

I live here, I'm writing to you from here, and from now on I intend to stay here.

This doesn't mean I'm opening or closing those doors (they'll stay ajar, as usual) or taking attention off the phenomena and activities of the institutions engaged on the front of contemporary art.

Art, however, must be old.

Perhaps something is opening and closing, at least for me. A different phase is opening, a new area of reconnaissance stands on the horizon: and in order to observe it, the practice of the "grand tour," the precarious conquest and consequent abandonment of "exhibition spaces," sterile, short-lived colonies of a homeless *Aleph*, must be brought to a close.¹

But if a work's moment of truth coincides with its exhibition, and its original design is fulfilled in the place that hosts it, what place can ever host a work if not the room in which it comes into being?

Attention is concentrated between those four walls: an installation² and seven studies,³ the logs of a solitary,

aimless journey, are the projections of a centripetal point of view aimed at considering, or interpreting, the loss of direction.

The emphasis on dispersion underscores the confines of the void: these pages do not require a privileged space or a preestablished time of exposition, they do not constitute one or seven exhibitions.

In this way the author leaves the scene. The work is elsewhere, untouchable.

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¹ Cf. "No More Exhibitions," the foreword to *Contemplator Enim*, Firenze, Galleria Christian Stein and Hopefulmonster editore, 1991. The volume illustrates the

possible versions of the work announced in this essay.

² In "Anteprima" at the Museo d'arte contemporanea del Castello di Rivoli.

³ These are the originals of the plates published in *Contemplator Enim*, *op. cit.* They may be seen in seven different places (Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; The Tate Gallery, London; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre G. Pompidou, Paris; Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Roma; Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart; The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh).