

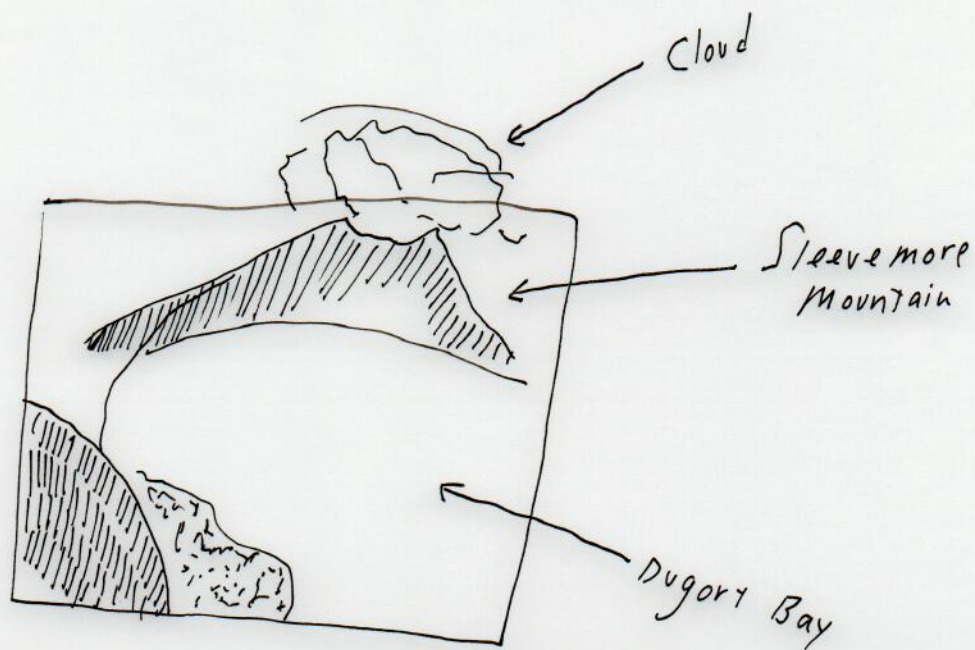
Theater of the Object

1956-2016

Hen Friedman

Redfoxpress

Dugort, Achill Island, County Mayo
Ireland



Event Scores (from) 1956 to 2016

Theater of the Object

Copyright © 1966-1978 Fluxus
Copyright © 1978-2016 Ken Friedman

Theater of the Object

CONTENTS

1956 Scrub Piece

1956 Table Stack

1958 Card Trace

1959
(1961) Map

“A big book is a big
hvisance.”

Callimachus*

(c.305-c.240 BCE)

quoted in

Michael Grant. 1954.

Roman Literature

Cambridge: Cam-
bridge University

Press, p. 192.

The scholar + bibliographer
* Callimachus created
the pinakes, the
first library catalog,
during his tenure
at the Library of
Alexandria. The
word ΠΙΝΑΚΕΣ is
an ancient Greek
word meaning
“tables.”

“Callimachus never
met Alison Knowles.
Her Big Book was
a great joy.”

Itzhak Friedman
(c.1949 CE - c.2016 CE)
(and +hen some)

1990 Copernicus in Belgrade
1991 Adonis meets Aeschylus
1992 Tønsberg Ship

Theater of the Objects

1994 A Whispered History
The History of Fluxus 1993

Scrub Piece

Go to a public monument on
the first day of spring.

Clean it thoroughly.

No announcement is necessary.

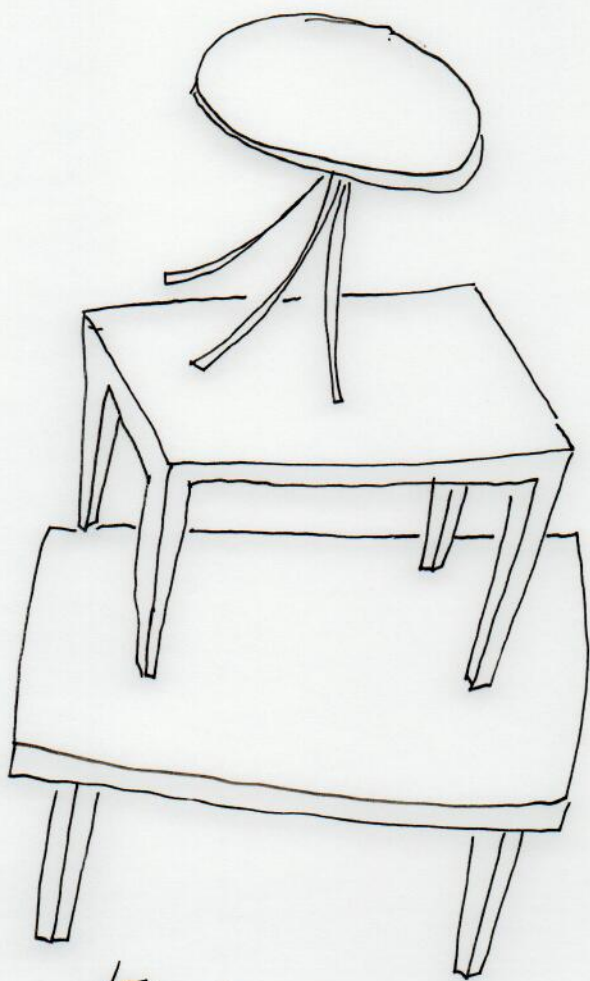
KF 1956

Table Stack

A stack of tables.

Each table stand directly
above and on top of the
table below.

ITF 1956



Iten Friedman's
Table Stack
ca. 1956 CE

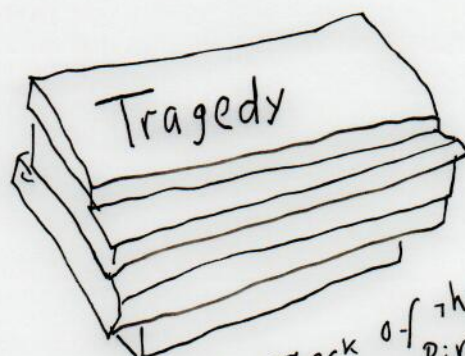


Table stack of the
Callimachus pinakes.
ca. 330 BCE

Card Trace

Mail a series of cards during a journey or a sequence of activities. The assembled set of cards becomes a map or chart of the passage through time or space.

KF 1958



Map

a map.

KF 1959

"... I told him the names in as good order as I could, and he bade me take down his beautiful map and draw them in as best I could with my pencil."

Edward Everett Hale. 1917. (1863)
The Man Without a Country.
Vol. X, Part 6, Harvard Classics
Shelf of Fiction. New York:
P.F. Collier & Son (Bartleby.com
reprint www.bartleby.com/310/6)

Jorge Luis Borges. 1999.
Collected Fictions.
Andrew Hurley, Tr.
New York: Penguin, p. 325
«on Exactitude in Science.»
(cf. Banach's Paradox)

1961 version 1961

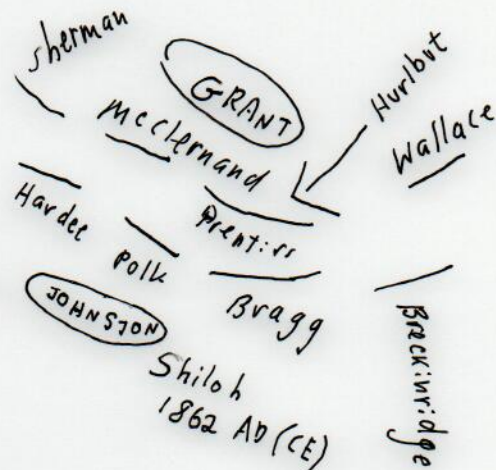


a map.

