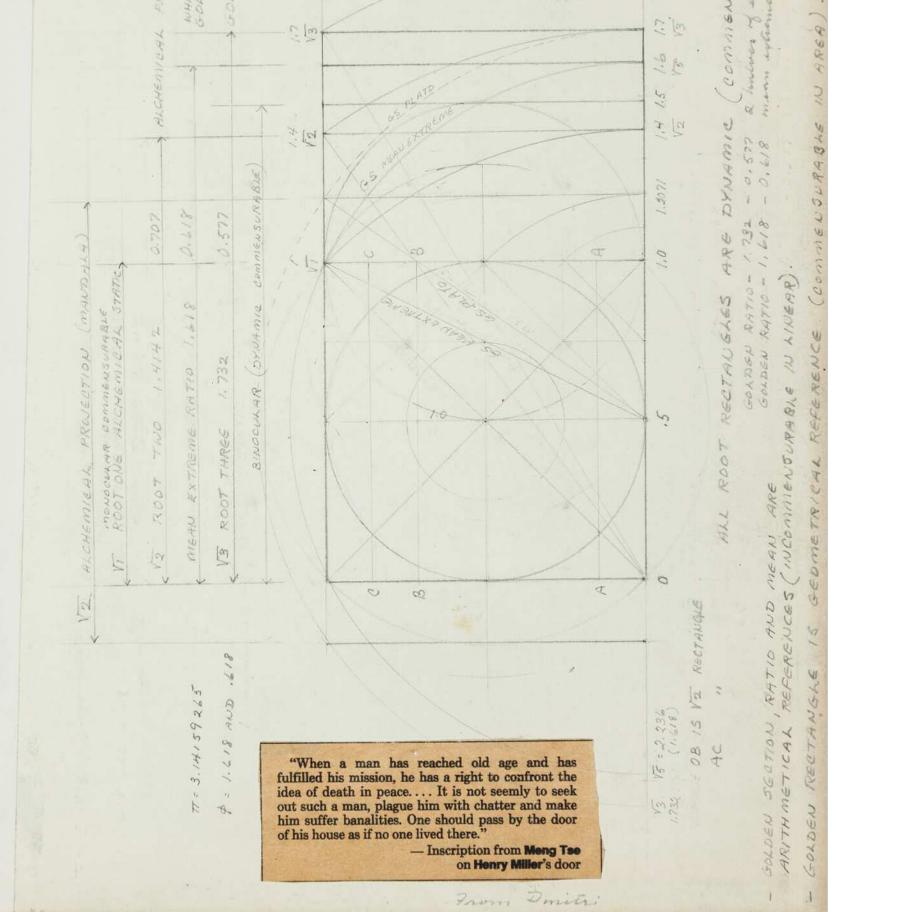


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For we are both of the opinion that if one can measure what one is talking about and can express it in numbers, which constitute the sole reality, then one has some knowledge of one's subject.

—Alfred Jarry





Thomas Chimes THE BODY IN SPIRALS

NOVEMBER 7-DECEMBER 13, 2014

LOCKS GALLERY

The Body in Spirals KELSEY HALLIDAY JOHNSON

The term *magnum opus* ("the great work") roots itself in alchemy, referring to the mythic four-part process of creating the philosopher's stone. A formula that was notoriously sought after throughout history, the lore of the stone's production was popularized through the color transformations in the process: *nigredo* (blackening), *albedo* (whitening), *citrinitas* (yellowing) and *rubedo* (reddening). In the last decade of his career, the Philadelphia artist Thomas Chimes (1921–2009) would actively draw his own parallels between alchemical transformations within the phases of his work, culminating with white paintings that call to mind translucent skins of light and smoke.¹ In his later white paintings, Chimes would produce golden hues that peeked through their pale ashen surfaces, as if to hint at the final generative transformations of the paints: titanium white (titanium dioxide) and mars black (iron oxide), into a metal of more extraordinary value.

We now use the word *magnum opus* colloquially as a superlative, bestowed upon a masterpiece of an artist's oeuvre, yet historically it summarized a broader process and labor. The *magnum opus* is an evolving effort—a journey of experimentation, equations, and change. Fusing his explorations of consciousness, spirituality, and literature with that of science, math, alchemy, and 'pataphysics was undoubtedly "the great work" and lifelong pursuit of Thomas Chimes. He embodied the implied pseudo-scientific and impossible quantitative approaches of **Fig. 1** *Nautical,* 1969, mixed media metal box construction, 16 ¹/₄ x 20 ¹/₄ inches



alchemy and 'pataphysics to mythic ends through the seemingly rational strategies of plotted geometry and artistic material science. With such particular process-based approaches, the artist magnified his personal fascinations within a deeply felt aura of each work.

