
GARY HILL





Title:Goats & Sheep

Date:1995/2001

Media:Video (black-and-white, sound); 11:50 min.

Video Link :<https://vimeo.com/111244710>

Description:

Goats and Sheep was created for the limited edition version of *Gary Hill: Around & About: a Performative View* (Paris: Éditions du Regard, 2001), edition of 100 plus 20 artist's proofs.

Goats and Sheep uses the source material of the installation *Withershins*, 1995, consisting of two simultaneous views of a person signing: the hands and arms are framed in one, and the back of the head and top of the shoulders in the other. This latter view catches the hands when

they refer to the head during signing.

For *Goats and Sheep*, Hill changed the color image into black-and-white, re-recorded his own voice and “re-synchronized” it to the original signing. The stereo field is used to double the voice with about a second of delay added to the sound. This doubling mirrors the hands and numerous references and repetitions heard in the text.

Broeker, Holger, ed. *Gary Hill: Selected Works and catalogue raisonné*. Wolfsburg: Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, 2002, GHCR 126, p. 243.

Spoken Text:

Goats and Sheep and *Twofold (Goats and Sheep)* uses the audio and video source material of the installation *Withershins*, 1995, consisting of two simultaneous views of a person signing: the hands and arms are framed in one and the back of the head and top of the shoulders in the other. This latter view catches the hands when they refer to the head during signing.

The text, which is written by the artist and ‘signed’ in the video(s), represents one possible text derived from a total of 420 phrases that may be accessed by the viewers’ footsteps in the installation of *Withershins*.

Spoken text:

And if

The right hand

was ingrown

backhandedly

and what if

The left hand

knows

that the right hand

knows

what the right hand

is doing?

is the left undone

and what if

The left hand
was ingrown
deep in the mind
speaking in
many handed ways
growing old in a maze
from one word to the next
questions arise
and eyes inflict words
and right inflects left
from one word to the next
left inflects right
and this inflicts that
hand back and forth
and that inflects this
and words reflect back
from one word to the next
questions arise
in many handed ways
Is the left hand?
and so the logos goes
And if
The left hand
knows
what the right hand

is doing?

thrown as it is

the right

wrote the left

a hand written hand

blown

across the flesh

and if

a hand written hand

folded inside

hand held thoughts

a number of instructions

lost between hemispheres

left for dead

the other

mind

beside yourself

and if the left hand

has a hole

would the right hand

then know?

when a hand

is the other hand

which hand is back and forth

two nodal hemispheres

play havoc
in your skull
the mind can't
help but mince
and suddenly you are
beside yourself
entertaining a party of two
only to fall back
a few words
a few steps gone by
a number of instructions
on the way language moves
from point A to point B
proceed accordingly
inside a book
outside a hand
swept mind
laid bare
and if
the written word
left the last word
in the palm
of one hand clapping back
and the right hand
was an ear

out of the other's mind

the left hand spoke

and the right hand

opens the books

laid bare

the left hand does not know

what the right hand

did not know

hands divide

and word by word

language moves

begins to circle

over the book

he writing is

on the wall

and the left is not

reading it

to its next

reflexive moment

to its next

reading

in a way

side ways

way inside

positioned in prayer

the right hand
swallows its palm
and the left hand
swims back
and forth and back
for everything
which is visible
is a copy
of that which is hidden
in every step
and the left hand
is a copy
of that which is hidden
positioned in prayer
way inside
the right hand
stops writing
the left hand
stops to write
the first hand
for the last time
the hand unhands itself
beheads its double
and the left hand is
not the right

the hand unhands itself

and left reflects back

the right hand

the hand left

the right hand

going mad

a house of hands

plays havoc

shaking Matthew's mind

for the last time

the hand unhands itself

beheads its double

and the left hand is

in the root

reflected back

way inside

its handness

that is to say

reflects upon

what the right hand is

and will be done

on earth as it is

what then?

when the word

"hand" moves

happens to skip
walks on water
that is to say
meets its own reflection
in a way
that propels it
to its next
reflexive moment
between hands
out of hand
the mind eats
reflexive moments
echoing thought
across the abyss
and word by word
hands divide
the prong of duality
impales the mind
to unhand itself a logic
and if
parity
folded in the word play
of parity
and if
laid bare

the left hand does not know

what the right hand

is doing

and the lamb said:

be passerby

reflect

between hands

the misgivings of two

hand apprehends hand

right within the mirror

out of hand

as the right reflects

left within the mirror

quicken the eye

ahead

of one hand clapping

bleeding

and the right hand

left a sound

in a hole

that bleeds the left hand

back into the sound

of a hole

in a hole

that bleeds the left hand

back and forth
the logos moves
back into the sound
and left to die
where hands are tied
behind the mind
hidden within
a few steps
into asymmetry
of mind
and the left hand
of the right hand
the mind can't know
what hand is left
passes through
a hand
that goaded the gods about
what hand
did what
before hand
and if
the right mind
did not know
what the left hand brings forth
and back to