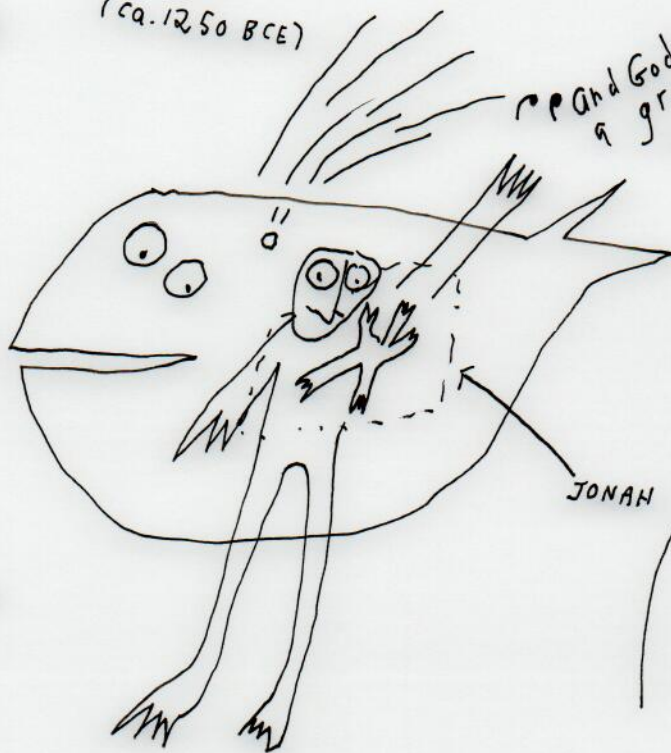
Map

As the men started on their way to map out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land and write a description of it. Then return to me, and I will cast lots for you here at Shiloh in the presence of the Lord."

Joshua 18:8
NIV
(ca. 1250 BCE)



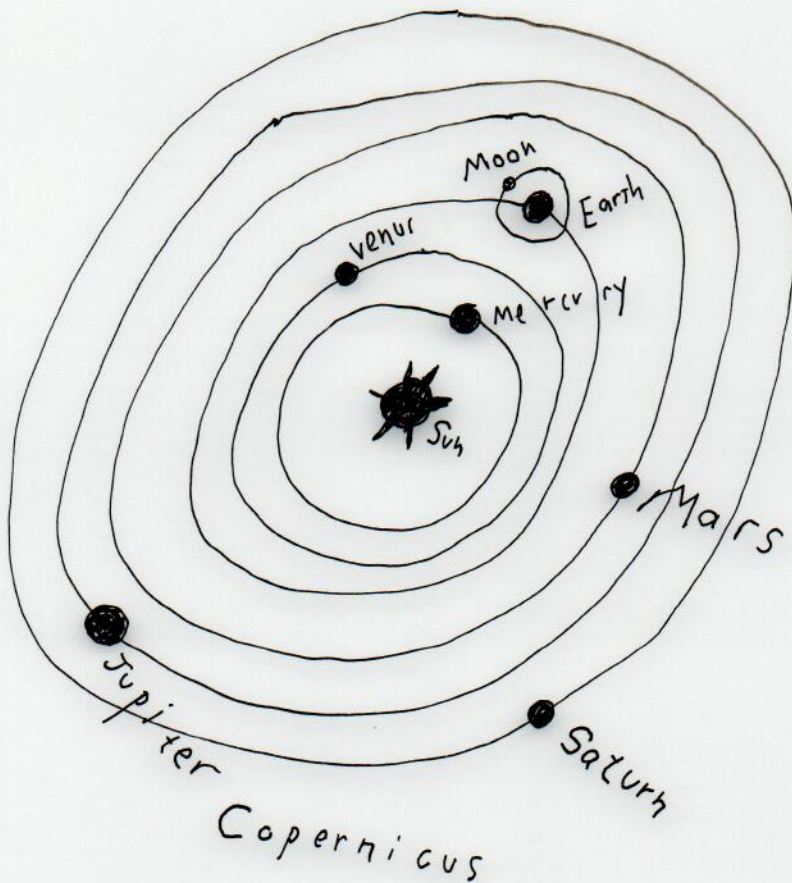
And God had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. 99
- Jonah 1:17
KJV