For Chimes, visual art could be seen as "creating a new world myth", but also a force "impersonating" traditional myths.² As the child of Greek immigrants he increasingly immersed himself in the world of Hellenic mythology, math, and symbolism. A pursuit he called "the classical imperative," Chimes felt it was crucial to deal with the art of the past in new forms, a motivation curator Michael Taylor would liken to contemporaries like Cy Twombly.³ He embodied this imperative through his investigation of Greco-Roman iconography, historical texts and narratives, technical draftsmanship ("antique drawing"), and copying old master drawings from the library as a young student. Thomas Chimes was one of the most original and idiosyncratic figures working in Philadelphia in the 20th century, and his work has many historical lenses through which one can begin to read it. But at the core of these deeply personal investigations was an obsession with geometry that would dictate the structural composition and transformation of each piece.

Starting with his early work (1958–65) that came to be known as the *Crucifixion* paintings, Chimes felt driven by an exploration of spatial geometries. He recalled, "A long time ago, while studying the bare canvas in front of me, I could see the invisible diagonals connecting the four corners. I began by putting down shapes echoing the rectangular format of the canvas. A cross appeared in the space between the rectangles, a purely mathematical consideration having nothing to do with religion. The process seemed to me to be more like the beginning of a universe. It was only later that the cross became identified with the crucifix."⁴ This merging of a quantitative exploration of composition with its spiritual undertones would evolve into his quasi-surrealist later works that explored historical figures and 'pataphysics as their primary subject matter.

In the 1960s, Chimes would embark on a series of meticulous drawings, some of grotesque or human forms examined within their anatomical proportions (fig. 2–4) and others of purely mathematical renderings of Fibonnaci's Golden Spiral. In many ways, these were Chimes's first manifestations of Alfred Jarry's explanation of

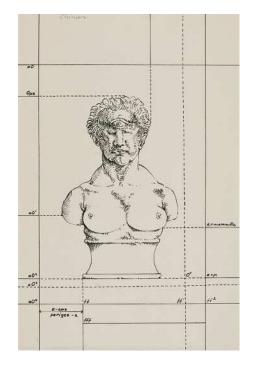
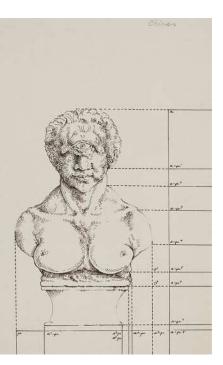
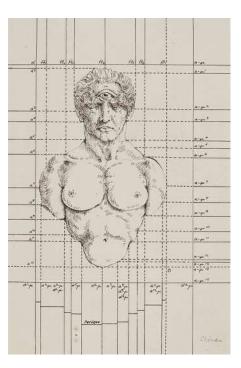


Fig. 2 a + mammilla, 1966, ink on paper, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches

Fig. 3 *m* - *a*, 1966, ink on paper, 8 ½ x 5 ½ inches

Fig. 4 *Perigee,* 1966, ink on paper, 8 ½ x 5 ½ inches





'pataphysics: "DEFINITION: 'Pataphysics is the science of imaginary solutions, which symbolically attributes the properties of objects, described by their virtuality, to their lineaments."⁵ Jarry's Dr. Faustroll would celebrate British mathematician Arthur Cayley who summarized the universe in "a single curve drawn in chalk on a black board" while Faustroll would further those mathematical revelations as "the progress of the solid future entwined the body in spirals."⁶ The body became its own subject of study in these 1960s drawings, and his quantification of it spatially both explores 'pataphysical principles and situates Chimes in dialogue with other Philadelphia artists he studied like Thomas Eakins and Eadweard Muybridge.



Fig. 5 Installation view of *Thomas Chimes: Adventures in Pataphysics* at The Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2007 The anthology which first published the English translation of Jarry's influential proto-Surrealist text, *Exploits and Opinions of Dr. Faustroll, Pataphysician* (then subtitled "a neo-scientific novel") was the *Selected Works of Alfred Jarry.* Each book cover of this text has revisited a spiral motif, most recently featuring Jarry's woodcut of his caricatured Père Ubu figure with a nebula-like spiral on his belly, while a 1980 edition featured a portrait of Jarry surrounded by tightly-wound spirals like targets. Chimes's personal copy was the 1965 first-edition, a green hardcover book with a single yellow spiral on the cover. For his most treasured books, Chimes enshrined the texts in unique sculptural book jackets; this particular one was a simple handsome hardwood

