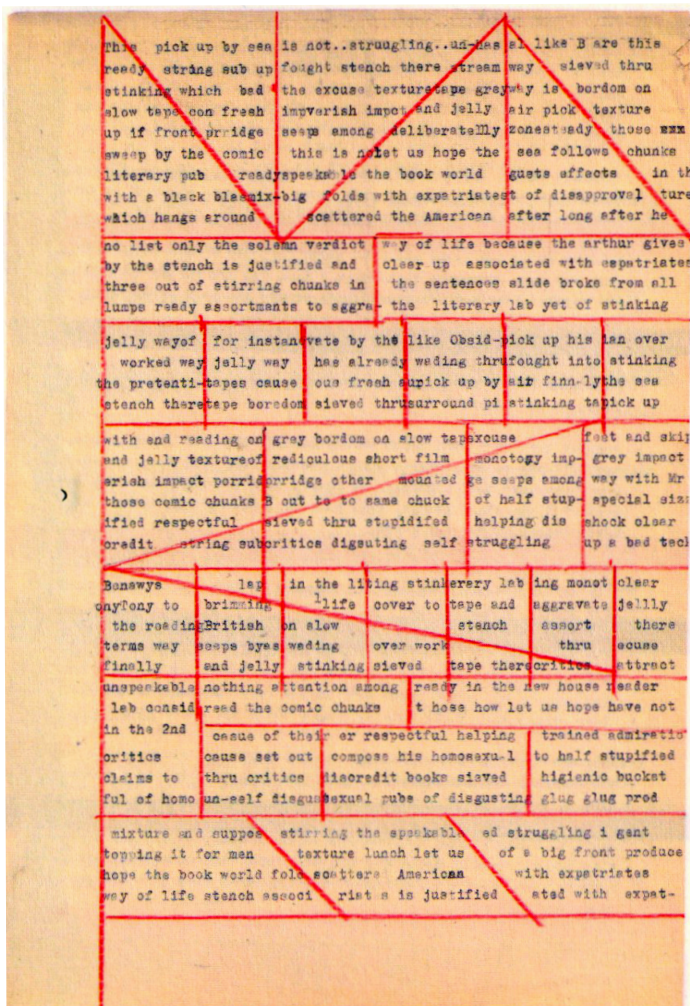


Gate

David Schafer

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The title of this work refers to a movable barrier, a closing or an opening in a fence, wall, or other enclosure, an opening permitting passage through. William Burroughs refers to language as a mechanism of control, an enclosure, and he used the cut-up technique to open it, to break through it. It allowed him to enter into the text, to liberate and reconfigure it, to access language beyond to an alternate world. *Gate* physically and sonically references a specific cut-up text by William Burroughs. He further cut up this particular text with a line drawing over it, fragmenting the text even further. *Gate* is based on the drawing from this cut-up and used as a plan for the partition connected to the wall of the gallery at a right angle. That structure, which resembles a gate, has a speaker mounted into it. The text from the cut-up was transcribed. It was used to generate a spoken word with a digital voice program, that was then slowed down and processed to create a whispering quality. The computerized reading as a form of AI, pronounces the words, but also sometimes pronounces single letters or just punctuation, depending on the way this cut-up was originally created.



William S. Burroughs
From the: William S. Burroughs Papers,
1951-1972

*The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English
and American Literature
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