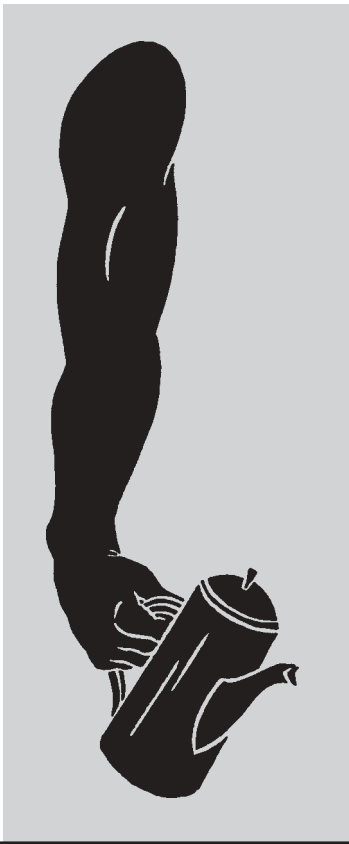




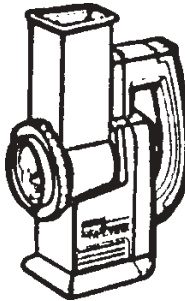
HOW COULD WE STOP MAKING ART WHEN ART IS OUR ONLY WEAPON IN OUR STRUGGLE?
 WHY WOULD WE THROW AWAY OUR ARMS AND GIVE UP ART, THE ESSENCE OF OUR LIFE?
 WHY WOULD WE SURRENDER WHEN WE FIRMLY BELIEVE IN ART?
 WE, FREE ARTISTS, WHY SHOULD WE BECOME ART STRIKERS WHEN WE MAKE ART ONLY FOR THE SATISFACTION OF OUR OWN MIND?
 WHY WOULD WE STRIKE WHEN WE ARE HAPPY WITHOUT ANY CONNECTION TO THE ART SYSTEM?
 AND WE, ESTABLISHED ARTISTS OF FAME AND MONEY, WHY WOULD WE STRIKE WHEN WE HAVE ALREADY SATISFIED OUR DESIRES?
 AND WE, WHO ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT OF "EVERYTHING IS ART", SHALL WE KILL OURSELVES TO MANIFEST OUR SYMPATHY WITH THE ART STRIKERS?
 AND WE, WHO BELIEVE THAT "EVERYBODY IS AN ARTIST", SHOULD WE TRY TO CONVINCE THE POLICE TO JOIN THE ART STRIKE?



Stop carrying the torch for art. Sit down. Take off your shoes. Relax. Have a nice, hot cup of coffee.

Remarks

Bob Black, in his essay "On the Art Strike" (*Artpaper*, Vol. 9 No. 4, p. 9-10) raises some strong arguments supporting the idea that the Art Strike is, against its overt intentions, an elitist (in)action which "...only certifies artists as the expert interpreters of what nobody but artists do." He does so by likening the Art Strike to "imperialism" and suggests that it is "Ostentatious renunciation [which] is greed in its warped and most insidious form". He also says that art-strikers engage in this (in)action because they are "...some of the less commercially successful [among] contemporary artists..." True, few of us are "successful" in these cynical terms—and to measure our value as contributors to culture based on how much money we make is just one of the ridiculous attitudes the Art Strike seeks to combat. A Julian Schnabel could not participate in an Art Strike. He has far too much to lose to be completely honest about milieu in which he prospers. Other points: If "...only artists can refuse art...", then art is irrelevant to begin with, and must be renounced, perhaps even ostentatiously. (Although the Art Strike maintains that consumers must refuse art, too.) If "...art... becomes everything..." then the word has no meaning at all. (Art is not everything, but a class- and gender-specific activity which serves to justify an objectionable ideology.) Bob Black does culture a disservice by taking the Art Strike too seriously—and this is much the same as not taking it half seriously enough.



FREE!

Forget it. In a world where attitudes are commodities to be bought with time, the price of freedom would be far too dear. You couldn't afford to be without your fear of starvation, the fear of the denial of shelter, and, perhaps most of all, the fear that someone might be able to take away the banal comforts upon which you have grown to depend.

WHEN CENSORSHIP WORKS, YOU DON'T KNOW IT.

DON'T FOOL YOURSELF INTO THINKING THAT THIS, OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU ARE EXPOSED TO, IS "UNCENSORED". THE CYNICAL AND NAIVE HACKS WHO PROMOTE "CULTURE" FOR THEIR OWN SELF-INTEREST USE THE IDEA OF ANTI-CENSORSHIP TO LEND THEIR ADOPTED DISCOURSES CREDIBILITY, AND TO ONCE AGAIN MYSTIFY A PASSIVE AUDIENCE. AN AUDIENCE CORRECTLY EXPECTED TO CONSUME ANY CONTROLLED SPECTACLE WHICH IS APPROPRIATELY FRAMED. PRODUCTION IS CENSORSHIP. ALL EVENTS TAKE THE PLACE OF SOMETHING ELSE. UNDESIRE, UNMENTIONED, UNIMAGINED. WHAT YOU WILL BE EXPOSED TO TODAY IS DESIGNED TO REINFORCE THE FUNCTIONING OF A PARTICULARLY NARROW IDENTITY—ONE WHICH IS NOT ONLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALLY INTERESTING "HUMAN CULTURE", BUT ALSO OBLIVIOUS TO THE UNMEDIATED UNITARY EXPERIENCES WHICH LIE OUTSIDE OF IT. IN SHORT, A SET OF REDUNDANT GESTURES COMPLETELY IN SUPPORT OF THE STATUS QUO, CREATING ANOTHER ILLUSION OF FREEDOM—REPRESSIVE TOLERANCE. [ASAC-MD]

PARADISE STANDS IN THE SHADOW OF SWORDS

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- ASAC (California), P.O. Box 170715, San Francisco CA 94117 USA
- ASAC (Eastern USA), P.O. Box 22142, Baltimore MD 21203 USA
- ASAC (United Kingdom), BM Senior, London WC1N 3XX, England
- ASAC (Eire), c/o Tony Lowes, Allihies, Bantry, West Cork, Ireland
- ASAC (Latin America), C. de Correos 1211, Montevideo Uruguay