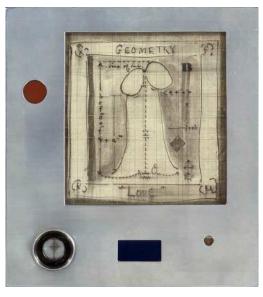


Fig. 6 *Geometry Love,* 1966–69, mixed media metal box construction, 9 ¹/₄ x 8 ¹/₄ inches

cover with a circular cutout framing the spiral. The June 1960 *Evergreen Review* "What is 'Pataphysics?" (Chimes's first exposure to 'pataphysics) similarly has a green cover with a transposed photograph of Jarry on a bicycle with a graphic purple spiral emerging from the center of his front bicycle wheel. Chimes recalled being "immediately connected" to the visuals of the cover when offered back issues of the *Evergreen Review* by his brother-in-law in 1960–61.7 The 'pataphysical flirtation with the quasi-mathematical was celebrated by many scholars and enthusiasts, but perhaps none more so than the obsessional and elaborate systems that would manifest themselves in the work of Thomas Chimes.

In the latter half of the 1960s, Chimes began working in mixed media wall-mounted box constructions, made primarily of metal with cutout or applied elements in or on their surfaces (fig. 5). Some were made of layers of Plexiglas in a metal frame, with layers of aluminum tape and other materials sandwiched to create minimal geometric patterns embedded within their surfaces. Only having made approximately fifty of these painstakingly-crafted works in an eight year period (1965–1973), their subject matter was significantly expanded from his previous paintings into a complicated world of his own icons and symbols. Some works from this period are figurative containing the many historical and pop cultural figures that influenced his thinking. (Antonin Artaud's Momo appears in the first boxes, and later figures like Marcel Duchamp, John Lennon, and Mick Jagger became immortalized subjects.) Numerous boxes are quite erotic (subtly in *Pearl*, 1968; p. 43 or overtly in *Geometry Love*, 1966–69; fig. 6), evoking his own anatomical study drawings, the explorations of the unconscious within the surrealist movement, and the burgeoning sexual revolution.



Fig. 7 *Untitled,* c. 1980, graphite and collaged postcard on paper, 7 % x 9 inches

Fig. 8 *Mumu,* 1965, mixed media metal box, 18 x 16 inches

For Chimes the metalwork became both its own subject as he began studying alchemy (*Repousse*, 1973, named after the very technique used to fabricate its surface; p. 45) and a part of classical system of symbols and personifications (Iron as Mars, God of War and Silver as Hecate, Goddess of the Moon).

This period more directly embodied Chimes's fixation on geometry as he explored the formal qualities of art deco compositions (i.e. *Rider,* 1970; p. 59), the organized rhythms of minimalism in his mostly untitled 1970 Plexi box compositions, and obtuse constellations of dots, cut outs, and shapes (i.e. *Sixteen Circles,* 1970; p. 46) that point to more elaborate compositional systems. Shapes themselves had personal and specific meanings for the artist. For example, triangles could be seen to represent God, and circles indicative of a range of signs both spatial and time-oriented including shields, coins, mandalas, clocks, compasses, sundials, and even the entire earth. Looking at transitional works like *Mumu*, 1965 (fig. 8) where "crucifixion"-style elements were embedded in the new mixed media constructions, one sees that a more hard-edged geometric composition began to prevail. But the boxes rapidly developed into new territory as he increasingly engaged with Jarry, Duchamp, and his own psychology–ranging from Freudian sexuality, Jungian transformational alchemy, and the cosmic possibilities of Eros.

Over a decade later in 1980, Chimes would return to these themes as he began his celebrated white paintings. The transitional works into this distinctive style have studies revealing how they too were dictated by geometric systems. His multiple paintings of Niagara Falls relate back to a post card (circa 1980; fig. 7) with a transposed geometric diagram on top. In Chimes's 1990 oral history interview for the

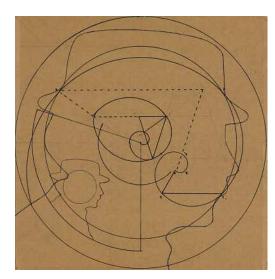




Fig. 9 We Speak of Manifold Matter, One Substance is Nature and One Nature Conquers All, 1989, oil on wood panel, 7 % x 12 % inches Smithsonian's Archives of American Art, he reflected how "the diagrammatical drawings of the '60s are working subliminally within me..." and they began to take hold of his late work in new ways.⁸

