

JOHN BALDESSARI What Thinks Me Now (1982)

I want to re-enchant and remythologize.

I want to drill a hole deep-down in art to discover the mythic infrastructure.

(I am less interested in the form art takes than the meaning an image evokes.)

(I am interested in art as a way of knowing.)

I want to express myself in archetypal imagery.

I want to stand at the edge rather than the center.

I want to recall what I always knew. (I am interested in what thinks me.)

(I would rather discover the memory of the soul than to be correct in thought.)

I want to move away from racial amnesia.

I want to produce images that startle one into recollection.

I want to think of history so that it is not a record of events but a method of release.

I want to see the world as something else than serial progression.

I want to know the matrix of events in history.

(What appears to be trivial in a fairy tale, etc. could be the lingering remnant of the memory of the soul.)

I want to engage in the spiritualization of matter and the materialization of the spirit.

I want to think of time as synchronic.

I want to see all variants of a myth in a single imaginary space without regard to historical context.

I want to sift information from noise.

I want to avoid the tedium of sectarianism and dogma.

I want to consider language as an articulation of the limited to express the unlimited.

I want to be at home with the paradoxical, the ambiguous, and the random.

I want to eroticize time, consciousness, and human culture.

I want to blur the boundaries between truth and fiction.

* John Baldessari, "What Thinks Me Now," *Documenta 7*, 1 (Kassel: Documenta, 1982), 80.