

Sept 1974

Manifest

Let me warn once more and then be silent, dark time coming.

(The so-called "dark ages" simply thus/that folk forgot how to dye and thereby came clothed dulled shades gray shags of animal black etcetera, even kings lacking purple -- longlivetheking! -- till the secret thought was won again and juice of rock wrung and again the fabric of daily life was as flowers.)

Let me then warn that those who would/could restrict our perimeters have drawn lines; and they are these:

- : that all which is personally perceptable be suspect
(as is immeasurable Color accorded 'secondary citizenship' within the hierarchy Science)
- : that that which is person-privately shareable, trala!, be circumscribed -sized -shaped and weighted by/as commune all, Tradit!
(as it is with Sex past tense now taught future participle)
- : that The Personae, that greek form whereby inner-dividual might surface in The Pub. true semblance-of-self, be thought as false as "mask" meaning "screen" to hide or lie behind
(as The Truth comes to be made to mean the agreed-upon-fact)
- : that a person, I, be finally unthinkable
(as Art is).

I take it that The Arts afford the last ungoverned public surfacing of Person and constitute thus the greatest threat to those who feel they could/should enslave sensibility,

just as I know Sex to be that first/last move person-to-person beyond governmentality --

truths always, yes!, personally colored beyond measurability . . .

those who rule hate these truths:

this my warning:

: that we not be lulled, as was Garcia Lorca whose last words to his cell-mate were, "Don't worry -- they don't shoot poets."

: that we not be fooled by governmental Sup. for Artists

(it's U.S.ence simply this/that:

- (1) having made patronage tax deductible, all act of Personal Gen. was subvert to greed.

- (2) having made tax deduct. more and more than difficult
Xcept as inst. to inst. shuffles money -- see so-called
Tax Reform Bill '69 -- Person was jettisoned in the
transact altogether . . . artists effectively herded
into UNInverse Cities or 'left'(UNsupported)out,
- (3) it managed that ONLY bureaucratic Wash. could pick up
the rest/'right' cards upon the tabled Arts

so that
- (4) these sacred first/last acts of inner-dependence
would be played as if 'twere hobby or per-choice
escapist occupation -- useful to keep the increasingly
leisured discontents from making bombs . . . (the
funds most natch going thus to education, workshops,
art fairs, sports-sort competitions and the like).

Anybody for free-verse circumspect finger-only painting homey-movie
build-it-yrsself archycraft sing-along play act?

Artists!, like they say: let's have at it! -- all pretence (pre the
tendency) we can teach 'em how-to-do-it half-aesthetically . . . The Muses
be made Amuse(govern)ment! "It's a living", say the walking dead. "If
you can't beat 'em? . . . " Fuck 'em.

Most hopeful sign: the real young (trapped as I too much am in
these schools for actual Youth) those few of them who really call my
attention (most usually first by the shyness of 'em) do very deliberately
shunt publight and all complicity as could be tabbed "a movement" (thus
demeaned); and after a good look to and at me, and my contemporaries
in The Arts, they sympathetically declare they'll keep it/art absolutely
private and/or share theirs only as one would love among one's friends.

Thus I'm coming to believe that as it is in the hopechests and closets
of Russ.&China so it will be here for similarity's sake -- world's social
norm this 20th Cent.

Stan Brakhage

Stan Brakhage
August 16, 1974

CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF ART

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