Some white paintings contain alphabetical characters and statements, as titles running along an edge or points floating in ethereal white space (fig. 9). The Greek that appears comes primarily from alchemical texts, and direct passages or translations from Jarry were used for the French or English. Sometimes full sentences are embedded within the works as a kind of enshrined manifesto. In others, disparate characters float in the voids of white space Chimes created; his notebooks reveal an internal system of numeric sequences, where specific letters based on their order were selected and then arranged on the canvas according to the Golden Points of the Fibonacci spiral. In his most minimal compositions, the works leave these points simply as dots, evoking an inverted night sky with far off constellations-simultaneously flat but deep. Chimes would complicate the purely aesthetic evocations of the dots saying, "However there's another illusion there and it has to do with the line of *Dr. Faustroll's Exploits and Opinions:* 'Dieu est le point tangent–God is the point between zero and infinity.' So there's the connection from a, shall we say, literary point of view."9

Further evidence of these systematic mathematical explorations exists in Chimes's personal ephemera, demonstrative of how mathematical diagrams continued to be a consuming drawing practice of the artist. Paintings packed by the artist sometime in the early 2000s utilized cardboard sheets (fig. 10) to cushion the works fragile smooth surfaces. On the front and verso of these sheets are ongoing geometric explorations of different formulas and spirals—representative of his ravenous energy for drawing and the painstaking obsession with which



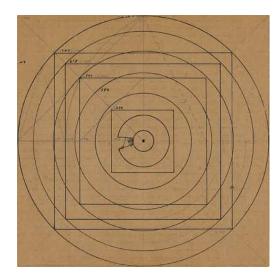


Fig. 10 Two examples of the double sided cardboard templates in which Chimes geometrically planned compositions. These were later re-used as packing materials. Approximately 11 x 11 inches each, c. 1997-2001 compositions were studied and planned. It is notable that Chimes's 1993 bronze memorial to his own river-damaged public project *Sleeping Woman* with poet Stephen Berg used the Golden proportions to determine the exact size and placement of the memorial marker within Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. Eventually, a 'pataphysical spiral was most playfully celebrated as the artist's uniting emblem with pins made to be worn at the opening of his 2007 Philadelphia Museum of Art retrospective *Adventures in 'Pataphysics*.

It is apparent through his library and notes that Chimes read and researched other relevant texts ranging from the historical in classical Greek math and alchemy, the scientists and mathematicians referenced by Jarry, and contemporaries like physicist Menas Kafatos—who popularly fused scientific wonder with more subjective spiritual pursuits. In correspondence, Chimes was known to quote Albert Einstein, who elaborated his scientific worldview with many revealing and passionate non-scientific and philosophical writings. And while working on his white paintings, Chimes kept a studio copy of D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson's *Growth and Form,* a famous 1917 text that posited the beloved golden spiral and other mathematical forms as an underlying perfect math echoed throughout the universe.

Chimes's output was tremendously rich, and further iconographic ties can be made spanning his full career. *Green Box* (1966–68; p. 39) and *Untitled* (1969; p. 57) both contain a helmeted figure, a character that appears in later white paintings as well. In one of these white paintings *CH* 10.25.01, 2001 (p. 28), this helmet even contains a small spiral equation. Helmets most playfully stood in for pop cultural references like Mick Jagger's 1970 performance of the 19th century Australian antihero bushranger in the film *Ned Kelly*. But it is further repeated through

5 + 2 + 3 + 10 v sides of our identities

Chaps 41 Fairstrace

Fig. 11 Quotation from Alfred Jarry's *Exploits* and Opinions of Dr. Faustroll, Pataphysician in a 1992 handmade stapled notebook where Chimes studied and planned the layout of the text for white paintings; here, adding the count of characters in each line

3 1 2 1 2 10 1 7 1 9 1 2 2 37 1 7 1 44 , God is, by definition, without dimension; it is 11 - 7 - 3 - 3 - 7 - 2 - 3 / 36+6 : 42 v permissible, however, for the clarity of our , exposition, and though he possesses no dimensions 21 5 - 3 - + - 3 - 6 - 2 - 4 - 7 34,8=44 v to endow him with any number of them greater v than zero, if these dimensions vanish on both 20+3:23 245 July 92

the artist's mythic explorations of Hellenic symbolism and the Olympian god Hermes (not to mention his syncretic transformation into Hermes Trismegistus, the patriarch of alchemy). While Chimes had four distinct periods of work, each more aesthetically unusual than the last, his conceptually rigorous explorations and codes interlock. One can also draw parallels between his motivations to reveal information through the cutouts of the metal boxes and the layers of milky white paint that both revealed and obscured their content.

