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Texts and Interviews

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Mirror

Revolving Door (Sine of Life)

Door

'Mirror, Mirror on the wall
Who is the fairest one of all?'
besides me, the door, the table, the window,
the basket and the rug?

Mirror

I tried to open the door but it was locked. I climbed up on the table so I could look out the window and I saw the rug and the basket walking away, hand in hand. *Did you see us?*

The lexicon of 6 nouns (table, door, rug, basket, window, mirror) has to include a seventh member, which is oneself, because each of the six is defined by its context, and that context invariably includes oneself.

But isn't that the very hindrance that these (contingent?) arrangements are trying to get away from? The window is to the left of the door, etc.; of course Left is Right if you are standing on your head, but you can always set up the x, y, and z axes and go to sleep or go 'away' or something.

Any attempt to bring to a word a definition which is limited in scope is going to be naive because of the contextual sea in which the word floats. So why? i.e., what is the purpose of this effort?

How about pseudo-scientific: the idea of a grammar is to tell you how to say anything in the language in which you are speaking, conversely it would also tell you if that (which you are doing) is speaking. Now a science could take isolated feelings that you have, and relate these isolated feelings in a way that wouldn't necessarily involve yourself, i.e., you wouldn't have to keep coming back to yourself or referring to yourself or pointing to yourself to maintain the relevancy or the continuity.

Memory (absence which is not absent) proposes a matrix of contingency; the matrix is the perfect, the ideal, no less perfect for not having clear, distinct boundaries.

So therefore oneself most likely has to show up in the matrix somewhere but not necessarily in every element.

Revolving Door (Sine of Life)

Revolving doors always run counter-clockwise, whereas water-wheels always run clockwise. A revolving door could serve as a water-wheel if you (first) locked it in closed position (second) sealed all other entrances, windows and vents in the building which possesses the revolving door and (third) filled the building with water. Looking out from inside the lobby one would see a procession of gelatinous forms moving horizontally in both directions: some of these would be distinguishable as automobiles, others as pedestrians, others having more the character of sine-waves moving across the scope. Yp. Sine-waves to the right, pinky Gerbils treadmilling to the left. A swivel chair floats by, a passing shadow, a partial eclipse of the biosphere. (It is going to land somewhere right-side-up on its wheels and all this water magic is going to stop).*

* A sequence of plates illustrating the trigonometric functions of angles followed at their point.

The revolving door is arranged in the form of a quatrefoil. One of the doorlets is dry, two are half-wet and one is totally wet. The pressure on the first (D_1) is atmospheric – also quantified to one Atmosphere; the pressure on the 2nd and 3rd is a bit more, shall we say; and the pressure on the 4th is still more than that: specifically it is double the pressure on either D_2 or D_3 minus 2 Atmospheres. The intrusion of a second atmosphere into this cozy arrangement is not to be lightly forgiven.

It was previously noted that pressures on D_2 and D_3 are equal, and the pressure on each can be conveniently formulated as a vector whose length is one (Atmosphere) and whose direction is a tangent to the arc described by any point on the free edge of the doorlet, as it moves through its appointed rounds.**

** That is to say, if it were moving.

Now keep in mind that those two half-wet doorlets are the ones that are keeping all that water in. They lie in the same plane, and form part of the boundary that separates the inside and the outside of the building. They are also connected so that disturbing one disturbs the other to the same degree (scalar) but in opposite directions. Opening one closes the other and vice versa. Actually, opening one opens the other, and vice versa, so, the water pressure being equal on each, the *Doors Will Remain Closed*, unless an eddy of current from the passing

swivel chair were to disturb the balance. There remains one problem to be considered: water pressing on the right-hand doorlet will tend to open it unless there is an equal tendency for water-pressure to open (close) the left-hand doorlet. But the revolving door operates counter-clockwise only, you will recall, so there is no way for the water-pressure to act on the left-hand doorlet. It follows that there is no way to keep that Dam water inside the Dam building, and it is also true that at the very beginning of this discourse you were swept ass over teacups out onto the sidewalk, and can the swivel chair be far behind? Bon voyage.

Door

I tried to open the door but it was locked: I reached for the knob and encountered nothing but the lightly embossed surface of the wood. (Long) after I had clawed and gnawed my way through the wooden panel I realized that I had attacked the hinge side of the door: the knob was there, all right, but over by the other edge. It was shiny brass, and had reflected me while I was so desperately looking for it. Reached (Yp) through the hole up to my armpit indeed, searched about with four fingers c thumb, encountered its Siamese brother, turned It and opened Her up. Bon voyage.

Name Book 1: Statements on Art.

Editors: Donald Sultan, Nancy Davidson.

Chicago: N.A.M.E. Gallery, 1977, pp. 15-24.