[ Language and Communication ]

Joseph Kosuth  
1945  
United States

Gillian Wearing  
born 1963  
Britain

Bruce Nauman  
born 1941  
United States

Pipilotti Rist  
born 1962  
Switzerland

John Baldessari  
born 1931  
United States

Ellen Harvey  
born 1967  
British

William Wegman  
born 1943  
United States

Janet Cardiff  
born 1957  
Canada

Gilbert and George  
born 1942, 1943  
Britain

Barbara Kruger  
born 1945  
United States

Jenny Holzer  
born 1950  
United States

Kay Rosen  
born 1949  
United States

Paul and Marlene Kos  
born 1942, 1945  
United States

Steven Pippin  
born 1960  
Britain

Komar and Melamid  
born 1943, 1945  
Russia
[Discussion Questions]

1. Does art need to have a physical component, or can it consist of merely an idea?

2. Is art that involves text universal, or can it only be appreciated by those who can read it?

3. Why would an artist appropriate (use) images from movies, television or advertising? What shortcuts do they provide?

4. How is video art different than performance art? Can the same ideas be used/discussed?

5. If the confessions or participation of others part of the artwork, is it important or necessary for them to understand what they’re getting into?
1. Conceptual artists are mystics rather than rationalists, they leap to conclusions that logic cannot reach.

2. Rational judgments repeat rational judgments.

3. Illogical judgments lead to new experience.

4. Formal art is essentially rational.

5. Irrational thoughts should be followed absolutely and logically.

6. If the artist changes his mind midway through the execution of the piece he compromises the result and repeats past results.

7. The artist's role is secondary to the process he initiates, from idea to completion, his willfulness may only be ego.

8. When words such as painting and sculpture are used, they connote a whole tradition and apply a consequent acceptance of this tradition, thus placing limitations on the artist that would be reluctant to make their thoughts go beyond the limitations.

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a little knowledge can go a long way
a man can't know what it is to be a mother
a positive attitude means all the difference in the world
a sense of timing is the mark of genius
a single event can have infinitely many interpretations
a strong sense of duty imprisons you
abstraction is a type of decadence
action causes more trouble than thought
all things are delicately interconnected
ambivalence can ruin your life
anger or hate can be a useful motivating force
any surplus is immoral
artificial desires are despoiling the earth
being alone with yourself is increasingly unpopular
being judgmental is a sign of life
believing in rebirth is the same as admitting defeat
calm is more conducive to creativity than is anxiety
children are the most cruel of all
class action is a nice idea with no substance
confusing yourself is a way to stay honest

da lot of professionals are crackpots
da name means a lot just by itself
da relaxed man is not necessarily a better man
da sincere effort is all you can ask
a solid home base builds a sense of self
absolute submission can be a form of freedom
alienation produces eccentrics or revolutionaries
ambition is just as dangerous as complacency
an elite is inevitable
animalism is perfectly healthy
anything is a legitimate area of investigation
bad intentions can yield good results
being happy is more important than anything else
being sure of yourself means you're a fool
boredom makes you do crazy things
chasing the new is dangerous to society
children are the hope of the future
class structure is as artificial as plastic
crime against property is relatively unimportant