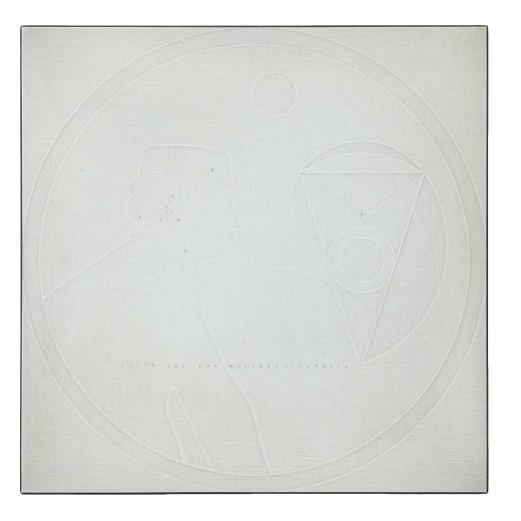


Fig. 12 If One Can Measure, 1994, oil on wood panel, 11 ¹⁵/₁₆ x 11 7% inches

Akin to his three primary influences, Alfred Jarry, Marcel Duchamp, and James Joyce, Chimes actively integrated alchemy and math into art making and mysticism. Jarry's Dr. Faustroll was positioned in direct dialogue (in so-called "telepathic letters") with the concepts of thinkers such as the physicist C.V. Boys (1855–1944), the chemist and physicist Sir William Crooke (1832–1919) and the mathematician and physicist Lord Kelvin (born William Thomson, 1824–1907). Yet the binding sciences of Jarry's 'pataphysics were not rules but "exceptions", some noticeably occurring more frequently than others. His protagonist had preoccupations with objects of measurement, carrying in his pocket a "centimeter, an authentic copy in brass of the traditional standard," and a tuning fork "carefully determined… in terms of mean seconds."¹⁰

This skeptical approach to describing the world around us found another voice through the ironic "playful physics" of Marcel Duchamp by "slightly distending the laws of physics and chemistry." Duchamp would also maintain a fascination with quantitative measurement in a practice that celebrated chance. In *3 Standard Stoppages*, 1913–14, the artist intended "to create a new image of the unit of length" while obtaining a representation of "canned chance."¹¹ Randomly thrown meter-long pieces of thread were thrown onto canvases to make new units of measure out of wood slats. Jarry's obsession with "purely accidental phenomena" and Duchamp's engagement with the transformation of materials based on chance procedures forged a new paradigm of the artist-philosopher, marked by their mutual fascination with alchemy.

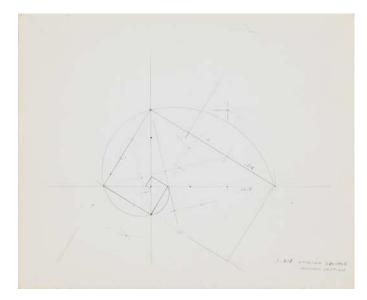
It is notable that both Duchamp and Chimes have their own "Green Box" works. Duchamp's 1934 piece was an artist multiple containing 94 facsimiles of the notes, plans, and explanations for his major piece *The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (The Large Glass)* (1915–23). A volume of material (sometimes called "manual") representative of a greater artistic process, it is not merely a key to the work but rather a verbal incarnation of the piece. Perhaps the greatest glimpse into Duchamp's world of symbols, unconscious explorations, and spiritual and physical transformations, *Green Box* has been read by many in light of his alchemical obsessions and thought experimentations. Duchamp was a hero to Chimes, who eschewed the art world of New York after hearing about Duchamp's comments delivered at a 1961 lecture at the Philadelphia Museum of Art announcing "The great artist of tomorrow will go underground." The metal boxes continue to stand on their own in rich dialogue with the material construction and explorations of sexuality in *The Large Glass*, while the figure of Duchamp was even directly embedded within one (*Set*, 1972) and alluded to more subtly through Chimes's own *Green Box*, 1966–68.

Yet it is the feelings that these mysterious works actually evoke standing in front of them that unifies them most completely. While Chimes wove riddles of meaning, history, and symbolism within his art, the desire to find that information becomes almost a subject in itself. Details are concealed and revealed both generously and obtusely, leaving an overwhelming sense of curiosity and longing while looking at any of his intensely crafted surfaces. The precise metal boxes begin to act as hidden vaults filled with subliminal messages; his enigmatic drawings are precise but aloof diagrams that contain no traces or keys in which to read them; the stark white paintings evoke an impenetrable smokescreen in their deep space yet shallow surfaces. Chimes indeed continued to invent ways to channel energy and information through a series of objective strategies that manifested Jarry's 'pataphysics and alchemical thought-rewarding us with the desire for further riddles. The artist helped unlock the unconscious imagination towards what lies ahead and beneath.