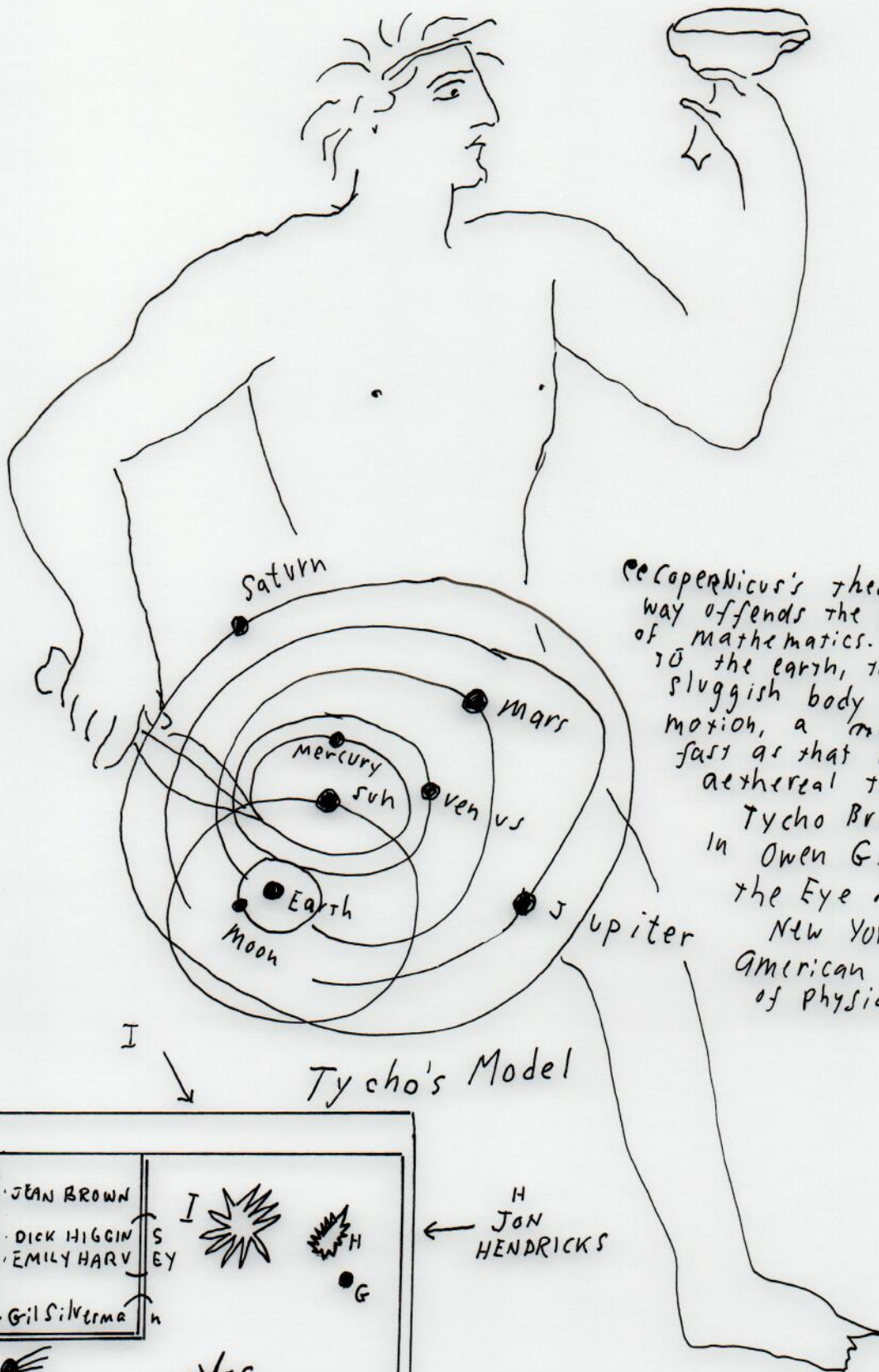


Copernicus

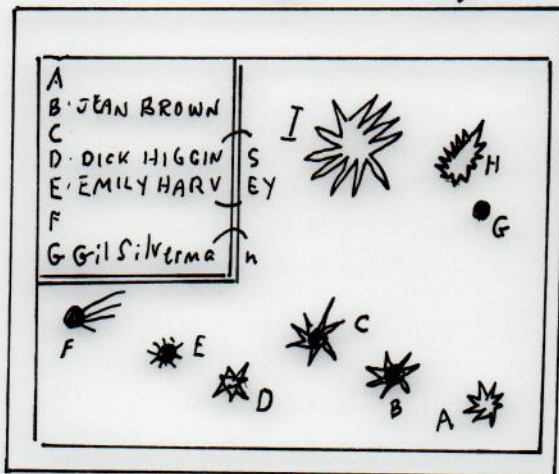
A model of the Solar System.
Planets may be rocks, lamps,
candles, vegetables, packages,
etc.

KF 65





I
 Tycho's Model

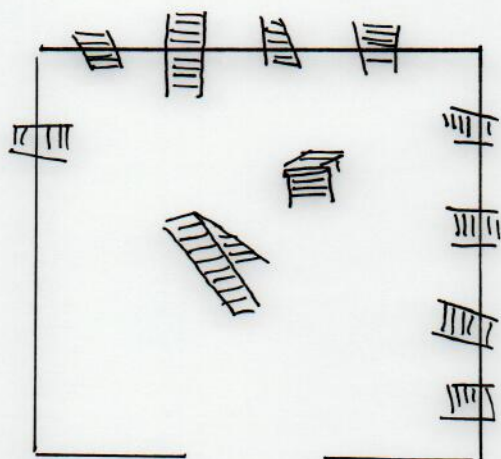


1572 Supernova

Ladder

A ladder in a room

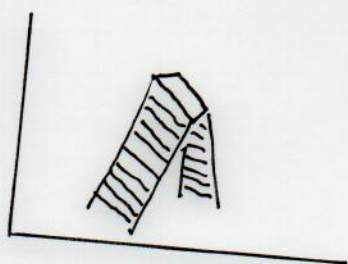
15F 1965



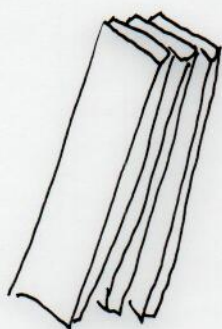
Ladders in a Room 1968



Ladders 1968



a ladder 1965



Standing Wood Sculpture

“... and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

“ And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. ”

— Gen. 28:11-12
KJV

My propositions serve as elucidations in the following way: anyone who understands me

eventually recognizes them as nonsensical, when he has used them - as steps - to climb up beyond

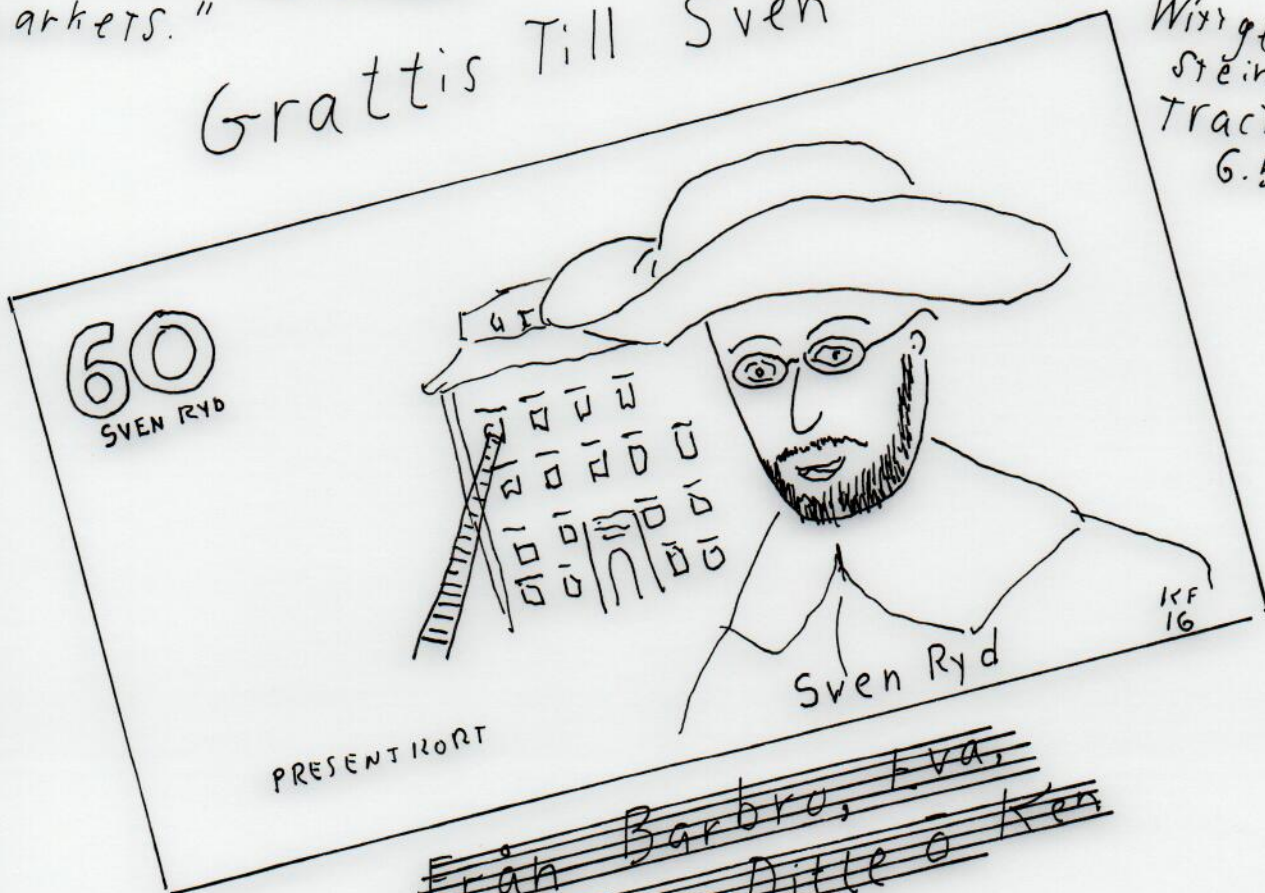
"Nikolaus... Brucker (1620-1694), went completely to pieces over his hobbies... In the end, he had to eke out his living by selling little wooden ladders for chicken coops which he made at home and offered in the street markets."

