

---

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 & 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 & 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 & Sheep*, Hill changed the color image into black-and-white, re-recorded his 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 & Sheep* and *Twofold (Goats & 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.