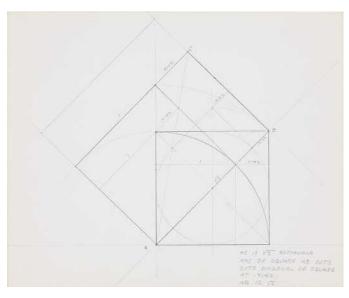
Perhaps the greatest truth we can grasp from these works is how our perceptions (and physical selves) move forward into uncharted territory—a world defined by chance and exceptions. As Chimes poignantly expanded upon any point in space: "In other words, the dot moves. The dot moves… The earth is orbiting around the sun, and if the universe is expanding, and if you begin the journey around the sun on earth and make one complete cycle, when you arrive back at the original point and the universe is expanding, then it can't be a perfect circle or a perfect ellipse. It is forming a spiral—it's moving. It cannot close the original configuration—it's forming a spiral. The universe is forming."¹²

Notes

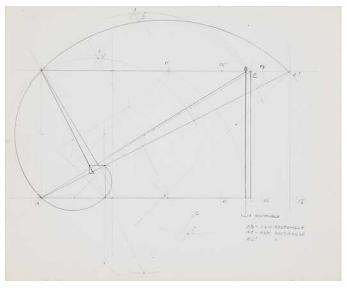
- Thomas Chimes interview with Michael Taylor, May 15, 2001. Notes in the Philadelphia Museum of Art Archives.
- Thomas Chimes, "Van Gogh" #812, Lecture September 20, 2000. Philadelphia Museum of Art. Transcription p. 5.
- 3. Thomas Chimes interview with Michael Taylor, January, 4, 2006. Notes in the Philadelphia Museum of Art Archives.
- 4. Thomas Chimes in conversation with Stephen Berg. *Portraying Ideas*, Royal Hiberian Academy, Dublin, 2001, p. 10.
- Alfred Jarry, Exploits & Opinions of Dr. Faustroll Pataphysician, Exact Change: Boston, 1996, p. 22.
- 6. Ibid. p. 99.
- 7. Thomas Chimes interview with Michael Taylor, October 15, 2002. Transcript in the Philadelphia Museum of Art Archives.
- Oral history interview with Thomas Chimes, by Cynthia Veloric. June 14, 1990. Archives of American Art Philadelphia Project, Smithsonian Institution.
- **9.** Ibid.
- Alfred Jarry, Exploits & Opinions of Dr. Faustroll Pataphysician, Exact Change: Boston, 1996.
- Marcel Duchamp, "Green Box" in Salt Seller: The Writings of Marcel Duchamp, Oxford University Press: 1973. pp. 49, 71.
- Oral history interview with Thomas Chimes, by Cynthia Veloric. June 14, 1990.
 Archives of American Art Philadelphia Project, Smithsonian Institution.



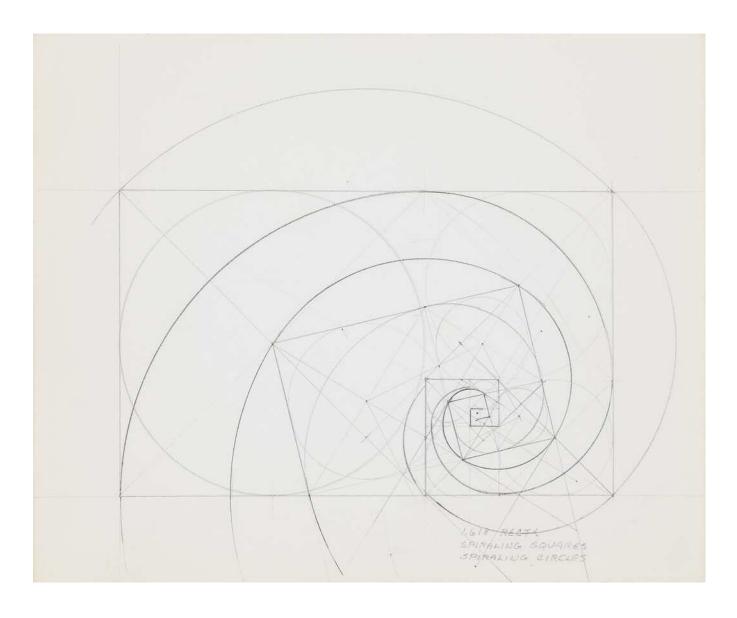
Untitled, n.d., graphite on paper, 7 ¾ x 9 inches