Rudolf and Margot Wittkower, 1963
Born Under Saturn.
New York: Random House, p. 90

them (He must, so to speak, throw away the ladder after he has climbed up it.)

Grattis Till Sven

Wittgenstein
Tractatus 6.54



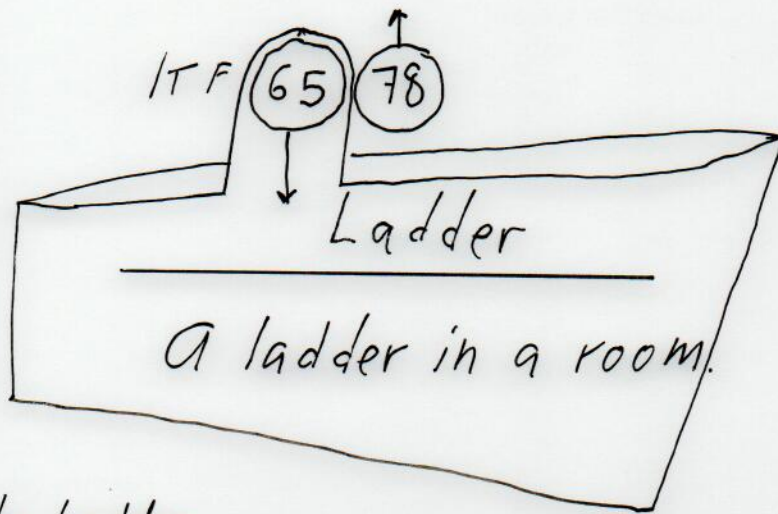
Från Barbro, Eva,
Martin, Ditle & Ken

Ladder to the Moon

1978
West Glover
Vermont

A ladder or several ladders,
standing or leaning

In a room, against a wall,
in a lot, etc.



The Ladder

Rabbi Moshe taught:
It is written: "and he dreamed,
and behold a ladder set up on
the earth." That "he" is every
man. Every man must know:
I am clay, I am one of
countless shards of clay, but
the top of it reached to
heaven" my soul reaches
to Heaven; "and behold the
angels of God ascending
and descending on it." —
even the ascent and descent
of angels depend upon my
deeds.

Martin Buber, 1966.
Tales of the Hasidim
New York: Schocken,
p. 170

When I was thinking about the
Title of Dick Higgins's
work Ladder to the Moon, several
ladder pieces collapsed into one.
I worked with the score (the ladder
scores) for 36 years before I was
ready to publish them.

Homage to Daniel Spoerri

Read *An Anecdoted Topography*
of Chance in an empty room
with an open window. Do
not stop reading until you
have finished the book.

HF 1966

Two-pound container
of Vinamilk Glue



Jar of
powdered
coffee

Quotation from the Topographic
map in Daniel Spoerri's *Anecdotes*
Topography of Chance, 1966
New York: Something Else Press.

Zen for Record

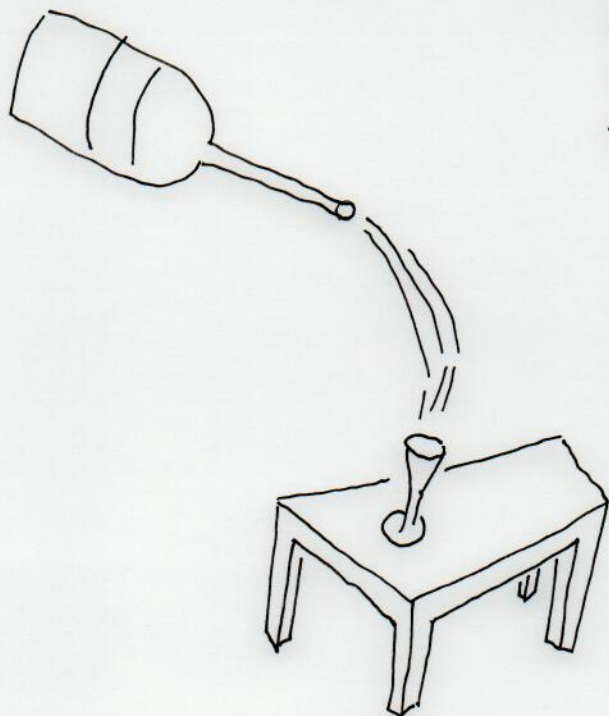
A phonograph record with
no sound on it.

KF 1966



“...Zen for Record is the
best album you’ve always
never heard.”

Craig Dworkin.
2013. “Signal to
Noise.” No Medium.
Cambridge, MA:
The MIT Press, pp. 127-
138.

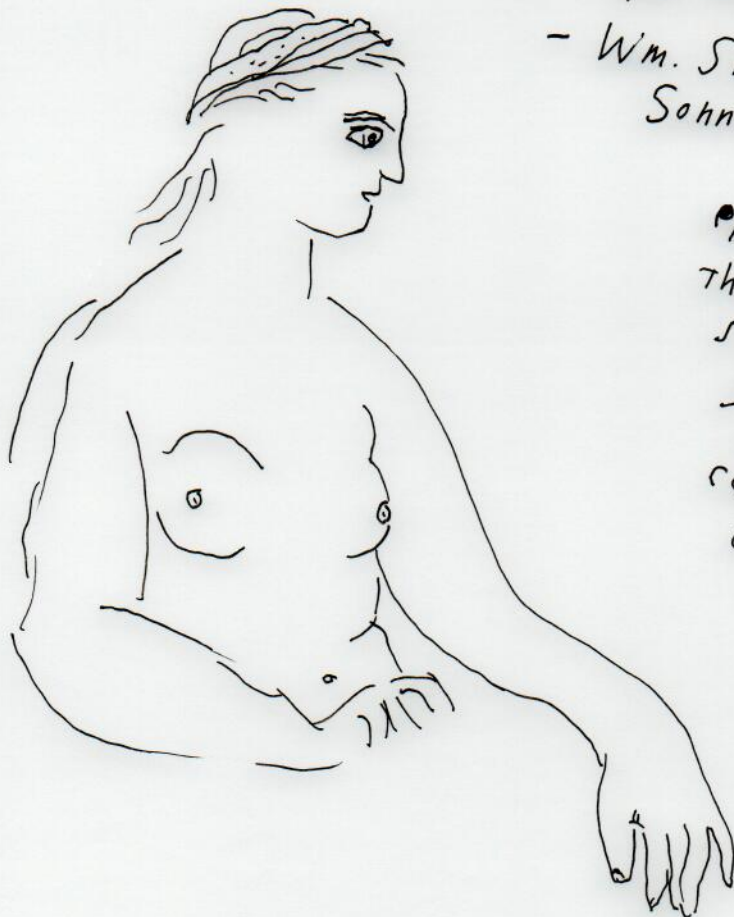




There is no Silence in the Earth - so silent
As that endured
Which uttered, would discourage Nature
And haunt the World."

