

In response to Naum Gabo's Linear Construction 1

Element 1: Promenade around the gallery

Begin in the space outside the entrance to the Barber gallery, upstairs in the small vestibule. Before starting, inform the audience of the existence of the manifesto and ring the bell. The singer can fit as many or as few of each word onto each block of melody. The singer is also allowed to improvise around this text and embellish or remove parts as they feel necessary with the audience present. For this first section stand at the front of the gallery near the paintings of Daphne and Apollo.

Part 1

Sung.

Eidos - Form.

An armature of reality

Space forged from time

From Plato the constructed chair

To which our thought is directed

The energy of mind looking outside of itself

But what of the informed?

Where is the information in form?

Ring the bell.

Spoken - delivered in a high energy manner. Presented as a rhetorical question to the audience. On the affirmation of depth lead the audiences' eyes to look down the gallery.

Manifesto Statement 3:

We renounce volume as a pictorial and plastic form of space; one cannot measure space in volumes as one cannot measure liquid in yards: look at our space... what is it if not one continuous depth?

We affirm depth as the only pictorial and plastic form of space.

Ring the bell.

Part 2

Sung in front of the first alcove where there is the trumpeter. Look at the paintings to think about colour:

What say you Aquinas?

You hereby grant the accidental form.

The chosen properties - colour, angles, material

Let them not define our quality

Ring the bell.

Spoken:

Use hand gestures to emphasise the "light absorbing body":

Manifesto Statement 1:

Thence in painting we renounce colour as a pictorial element, colour is the idealized optical surface of objects; an exterior and superficial impression of them; colour is accidental and it has nothing in common with the innermost essence of a thing.

We affirm that the tone of a substance, i.e. its light-absorbing material body is its only pictorial reality.

Ring the bell.

Part 3

Sung in the entrance to gallery 2:

Interesting

But what of Kant?

Who disagreed with Plato.
Form cannot be abstract, form must be man-made.
Mind made.
Just a projection of collected thought?

Spoken:

Manifesto Statement 2:

We renounce in a line, its descriptive value; in real life there are no descriptive lines, description is an accidental trace of a man on things, it is not bound up with the essential life and constant structure of the body. Descriptiveness is an element of graphic illustration and decoration.
We affirm the line only as a direction of the static forces and their rhythm in objects.

Ring the bell.

Part 4

Walk into the next gallery and sing this next section in front of the violinist.

Sung:

Then perhaps there is some truth in Schopenhauer's Will?
The driving and mindless irrational impulse, aimlessly energising everything.
Our movement, nothing but a manifestation of the Will.

Ring the bell.

During this next speech address the audience as both engineers and sculptors.

Spoken:

Manifesto Statement 4:

We renounce in sculpture, the mass as a sculptural element.
It is known to every engineer that the static forces of a solid body and its material strength do not depend on the quantity of the mass... example a rail, a T-beam, etc.

But you sculptors of all shades and directions, you still adhere to the age-old prejudice that you cannot free the volume of mass. Here (in this exhibition) we take four planes and we construct with them the same volume as of four tons of mass. Thus we bring back to sculpture the line as a direction and in it we affirm depth as the one form of space.

Ring the bell.

Part 5

Move to the final gallery

Sung:

But if we take everything down as far as it goes
Continuously cutting
A progressive diminution
Maybe Einstein - you might be right
"Forces are permitted to become mass
Matter is permitted to become light"
All that is left are the strings

Ring the bell.

Announce this final statement very emphatically.

Spoken:

Manifesto Statement 5:

We renounce the thousand-year-old delusion in art that held the static rhythms as the only elements of the plastic and pictorial arts.

We affirm in these arts a new element, the kinetic rhythms as the basic forms of our perception of real time.

Element 2: Sculpture ritual

A sung jigsaw - During this sing the words which are in the part of the image that has strings. As soon as you come to a word in the gap, ring the bell and speak them. Then ring the bell to signify that you will carry on singing words.

The image is cut into a jigsaw and arranged during the performance to look like the Barbara Hepworth study in the exhibition.