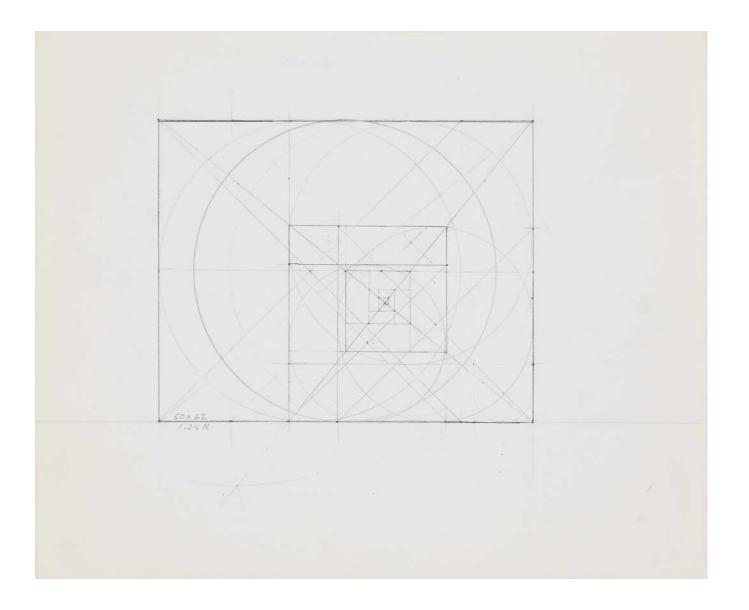


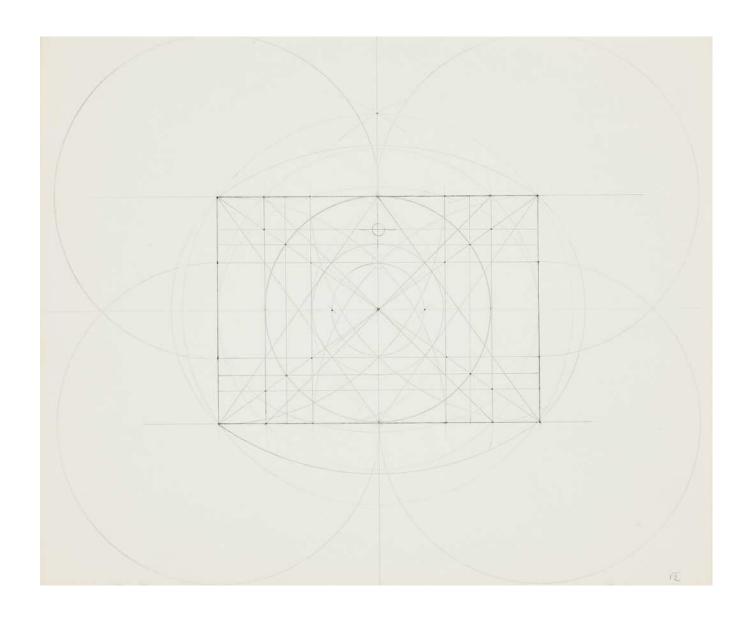
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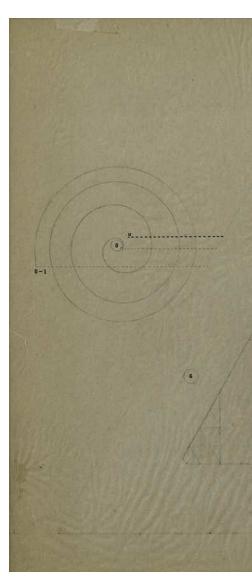


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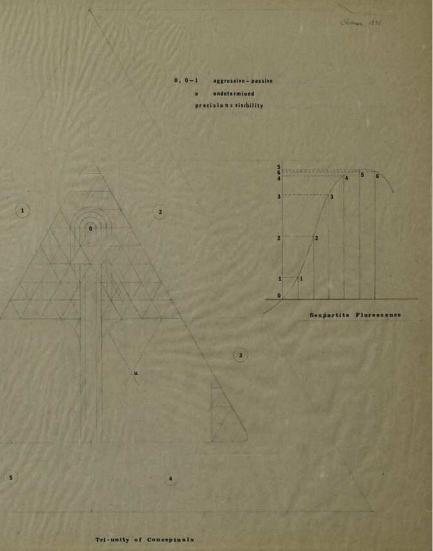