- Emily Dickinson
c. 1865

"O, learn to read what silent love hath writ:
to hear with eyes belongs to love's fine wit."
- Wm. Shakespeare
Sonnet XXIII



"... hurling down to
The House of Death
so many sturdy souls,
great fighters' souls,
but made their bodies
carrion, feasts for the
dog and birds."

The Iliad
Book One
Homer



Book Stacks

(Library Stacks) (Library)
(Stacks) (Stacked Books)

The title
has changed
several times

Stacks of books tied, bound,
nailed together, glued.

The Stacks standing on the floor
or rest on shelves
A set of monogrammed
glasses spelling a word.

HF 1968

KF 1968 version 2

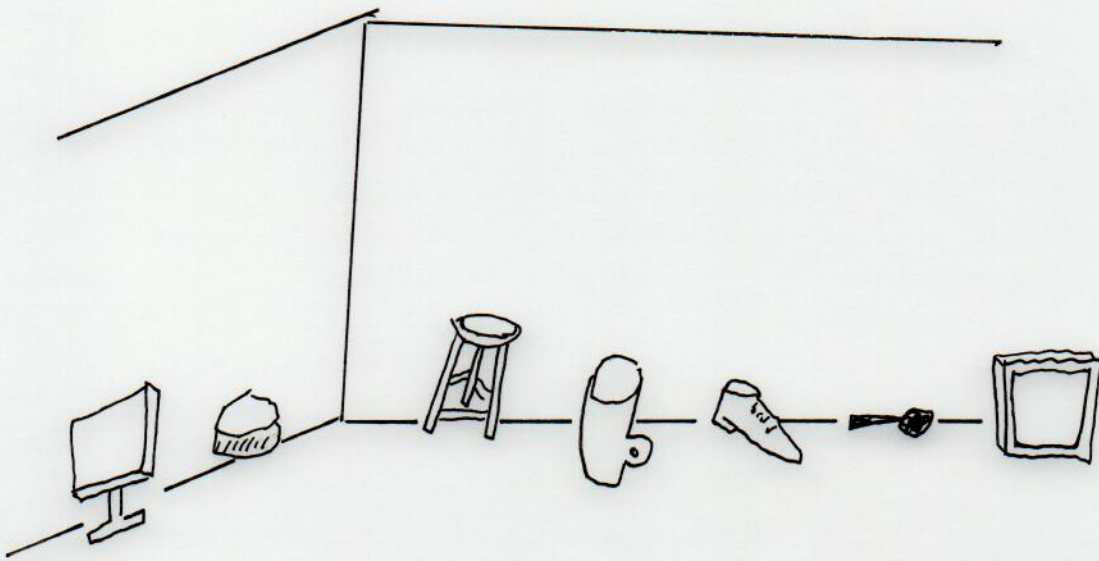
- 1 Globalism
- 2 Unity of Art +
- 3 Intermedia Life
- 4 Experimentalism
- 5 Chance & Playfulness
- 6 playfulness
- 7 Simplicity
- 8 Implicativeness
- 9 Exemplativism
- 10 Specificity
- 11 Presence in Time
- 12 Musicality

Twelve Criteria

Ordinary Objects

Place Things on the floor.

KF 1970



“But these are just ordinary objects.”
— David Gebhard
1970

“Cold Mountain is a house
without beams or walls.
The six doors left and right are open.
The hall is blue sky.
The rooms all vacant and vague
The east wall beats on the west wall
At the center nothing.”
— Han Shan

Tr. Gary Snyder. 1966.
Cold Mountain Poems.
San Francisco: Four
Seasons Foundation, p. 47.

A Modern Chu-Shingura

(or) Loyal to Fluxus

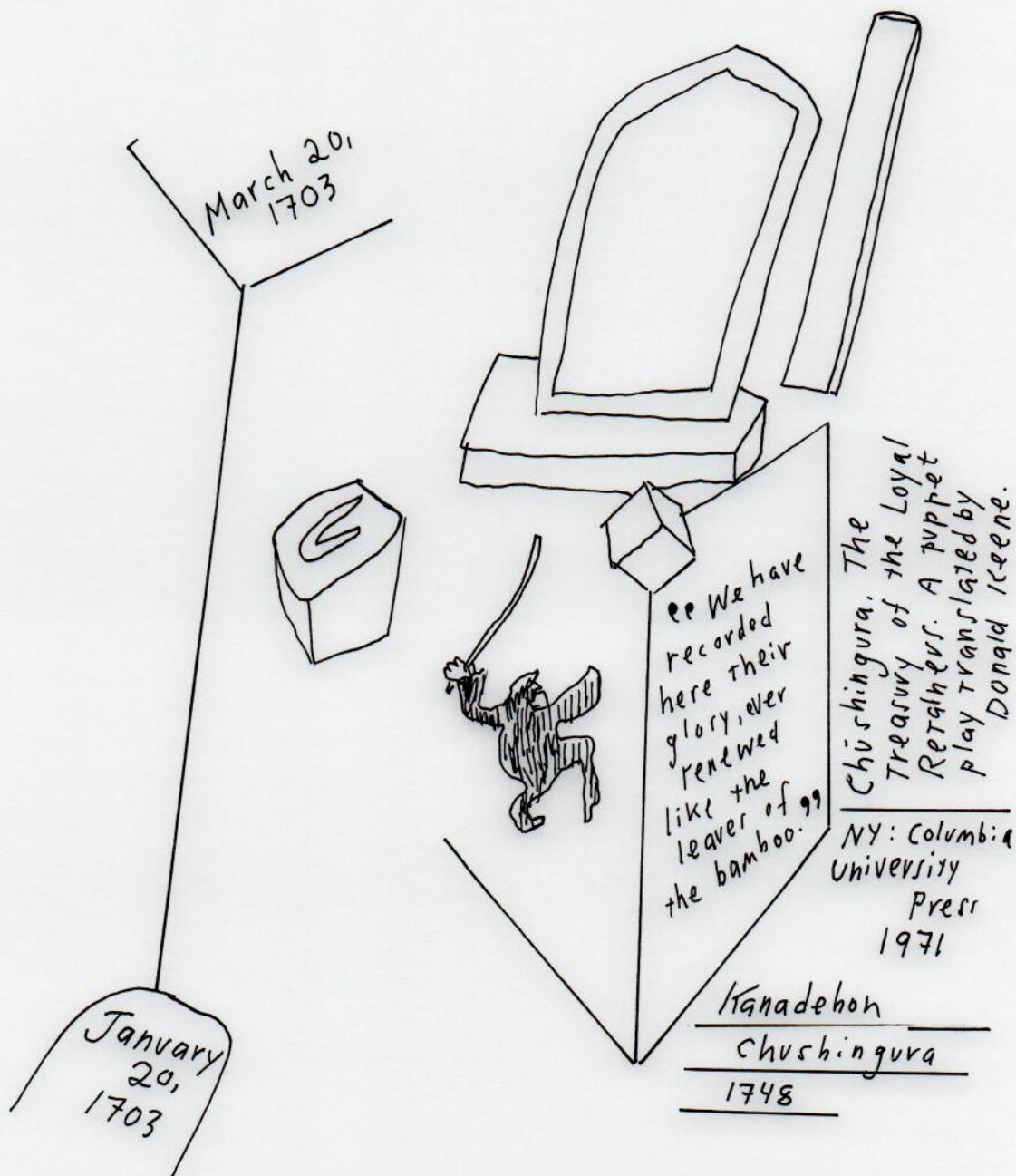
All living Fluxus artists gather
together in the garden of
The Museum of Modern Art.
They commit ritual suicide
together by seppuku
(hara-kiri).

