

Robert Duncan - poem in Green Flag: Journal for the Protection of All Beings, No. 3, 1969

People's Park Poetry - which grew out of the People's Park Movement
in Berkeley in May and June 1969.

Keeping the War Inside

The man as a whole contracts a swelling
unheald. Wisdom would withdraw
from that locus of congeald increase,
but we've to draw our selves man's
many images including such rampant
cells of him,
the lonely poet vomitting streams of
the viral meaning that sent him,
spent in the sending, dies
or (
No, the poet presents the Riddle
not to be solved but as Ground Itself,
to be workt, gardend not plannd,
a commons in experience
)
drawing into his design the designing
invader, changes, and multiplies,
revives, informd / and must
communicate the war he
cannot contain
unalterd

John Cage - Silence:p.195.

2

Here we are .Let us say Yes to our presence together in Chaos.

Yuli Daniel: "The Sentence" (Observer Review, September 13, 1970)

Every day you must rub out the line
Between the heavy 'all men' and the light 'myself'.

Allen Ginsberg - "Aether" (Reality Sandwiches)

What is One but Formation
of mind ?

- Interview (Playboy Magazine, April 1969)

authoritarianism of any nature is a usurpation of human consciousness.

Robert Duncan - Introduction to Bending the Bow pp.v. and xi

Our science presumes that the universe is faithful to itself: this is its ultimate rationality. And we had begun to see that language is faithful to itself. Wherever we learned to read, the seemingly irrational yielded meaning to our reason. But here language does not mean what the tongue sounds and not more. A sign written on the wall. The blind and deaf may read a language in shapes felt and forces inscribed. Let crowds or clouds enter at this stage; they tell us something. Olson in Maximus, "Letter, May 2, 1959", paces off boundary lines; and yet a poet has told me this ceases to be proper to poetry. But surely, everywhere, from whatever poem, choreographies extend into actual space. In my imagination I go through the steps the poet takes so that the area of a township appears in my reading; were I to go to the place and enact the text, I would come into another dimension of the poetry in which Gloucester would speak to me. I am talking here about the fact that if a man set his heart against falling in love, he will find the poetry of falling in love empty and vain. Must I reiterate the fact that the boundary lines in the poem belong to the poem and not to the town?

The poem is not a stream of consciousness, but an area of composition in which I work with whatever comes into it. Only words come into it...

..as if the real voice of the poet might... touch upon the living center where there is no composure but a life-spring of dissatisfaction in all orders from which the restless ordering of our poetry comes.

Buckminster Fuller: Ideas and Integrities p.72.

Alfred North Whitehead, in a pre-World War I statement on education, noted... that, whereas every action has its reaction, such selecting of the intellectually strong men for specialization must of necessity leave a weaker intellectual residue upon which would fall the task of coordinating the everyday affairs of man.... Whitehead then foresaw an ultimate crisis in our society, wherein the people who were responsible for putting things together (though themselves subjected to improved educational techniques), would have fallen so relatively far behind the more swiftly regenerative reaches of the specialists in exquisite knowledge extension, as to be practically incapable of comprehending the integrable significance of the specialized findings. Thus, the integrators would be unable to coordinate and realize the commonwealth potentials opened up by the differentiators. Our society would come to technical and economic stalemate in the face of magnificent potential.

So that: state politicians and economists are the objects of "Whitehead's..."

low-level intelligence ill-equipped people compelled to coordinate and collate diverse information and make arbitrary decisions, delineations and relationships in positions of responsibility.

-Education Automation p.57, p.64.

generally speaking the geographically larger the physical task to be done, the duller the conceptual brain that is brought to bear upon the integration of scientific discoveries and their technically realized applications.

as a consequence of comprehensively undertaken specialization we have today a general lack of comprehensive thinking. The specialist is therefore, in effect, a slave to the economic system in which he happens to function.

So that: the result is inertia and impotence

Fuller subjected himself to a two-year moratorium on speech survival, which is necessarily based on comprehensive planning, is being made impossible by the educational system which trains dull conceptual brains.

Paul Goodman:

The desperate attempt to legislate a priori a Unified Language and Method of Science results only in a more fatal lack of communication, because each discipline has its airtight postulate sets.

- preface to Utopian Essays and Proposals:

the expert in higher level abstractions, for instance the perfect University President.... Such people tend to know nothing at all.

John Cage - A Year from Monday p.92

What are the Arts? Offerings beyond the law within the limits of practicality.

