

The five acts of art

Act one

art is art is exhibition
primary exhibition is primary

exhibition primary
is undeniable
 and fundamental

exhibition is of of being
a fundamental the process human
action

Act two

to be is to
human exhibit

to be great is to be
at exhibiting an artist

to be is a
an artist choice

how to be is a
an artist choice

choice to is
in relation context work

context is
half the work

to be is to work is
an artist work primary

the artist
is primary

the the primary
artist is exhibitor

the primary requires a set
exhibitor of tools

painting a subset
is of exhibition

sculpture a subset
is of exhibition

architecture a subset
is of exhibition

performance a subset
is of exhibition

moving image a subset
is of exhibition

book a subsection
is of exhibition

text a subsection
is of exhibition

painting sculpture architecture performance
and and and and

moving image book are
and and secondary
text

a blank is the
book most perfect
book

a blank is the
wall most perfect
wall

a blank is the
painting most perfect
painting

a blank is the
exhibition not most perfect
exhibition

the most perfect exhibition is in reluctant equilibrium between blank and full i.e. in flux

and yet the most perfect exhibition must fight against equilibrium

art fights against hierarchy

there is no hierarchy of secondary forms in the production of art

there is no flux of secondary forms

but art is flux

exhibition is in flux

curating is engaging with the flux of art

curating is a subset of the production of art

the curator is secondary

secondary are existing
modes of art conditions

existing are to be
conditions adapted

existing have
conditions limits

Act three

art is not art
exhibited exhibits

exhibition
is limitless

exhibition
is five acts

five acts
are limitless

act one is act two is act three is
exposition rising action climax

act four is act five is
falling action denouement

exhibition
is act one two three
four and five

five acts
of life

to live
is to exhibit

to exhibit
is to converse

to converse the exposition
is to enter into of act one

successful the rising action
exposition of act two
leads to

rising action the climax
makes possible of act three

climax the falling action
is followed by of act four

falling action the denouement
leads to of act five

denouement denouement
is the end is death

but denouement if the artist
can be the start wills it

to reorder is to test
the five acts life

to is to
test life exhibit

but the artist
cannot cheat death

Act four

death death
is primary is life change

change is art is exhibition is
necessary necessary necessary

text is book is moving image is
not necessary not necessary not necessary

performance is architecture is sculpture is
not necessary not necessary not necessary

painting is audience is
not necessary not necessary

audience
is a luxury

audience
is civilisation

civilisation demands exhibition	civilisation requires exhibition	civilisation requires art
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Act five

art is
luxury

art is
demand

art is waste	waste is exhibition	exhibition is art	art is primary
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I formed 'The five acts of art' in 2012 for artist Nicolas Party, after his invitation to write a text that he would design as a silk-screened publication. It remained unpublished until this book. I have performed it on a number of occasions. The five-act structure comes from a structure I devised for *Narrative Show*, an exhibition I curated at Eastside Projects in 2011.