

Dear Philippe,

Herewith, my first seven candidates  
for cardinal artistic sin...

Art & Language

Aquesta plaquette conté la reproducció d'una carta que Michael Baldwin d'Art & Language, va enviar al col·leccionista Philippe Méaille a finals del 2008. En la missiva Baldwin proposa una llista dels set pecats capitals que afecten el món de l'art. El document original es pot consultar en el Centre d'Estudis i Documentació MACBA i forma part del conjunt d'obres i documents d'Art & Language dipositats per Philippe Méaille en aquesta institució.

Esta plaquette contiene la reproducción de una carta que Michael Baldwin de Art & Language, envió al coleccionista Philippe Méaille a finales de 2008. En la misiva, Baldwin propone una lista de los siete pecados capitales que afectan el mundo del arte. El documento original se puede consultar en el Centro de Estudios y Documentación MACBA y forma parte del conjunto de obras y documentos de Art & Language depositados por Philippe Méaille en esta institución.

This booklet contains the reproduction of a letter that Michael Baldwin of Art & Language, sent to the collector Philippe Méaille at the end of 2008. In the letter Baldwin suggests a list of the seven cardinal sins that afflict the art world. The original document can be consulted at the MACBA Study Center and is part of the collection of works and documents by Art & Language deposited by Philippe Méaille in this institution.

DRAG PHILIPPA

HEREWIT, MY FIRST SEVEN CANDIDATES  
FOR CARDINAL ARTISTIC SIN, THERE WILL  
BE MORE.

- 1) TO BE EITHER 'IN THE GRAND MANNER'  
OR THEATRICAL, E.G.: TO BE AN  
INSTRUMENT EITHER OF ARTISTIC, INSTITU-  
TIONAL NARCISSISM.
- 2) TO LACK THE POWER TO PROVIDE  
SOME CRITERIA OF RELEVANCE REGARDING  
INTERPRETATION - I.E., TO BE AN OBJECT  
OF SUCH EMPTY GENUINENESS AS TO  
ALLOW ALMOST ANYTHING TO BE SAID  
OR THOUGHT OF IT.
- 3) TO ILLUSTRATE A THEORY OR SLOGAN,  
WITHOUT WHICH THE WORK WOULD  
BE VACUOUS
- 4) TO RELY HEAVILY FOR ITS EFFECT  
OR SIGNIFICANCE UPON A MORAL  
OR POLITICAL SENTIMENT - E.G., 'SLAVERY  
IS A BAD THING, THIS WORK IS  
AGAINST SLAVERY, THEREFORE IT IS  
A GOOD WORK.'
- 5) TO SUBSTITUTE AESTHETIC VALUE  
WITH 'FUN'.
- 6) TO BE DEPRIVED OF ANY SENSE OF  
CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC HISTORY -

TO BE DOOMED, THEREFORE, TO REPEAT  
WITHOUT SHAME THE INITIATIVES OF  
OTHERS LONG PAST.

7) TO RELY FOR ITS EFFECT UPON  
OBVIOUS SIGNS THAT GO TO THE  
STRANGENESS, ECCENTRICITY OR WHACKINESS  
OF THE PERSONALITY OF THE ARTIST, OR  
TO BE 'TRANSGRESSIVE' AS AN 'ANTI-  
AESTHETIC' END IN ITSELF.

MARK SWAN

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Publicat en ocasió del seminari *Radicalment incomplet, radicalment poc conclouent*, que obre un debat sobre el llegat d'Art & Language. És el primer d'una sèrie d'actes públics que s'organitzaran per presentar la col·lecció de documents d'Art & Language reunits per Philippe Méaille. El seminari es fa al MACBA el 17 i 18 de maig de 2013. Hi participen Carles Guerra, Matthew Jesse Jackson, Jackson Pollock Bar, Manuel Asensi, Elena Crippa, Michael Baldwin i Mel Ramsden.

Publicado en ocasión del seminario *Radicalmente incompleto, radicalmente poco concluyente*, que abre un debate sobre el legado de Art & Language. Es el primero de una serie de actos públicos que se organizarán para presentar la colección de documentos de Art & Language reunidos por Philippe Méaille. El seminario tiene lugar en el MACBA el 17 y 18 de mayo de 2013. Los participantes en el seminario son: Carles Guerra, Matthew Jesse Jackson, Jackson Pollock Bar, Manuel Asensi, Elena Crippa, Michael Baldwin y Mel Ramsden.

Published on the occasion of the seminar *Radically Uncomplete, Radically Inconclusive*, which opens a debate on the legacy of Art & Language. It is the first of a series of public events to present the collection of documents by Art & Language belonging to Philippe Méaille. The seminar is held at MACBA on 17 and 18 May 2013. Taking part: Carles Guerra, Matthew Jesse Jackson, Jackson Pollock Bar, Manuel Asensi, Elena Crippa, Michael Baldwin and Mel Ramsden.