KF 1981

A Modern Chu. Shingura

When this score was written in 1981, Ken Friedman was the only person willing to perform it. The others, declined.

In 2016, with the Gilbert and Lila Silverman Fluxus Collection now located at MoMA, there is no need for this even! - and there are too few Fluxus artists left alive to perform it.



Rotterdam Exchange

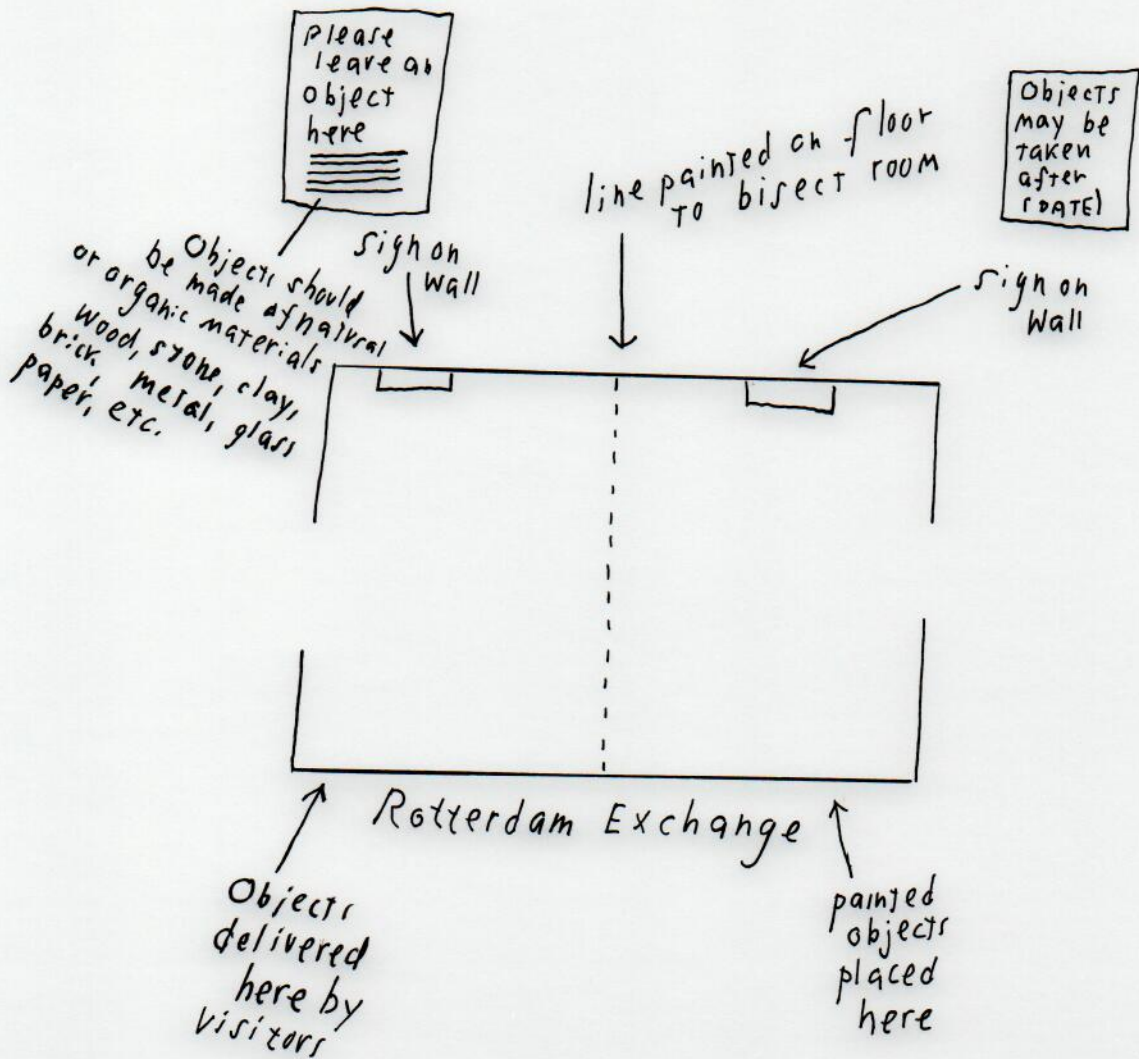
Anyone may bring an object

Objects delivered are painted white.

Anyone who brings an object

may take an object away.

KF 1986



White Tooth Workshop

Brush your teeth.

Use a different brush for each tooth.

