

THOUGHTS MADE VISCERAL

CURATED BY C. M. TURNER

Why do readers scrawl annotation into the spaces of the pages they pore over? What is gained through engaging the margin, enacting marginalia? Markmaking and note-taking in and around a printed text serves as an attunement to the material through the visual and haptic registers, in accordance with an attentive, embodied, and transgressive process of information intake and sensemaking.

Markmaking on a printed text, at a basic level, is an intervention. The act is an assertion, an (involuntary) collaboration, a conversation. It is also a reterritorialization (and/or a deterritorialization) of the page, constituting reclamation of space (and by extension power), both physically and philosophically. Enacting marginalia reactivates the senses, disrupts the status quo, enlivens the experience of engaging with the printed page, and excites the body in relation to the mind. Markmaking keeps the reader attentive, actively producing a coauthored visual/haptic object that carries both a literal and metaphoric weight.

On one level, marginalia is a conversation with a printed page—a crystallization of translating a text into workable language, of seeking clarification, of locating points of alignment and departure from a text leading to a more critical engagement with the material. But marginalia is also a conversation with the self; note-taking allows readers to apply the text to their own needs, to use it in a practical sense. The reflexive process of enacting marginalia brings life to bear on the text (as well as lays the text bare to life), and is a performance of connectivity between theory (*text*) and practice (*life*). The margin is a space to fill with eureka moments and acknowledgments of concepts linked to concrete experiences. It is also a space to occupy with one's own musings, and thus is a space of simultaneous *de/construction*, as salient points of the text are parsed out, concurrently defining one's self and intersubjectivity in relation to these points.

This is a practice that can extend beyond the page, coalescing as a form of agency in participating with the world at large, its structures, schema, and societies. This exhibition seeks to illustrate that to engage the margin is to both literally and figuratively occupy the periphery, in a space of desire promoting modes of anticipation, questioning, searching, and discovery. When taken with the understanding that meaning is often derived from difference, *Thoughts Made Visceral* asserts that to flourish on the edges, to press against the boundaries, is to actively advocate for expansion, equity, and understanding.

C. M. Turner