

Manifesto

Proposition

1. Language is a system of signs
2. A set of gestures that indicate or record a specific space and time, intentionally or unintentionally, “man-made” or “natural,” comprises a system of signs.
3. Gesture is language.

Manifestants

Marcel Duchamp, Fluxus, Yoko Ono, Bob Grenier, Kenneth Goldsmith, Darren Wershler-Henry, Christian Bök, Bill Howe, Oyvind Fahlström, Cecilia Vicuña, Christopher Fritton, Mike Basinski, Ric Royer, Derek Beaulieu, Matt Chambers, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Robert Smithson, Ian Hamilton Finlay, John Long

Manifestations

epc.buffalo.edu/mags/verdure/iss7/smith.html
ferrumwheel.blogspot.com/
www.ricroyer.com/PenPalism.htm
epc.buffalo.edu/authors/basinski/
www.ubu.com/contemp/goldsmith/goldsmith.html

Reading Gestures

Reading a set of objects that result from gestures, or a set of gestures in the “present,” entails the following steps that are always part of the reading process, whether you are reading the newspaper or Goldsmith’s *Day*.

1. Handling the pieces... looking at them, “turning them over” mentally and/or physically, whether this is turning the pages of a book or picking up grains of sand.
2. Evaluating the identity of each piece or set of pieces, whether this means understanding each word and phrase of a conventional poem, or judging how pieces like those included here, got here, and what they “mean.”
3. Making or deriving a conclusion about the relation of the parts to an undetermined whole (undetermined in that the reader’s decisions about the relations between the parts is authoritative and yet changeable).