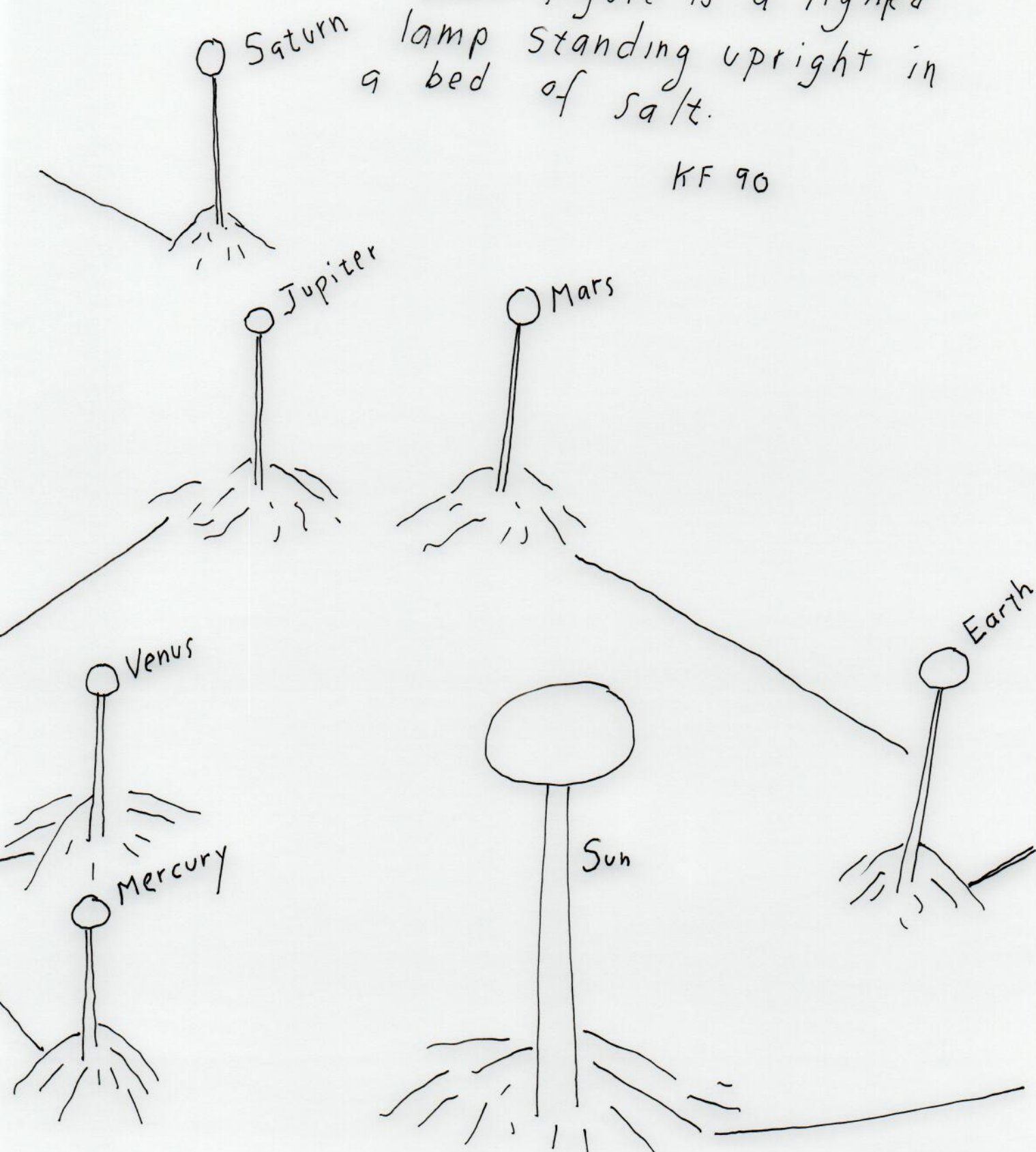
KF 1989

Copernicus in Belgrade

The planets are arranged in their orbits around the sun.

Each figure is a lighted lamp standing upright in a bed of salt.

KF 90



Adonis meets Aeschylus

Two people, pictures, or images.

One is charming, graceful, and elegant.

The other is quirky, ironic, and unusual.

KF 1991



Ole Rikard
Høisæther



Ken Friedman

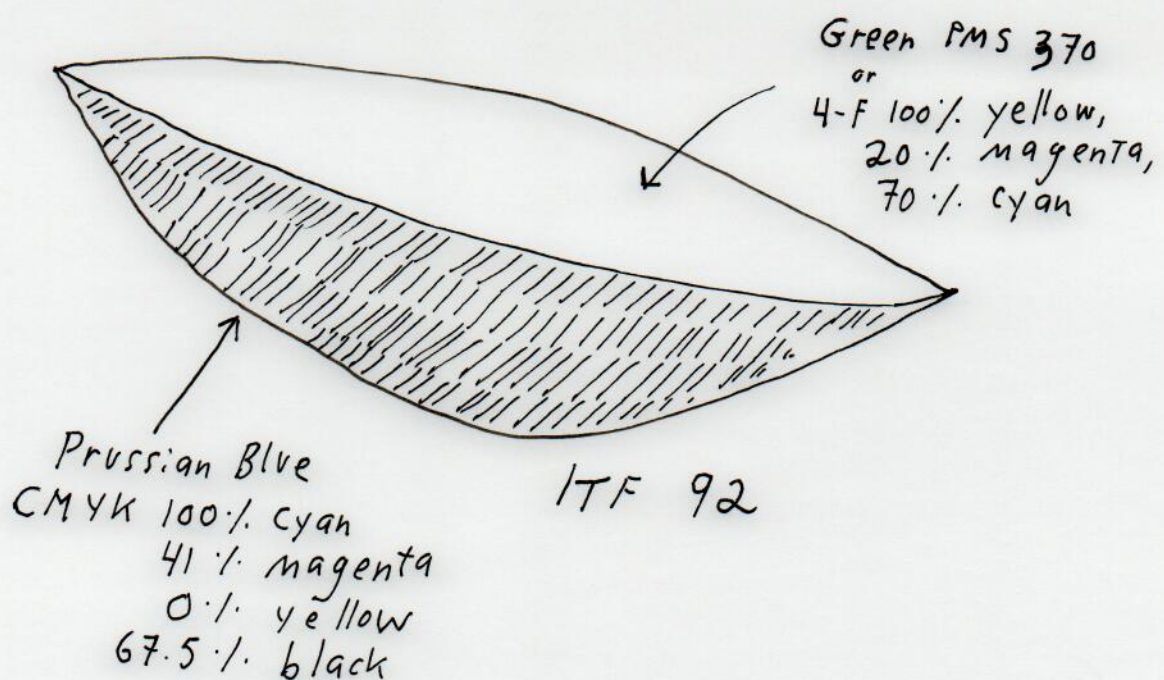
Tønsberg Ship

An old boat or a small ship
with no deck.

The outside is painted
Prussian Blue.

The inside is painted a
deep rich green.

The boat is filled with
cubes of stone, 6 cm. on
each side. The cubes are
natural stone, cut rough,
not polished.

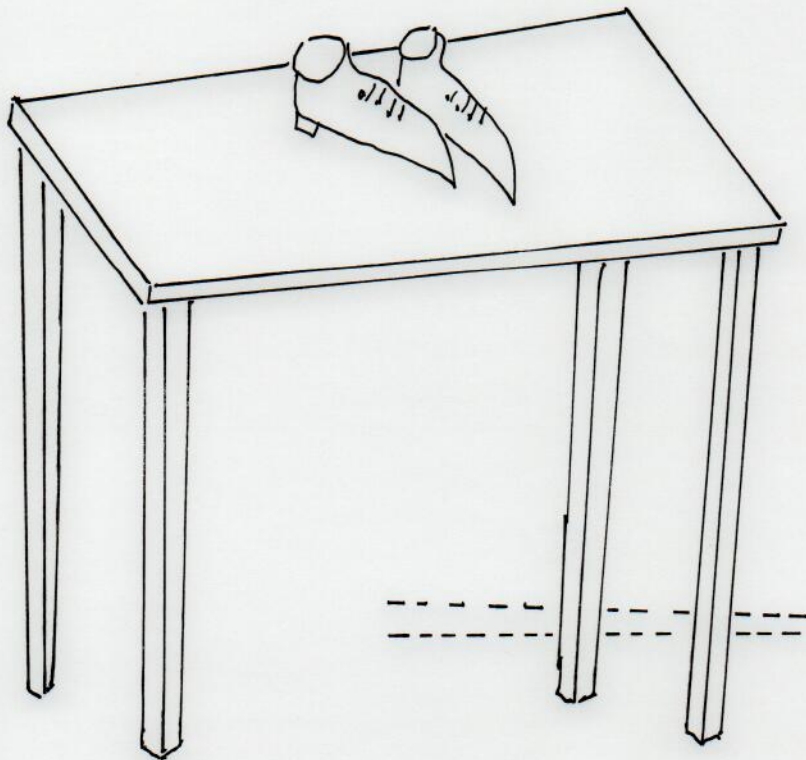


A Whispered History

A plain wooden table without metal or plastic surfaces. Unpainted wood is best.

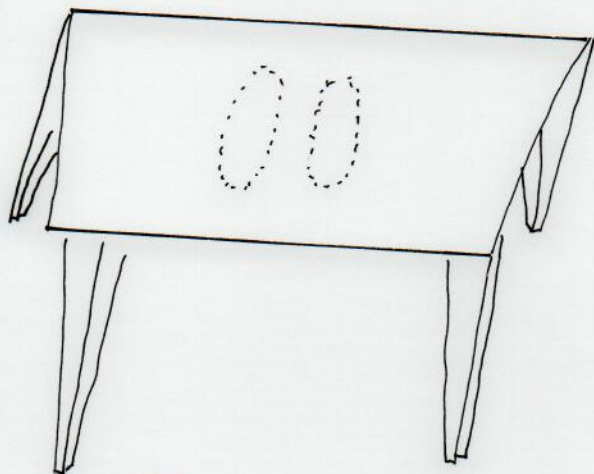
Two shoes on the table. The left shoe is filled with butter, the right shoe filled with salt.