Silence, p.257

Even in desperation we fail to convey our thoughts, our feelings. It is because a line-drawing mind is one bent on closure whereas the only means of getting out (above or below) to another is by not drawing lines, by keeping the doors open, by some fluent disclosure, and then there is no desperation.

Charles Olson: Book V, section ii, ch.37 - November 12, 1961

my memory is
the history of time

...

I am making a mappemunde. It is to include my being,
It is called here, at this point and point of time
Peloria.

Note:

Topology: the method of relating integers by not treating them as isolated static facts - space considered as all constituents and relationships, a construct through which relationships may be expressed -

c.f. Kurt Levin - Principles of Topological Psychology, 1936

Gestalt use of topology for psychological field

Fuller's "synergetic geometry"

Olson's projective field plus protein molecules

Cage's field properties of sound

Plus: a map must include the cartographer

The average person, having been raised in an atmosphere of splits, has lost his Wholeness, his Integrity. To come together again he has to heal the dualism of his person, and of his language. He is accustomed to thinking of contrasts - of infantile and mature, of body and mind, organism and environment, self and reality, as if they were opposing entities. The unitary outlook which can dissolve such a dualistic approach is buried but not destroyed and, as can be regained with wholesome advantage.

Wolfgang Kohler: Dynamics in Psychology, 1940 (Mentor)

Experience gives facts directly but not as a response to the stimuli acting on one sense organ alone but other factors in the total situation. Stimuli are related to a dynamic and interacting system (the human brain) and the effect which they have depends on the total activity going on in that system.

Fuller - Ideas and Integrities p. 34

I am convinced of the utter integrity of the total experience, and of the indicated extendibility of the comprehensive integrity - apparent universe - extensible further of man, as always, only through the congruent integrity of the individual. Ergo, I am convinced of the integrity of the infinitude of complementary functionings identifiable in principle.

p. 201.

We have come to the realization that we are in an all-dynamic universe, that the old concept of 'at rest' is not normal. When we lie down to go to sleep, we do not shut off the valves and freeze into a rigid state. Our billions of atoms take on a myriad of constellational activities in lieu of a few galaxy notions of the day's routine regimentation of the body's sub-assemblies... Obviously we must now abandon the unrealistic "at rest" and refer all our affairs to the realistic yardstick of energy and its velocity aspect, as recently and universally adopted by science from Albert Einstein's work.

(i.e. we must get rid of what Fuller calls the Phantom Captain, the illusory head who controls the body machine and whom we call 'mind'. Consciousness is not 'owned' by mind, and the continuing search for any such control or for any "fundamental particles", or any single origin is ridiculous).

John Cage - A Year from Monday p. 17

The truth is that everything causes everything else. We do not speak of one thing causing another.

Goodman, Perls and Hefferline - Gestalt Therapy - p. 351

Attacking Freud's teleological causal chains:

A cause is not itself an existing thing but a principle of explanation for some present problem... A good cause solves the problem (of specific orientation) and then ceases to occupy us. We set down the causes in a chain, as in a textbook, not when we are handling the actual material, but when we are teaching it.

So that: Fuller's "kinetic kaleidoscopic picture", Goodman's mosaics, and Cage's field properties of sound are the essential Gestalt here.

p. 358. How to lessen the pain of contesting and conflict -
By finally 'standing out of the way', to quote the great formula of Tao. They disengage themselves from their preconceptions of how it 'ought' to turn out. And into the fertile void thus formed, the solution comes flooding. That is, they engage themselves, put forward their interests and skill and let them clash, in order to sharpen the conflict, and in order to be destroyed and changed into the coming idea, and finally...

The artist is quite aware of what he is doing- after it is done, he can show you the steps in detail ;he is not unconscious in his working, but neither is he mainly calculating. His awareness is in a kind of middle mode, neither active nor passive, but accepting the conditions, attending to the job, and growing toward the solution.

John Cage - A Year from Monday p.166

..thinking nowadays is complex; it assumes, to begin with, the work of Einstein. Our minds are changing from the use of simple, critical faculties to the use of design, problem-solving creative faculties, from an unrealistic concern with non-existent status quo to a courageous seeing things in movement, life as revolution. History is one revolution after another.

