

jan fox

design- ben gaydos

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nothingism restated

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Many say, "nothing is sacred."  
I would alter this to say,  
"nothingness is sacred."

There is a state of mind that I  
call "the Happy Empty." It is when the mind is  
a vessel, waiting to be filled. It is not a  
desire to be entertained or enlightened. It is  
not boredom. It is a state of openness to any  
thought, emotion, or experience which may pass  
through the vessel, and an acceptance that  
nothing at all may occur. There is equal joy  
in both.

Is nothing the cusp between creation and  
destruction? Or active/passive? Is nothing  
that instantaneous zero acceleration that  
occurs before an object thrown in the air  
returns to earth? Is nothing when soundwaves  
cross paths and cancel each other out? Is  
nothing the moment at a prayer's end, before  
you say "amen?"

Is there even a possibility of nothing? Dust-  
motes whirl, seen and unseen. The observed is  
effected by the observer. If nothing cannot  
exist, except as an abstract concept- then,  
it is the perfect companion to the  
painter's canvas.

Nothing as the absence of something  
came home to me in a most  
personal way. When they took  
Jim's body away, they cut up  
the carpet in the shape of  
the bed he  
was lying on.

Underneath was  
white linoleum.  
So there is this  
giant white rectangle  
on the floor  
where he used to be.

Large white rectangles- the  
impassiveness of a blank  
canvas, daydreaming that it is a  
Malevich-in-waiting. The white field  
of our unconsciousness. The amniotic  
fluid in which we float.

Funny that blankness is so intimidating.  
An untouched canvas, the first word of a  
letter, an empty piece of staff paper --  
these are all confrontational in some  
subconscious way. Breaking the silence,  
dirtying the canvas, or committing words to  
paper are all life-affirming acts,  
devotional in their intensity and generous  
in rewards bestowed upon the patient  
adept.

Nothingism is an invisible journal, where  
everything but the nature of the content  
is in evidence.

I have nothing to add.

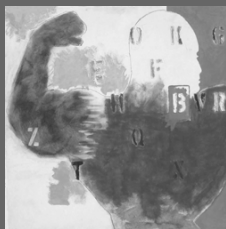
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