doubling its reflection
of differences
and if left
in a symmetry
and if left
did not know
the left hand
cannot know
the left hand
and if
the left hand
did not know
what the right hand
held out
in the mind of Matthew
who goaded the gods about
a hand
passes through
what hand is left
sided handedness
and one remains roaming
between hands
and forth and back
dividing
two nodal hemispheres

that play havoc
in your skull
are only copies of
two hands
that play havoc
in your skull
the mind can't help
and suddenly you are
reminded
of the right hand
the mind can't know
and suddenly you are
left beside yourself
entertaining a party of two
only to fall back
words into hands
laying upon hands
speaking in many ways
right beside yourself
entertaining a party of two
only to fall back
a few steps
a few words
instructions on how to move
thoughts in the body

behind the mind
where hands are tied
and left to die
by the hand that feeds
and if the left hand
has a hole
would the right hand
then know? when a hand
is the other hand
which hand is back and forth
two nodal hemispheres
play havoc
in your skull
the mind can't
help but mince
and suddenly you are
beside yourself
left hidden
and the right hand
left a sound
of one hand clapping
ahead
quicken the eye
left within the mirror
as the right reflects

back-words

right within the mirror

hand apprehends hand

the misgivings of two

escaping handedness

and the lamb said:

to become someone else

proceed accordingly

from point A to point B

hand held thoughts

folded inside

a hand written hand

blown

minds

folded inside

a hand written hand

blown

across the flesh

of symmetries

a hand unhands itself

hands itself back

words into

The left hand

was ingrown

Bibliography:

Fine Arts 2001: American Academy in Rome. Rome: American Academy in Rome, 2001, pp. 10, 12, 16, 34 – 37, 96.

Gary Hill: Selected Works and catalogue raisonné. Wolfsburg: Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, 2002, GHCR 126, pp. 28, 149, 188, 243.

Zutter, Jörg, ed. *Gary Hill / Bruce Nauman: International New Media Art*. Sydney: National Gallery of Australia, 2002, pp. 4, 13, 23 (photo), 25, 27 – 28, 29 – 30, 35 – 36 (photos). (Includes George Quasha's essay: "Gary Hill's Art of the Threshold.") Note: Jörg Zutter's essay "Gary Hill / Bruce Nauman: International New Media Art" reprinted in: *artonview* No. 32 (Summer 2002 – 2003), pp. 6 – 11.

Wimmer, Elga. *Sahte / Gerçek [Faux/Real]*. Istanbul: Borusan Kültür ve Sanat Merkezi, 2002, pp. 2 – 5, 6 – 7.

Zwingenberger, Jeanette. "Gary Hill, quand penser c'est voir." *L'Oeil* 555 (February 2004), pp. 24 – 25.

Quasha, George and Charles Stein. *An Art of Limina: Gary Hill's Works and Writings*. Barcelona: Ediciones Polígrafa, 2009, pp. 328, 330, 336, 344, 346 – 351.

Exhibition History:

"2001 Annual Exhibition," American Academy in Rome, Rome, Italy, May 24 – July 15, 2001. *Note: The work was exhibited as an installation and displayed simultaneously on two monitors placed side-by-side on a low table.*

"Media Connection," Palazzo della Triennale, Milan, Italy, October 12 – November 24, 2001. *Note: The work was exhibited as an installation consisting of two side-by-side simultaneous projections.*

"Gary Hill: Selected Works," Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany, November 10, 2001 – March 10, 2002. Traveled to: Centro Cultural de Belém, Lisbon, Portugal, October 10, 2002 – January 12, 2003. *Note: The work was exhibited on two monitors placed side-by-side.*

Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, March 7 - 13, 2002 (entire program February 28 - March 24, 2002). *Note: The work was projected as a video screening.*

"Sahte / Gerçek (Faux/Real)," Borusan Art Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey, April 6 – June 1, 2002.

"Gary Hill / Bruce Nauman: International New Media Art," National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia, December 14, 2002 – March 9, 2003. *Note: The work was shown on a single monitor per the artist's request to differentiate this single-channel work from the projection version, Twofold (Goats and Sheep).*

"Transmit + Transform," Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa FE, New Mexico, July 2 – August 13, 2004. *Note: The work was shown on a monitor.*

"Gary Hill: Voice Grounds," St Paul Street Gallery, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand, March 12 - April 25, 2009.

"Art of Limina: Gary Hill," Slought Foundation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 21 – May 1, 2009.

"Power & Imagination: Conceptual Art," National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, August 11, 2018 - May 19, 2019

"Joyful Frictions," Musée d'Art moderne et contemporain – Musées de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, October 5, 2018 – May 26, 2019.

"Gary Hill: Momentombs," Suwon Art Museum, Suwon, Korea, November 26, 2019 — March 6, 2020.

Notes:

The work has been configured as an installation entitled *Twofold (Goats and Sheep)*, 1995/2002, using two projectors with the two channels of sound being split and fed to separate speakers. The same video is seen on both projections.