an Agency of Night</i> in <i>After Criticism: New Responses to Art and Performance</i> . Butt, Gavin ed. Blackwell 2005 137–155	‘When the dog bites, when the bee stings, when I’m feeling sad, I simply remember my favourite things and then [things don’t seem so bad].’	RLC	P0671	chapter in book	
Shannon, Claude E. <i>Fig 1 A Mathematical Theory of Communication</i> 1948 in <i>The Bell System Technical Journal</i> , Vol.27 379–423, 623–656, July, October	information source, transmitter, channel, receiver and destination	DB		journal	
Stein, Gertrude. <i>Captain Walter Arnold: A play in Geography and Plays</i> . The Four Seas Company 1922	singular repetition, standard pieces	CH		book	
Stein, Gertrude. <i>Last Operas and Plays</i> . PAJ Books 1995	poem, theatre, page, space, voice, landscape	DB		book	
Stein, Gertrude. <i>Tender Buttons</i> . Claire Marie 1914	room, food, objects	CMD, RLC CH		book	
Steiner, Rudolf. <i>Blackboard Drawings</i> . 1919–1924 Rudolf Steiner Press 2003	blackboard, improvisation, thinking, education	DB		book	
Templeton, Fiona. <i>Cells of Release</i> . Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia US 1995	embodied practice, engaged art, documents, audience address, poetic work	CBL		performance	
Theodoridou, Danae. <i>What is it?</i> 2010	site specific words, journey	DT	P1433	text	
Toscano, Rodrigo. <i>Collapsible Poetics Theatre</i> . Fence Books 2008	poem, theatre, page, space, voice, landscape	DB		book	
Turner, Cathy. <i>Getting the Now into the Written Text (and vice versa): Developing dramaturgies of process</i> in <i>Performance Research</i> 14:1 2009 106–114	Subjects: Drama; Performance Art; Performance Theory; Theatre Studies	MC		journal article	
Tzara, Tristan. <i>The First Celestial Adventure of Mr. Antipyrine, Fire Extinguisher</i> in <i>Collection Dada</i> . Wilson, Ruth, trans. [n. pub.] 1916	teasing the student’s unconscious	CH		book	
Ubu	[ ]	RLC		website	www.ubu.com
Warhol, Andy. <i>Dance Diagram Series</i> . 1962	feet, arrows, dancing, steps	DB		text	
Weiner, Hannah. <i>Hannah Weiner’s Open House</i> . Kenning Editions 2006	poem, theatre, page, space, voice, landscape	DB		book	
Weiner, Lawrence. <i>Declaration of Intent</i> in <i>Statements</i> Seth Siegelaub 1968	‘Each being equal and consistent with the intent of the artist the decision as to condition rests with the receiver upon the occasion of receivership.’	RLC		text	
Wellman, Mac. <i>Cellophane</i> . PAJ Books 2005	poem, theatre, page, space, voice, landscape	DB		book	
Wells, H.G. <i>War of the Worlds</i> . Bantam Classics 1898	speculative reality	JL		book	
Wilde, Oscar. <i>The Decay of Lying</i> in <i>Intentions</i> . Osgood, James R. 1891	criticism, brutal humour	PW		book	
Williams, David. <i>Writing (after) the Event: Notes on Appearance, Passage and Hope</i> in <i>A Performance Cosmology: Testimony from the Future, Evidence of the Past</i> . Gough, Richard, Judie Christie, Dr. Daniel Watt, eds. Routledge 2006 103–107	[ ]	RLC, AE		chapter in book	
Yve-Alain Bois ed. <i>Orozco, Gabriel</i> . MIT Press 2009	object, diagram, object, drawing, object, icon, object, sculpture, object, painting	DB		book	

## Touchstones

OR

FINGER / ing a historical lineage (Pointing literally and literarily)

Here are some early touchstones of [ ]; historical examples I was drawn to finger by way of declaration, quotation, tribute, but also out of a concern with physicality, pressing on these works and showing my hand.

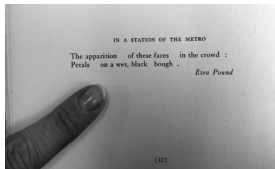


(Mallarmé *Un Coup de Dés* *Jamais N'Abolira Le Hasard* (detail))

**Touched** March 6th 2010 14.30 in the British Library, Reading Room, Boston Spa, desk 10

**Feeling** nervous that I might be seen touching this slightly too enthusiastically

**Feels** like it has a corset; the pages pulling away from the centre showing the binding eyeholes. Characterized by water damage that has stiffened some of the pages. Pencil annotations are possibly Mallarmé's own.

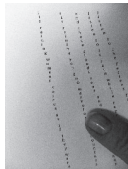


(Pound *In a Station of the Metro* (detail))

**Touched** March 15th 2010 13.00 in the British Library, Reading Room, Boston Spa, desk 3

**Feeling** quite glad I'm experiencing this on its original page rather than transposed into a contemporary typeface on a computer screen or printed from an inkjet printer.

**Feels** fragile, crumbly, dusty and papery. Possibly over used. Beyond repair.

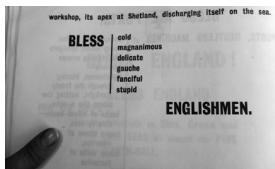


(Apollinaire *It's Raining* (detail))

**Touched** March 15th 2010 14.30 in the British Library, Reading Room, Boston Spa, desk 3

**Feeling** just caught my finger in shot as it was withdrawing from the work veering towards the French.

**Feels** strangely contemporary



(*Blast Manifesto* (detail))

**Touched** March 20th 2010 13.00 in the British Library, Reading Room, Boston Spa, desk 10

**Feeling** bold

**Feels** machine produced – but only just.



### Writing Experiment

95. Press ⌘ to get closer to the text.