KF 1994

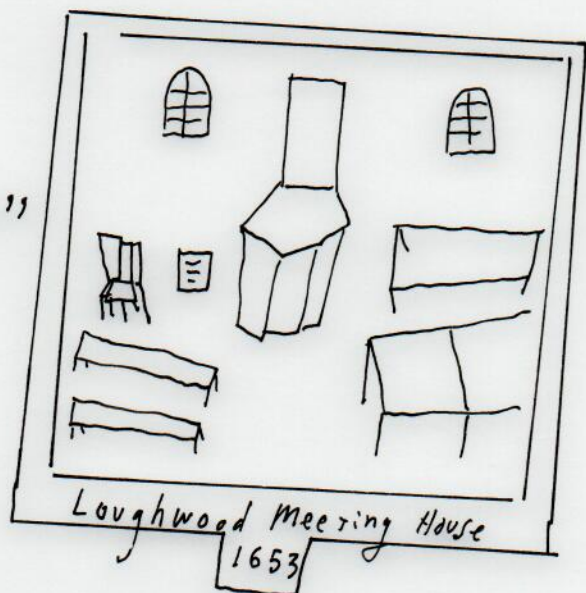


“Reduced to essentials, the struggle at the heart of the European Reformation had been conflicting claims of word and ceremony, of the verbal and the visual, of a naked and direct relationship to God through scripture against a mediated, elaborated and socialised approach through and on which church, guided by tradition.”

Adam Nicholson. 2011.
When God Spoke English.
London: Harper Press, p. 180.



“And he said, ‘Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.’”
- Ex. 3:5 — 1500

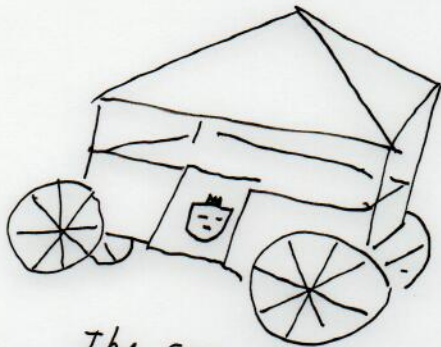


“... the history of mentalities will play a federating role on the condition of assuming the title and function of a history of representation and practice.”
Paul Ricoeur. 2004. Memory, History, Forgetting. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, p. 216.



Then Pharaoh said to Joseph,
 "I am Pharaoh, but without
 your word, no one will lift hand
 or foot in all of Egypt."

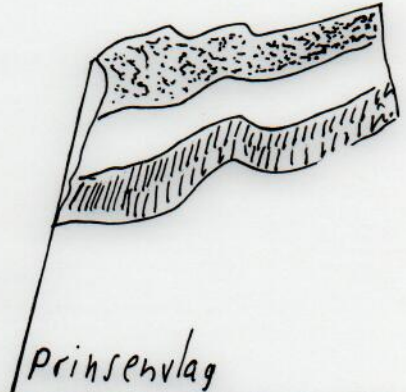
Gen. 41:44
 NIV



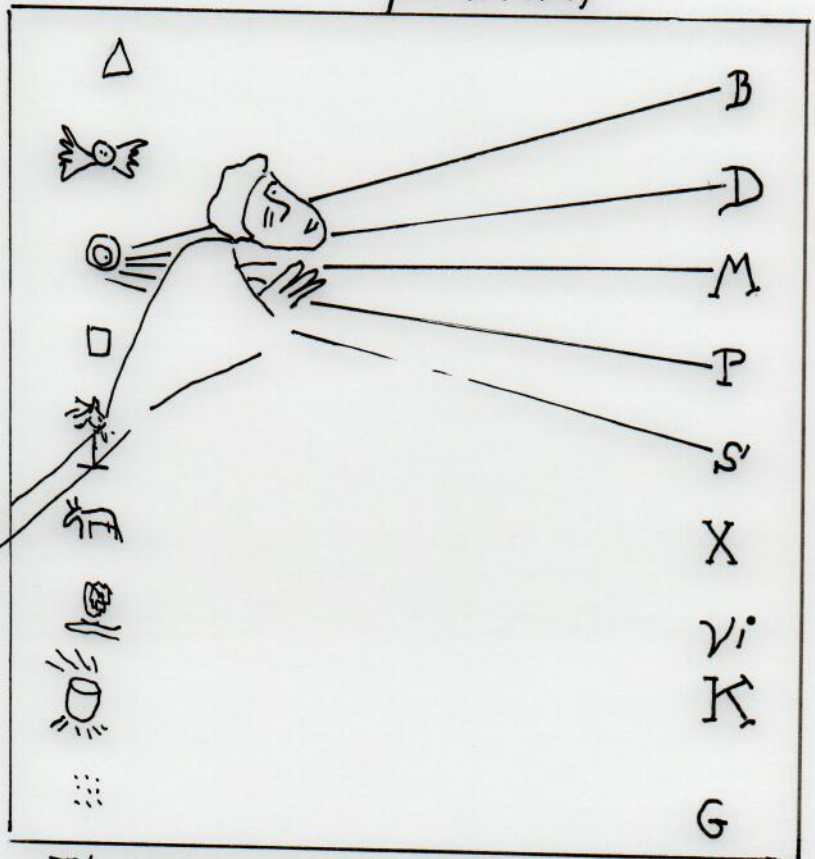
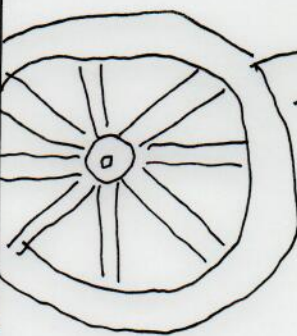
The carriage of
 Henri IV parked
 on rue de la Ferronerie,
 14th May, 1610.



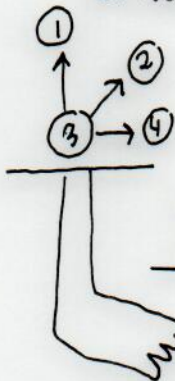
"Mene mene
 tekel parsih"
 Dan. 5:25



St Ivo's Window



The First time as tragedy,
 the second time as farce.



The final portrait of
 François Ravallac

once the feet were
 removed, he looked
 very much like
 Balthazar Gerardts

(the authorities
 lifted his hands
 and feet.
 Cf. Gen. 41:44



“ Though our story is
at an end, our
poet's is not; for
his monument is
everliving: ^{MADE} Not of
stone, but of verse.
And it shall be
remembered ... as
long as words are
made of breath,
and breath of life. ”

Anonymous

Roland Emmetich DIRECTOR
2011

Closing words of the
film script by
John Orloff

What is a Book?

[1]

A book is a world made of words.
A book is larger on the inside than
on the outside.

[2]

« Oh that my words were now written!
Oh that were printed in a book!
That they were graven with an iron pen
and lead in "rock forever." »

— Job 19: 23-24

[3]

An artist's book is bigger than
it seems to be.
An artist's book is smaller
than it is.

Ken Friedman
2014

Giorgio Maffei &
Patrizio Peterlini.
2015. Flux books.
Fluxus Artist Books
from the Luigi Bonotto
Collection. From the
Sixties to the Future.
Milano: Mousse
Publishing, at p. 128