Charles Olson - "Human Universe", Selected Writings, p.58

For the truth is, that the management of external nature so that none of its virtue is lost, in vegetables or in art, is as much a delicate juggling of her content as is the same juggling by any one of us of our own. And when men are not such jugglers, are not able to manage a means of expression the equal of their own or nature's intricacy, the flesh does choke. The notion of fun comes to displace work as the condition of culture.

p.61

...art is the only twin life has -its only valid metaphysic. Art does not seek to describe but to enact. And if man is once more to possess intent in his life, and to take up the responsibility implicit in his life, he has to comprehend his own process as intact, from outside, by way of his skin, in, and by his own powers of conversion, out again.

M.C. Richards - Centering, 1964 -p.40

It is difficult to stand forth in one's growing, if one is not permitted to live through the stages of one's unripeness, clumsiness, unreadiness, as well as one's grace and aptitude. Love provides a continuous environment for the revelation of one's self, so that one yield to life without fear and embarrassment. This is why love is in the strictest sense necessary. It must be present in order for life to happen freely. It is the other face of freedom. Freedom is the act of initiative by which a unique human will creates a new substance. Love is the experience of union.

The task of the teacher is to remove the obstacles that exist between a child and his free development. To prepare a child to take his freedom upon himself when he is a man. These obstacles are often physical, since fears and griefs that are locked in the body's organs will impair the adult's capacity to achieve the relationships he imagines for himself.

It is the teacher's responsibility to prepare the individual for experiences of relatedness. It does not mean disinterestedness on the teacher's part. For freedom does not mean freedom to have whatever relations you want: freedom means a capacity to be related to all things present.

Life is an art, and centering is a means...

Paul Goodman - People or Personnel

The principle of decentralism is that people are engaged in a function and the organization is how they cooperate. Authority is delegated away from the top as much as possible and there are many accommodating centers of policy-making and decision... Each person becomes increasingly aware of the whole operation and works at it in his own way according to his capabilities.

John Cage - A Year from Monday p.31

Observe that the enjoyment of modern painting carries one's attention not to a center but all over the canvas and not following any particular path.

Paul Goodman - Utopian Essays and Proposals, p.185

I take it that it was Jackson Pollock's idea to control our space and make only one special space, when he said that the onlooker was supposed to be entangled in his big canvasses, as in a woods. Not dissimilarly, Rothko's big colored stripes have been called

John Cage - Silence: "Continuity values giving way to flexibility values" means
"removing social controls to points where they escape our notice."
John Cage - A Year from Monday p.159

Art instead of being an object made by one person is a process set in motion by
a group of people. Art's socialised.

Goodman, Perls, and Heffefline - Gestalt Therapy p.313.

It is not the use of tools and language that brings persons together or workmen and
objects together; they have already been in felt contact - the tools and language
are convenient differentiations of the contact that exists. The danger that is
incurred is this: that if the original felt unity weakens, these high-order abstrac-
- object, person, tool, word - will begin to be taken as the original ground of
contact, as if it required some deliberate high-order mental activity in order
to get in touch... the differentiation that existed along with the underlying
organization now exists instead of it. Then contact diminishes, speech loses
feeling, and behaviour loses grace.

John Cage - A Year from Monday p.117

Automation. Alteration of global society through electronics so that world will
go round by means of united intelligence rather than by means of divisive
intelligence (politics, economics).

Norman O. Brown - "From Politics to Metapolitics", Caterpillar 1 : October, 1967

To perceive that it all, takes place in one body is to translate the old political
categories, to pass from politics to meta-politics or poetry.

...

My utopia is

an environment that works so well
that we can run wild in it
anarchy in an environment that works

the environment works, does all the work
a fully automated environment
all public utilities
or communications-networks

(the engineering contribution to unification; unification is also a
matter of engineering)

My teachers in utopian engineering are John Cage and Buckminster Fuller

...

The environment can do all the work.

...

To put thought underground
as communications-network, sewage system, power lines
So that wildness can come above ground

Technological rationality can be out to sleep
so that something else can awaken in the human mind
something like the god Dionysus
something which cannot be programmed.

The ordering of the physical environment will release unparalleled
quantities and forms of human disorder

The future, if there is one, is machines and madness.

Marshall McLuhan - "The Emperor's Old Clothes", ed. Gyorgy Kepes, New Landscapes in Art
and Science, 1956

The art object is replaced by participation in the art process... The artist
leaves the Ivory Tower for the Control Tower, and abandons the shaping of art
objects in order to programme the environment itself as a work of art.

JOHN CAGE QUOTING BALINESE: "WE DON'T HAVE ANY ART, WE JUST TRY TO DO
EVERYTHING AS WELL AS WE CAN."