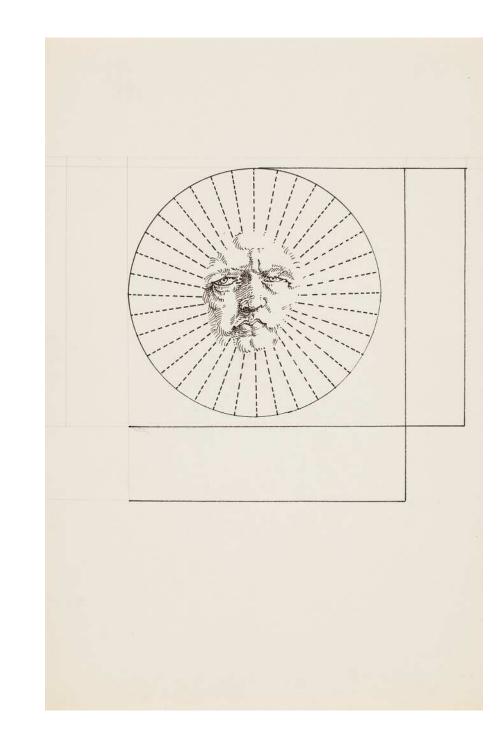


Tri-Unity of Conceptuals, 1971, pencil on paper in metal frame, 14 ¾ x 17 ¾ inches



Form and Number, and the heart and soul and all the poetry of Natural Philosophy are embodied in the concept of mathematical beauty.

–D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson



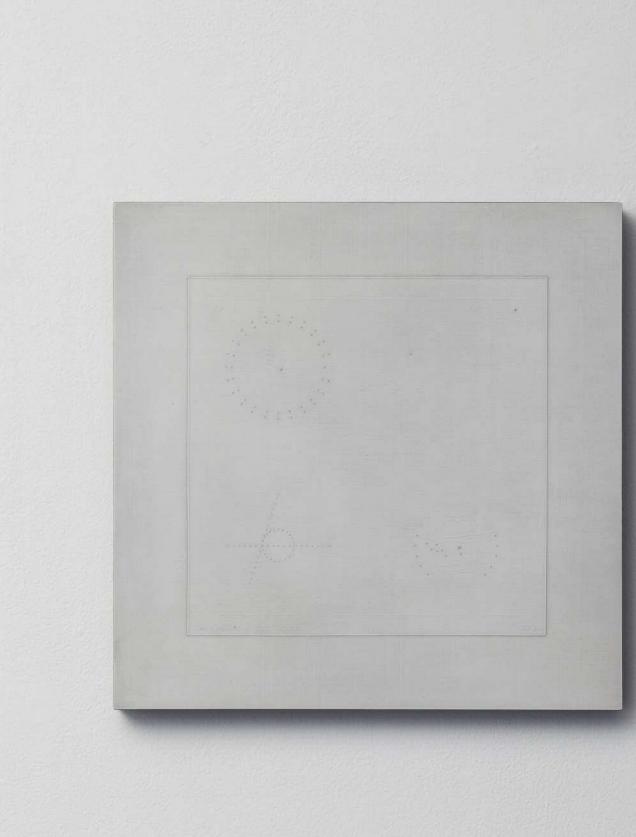
Untitled, n.d., ink and graphite on paper, 8 % x 5 ¾ inches





CH 10.25.01, 2001, oil on wood panel, 11 ¾ x 11 ¾ inches

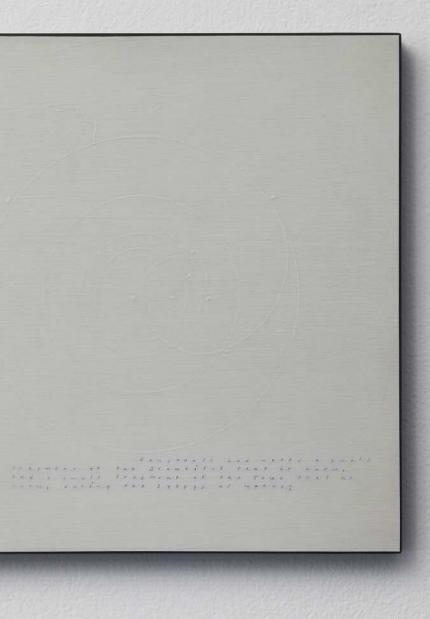
CH 11.03.00, 2000, oil on wood panel, 11 5⁄8 x 11 5⁄8 inches



Concerning the Four, 1991, oil on wood panel, 17 % x 17 % inches



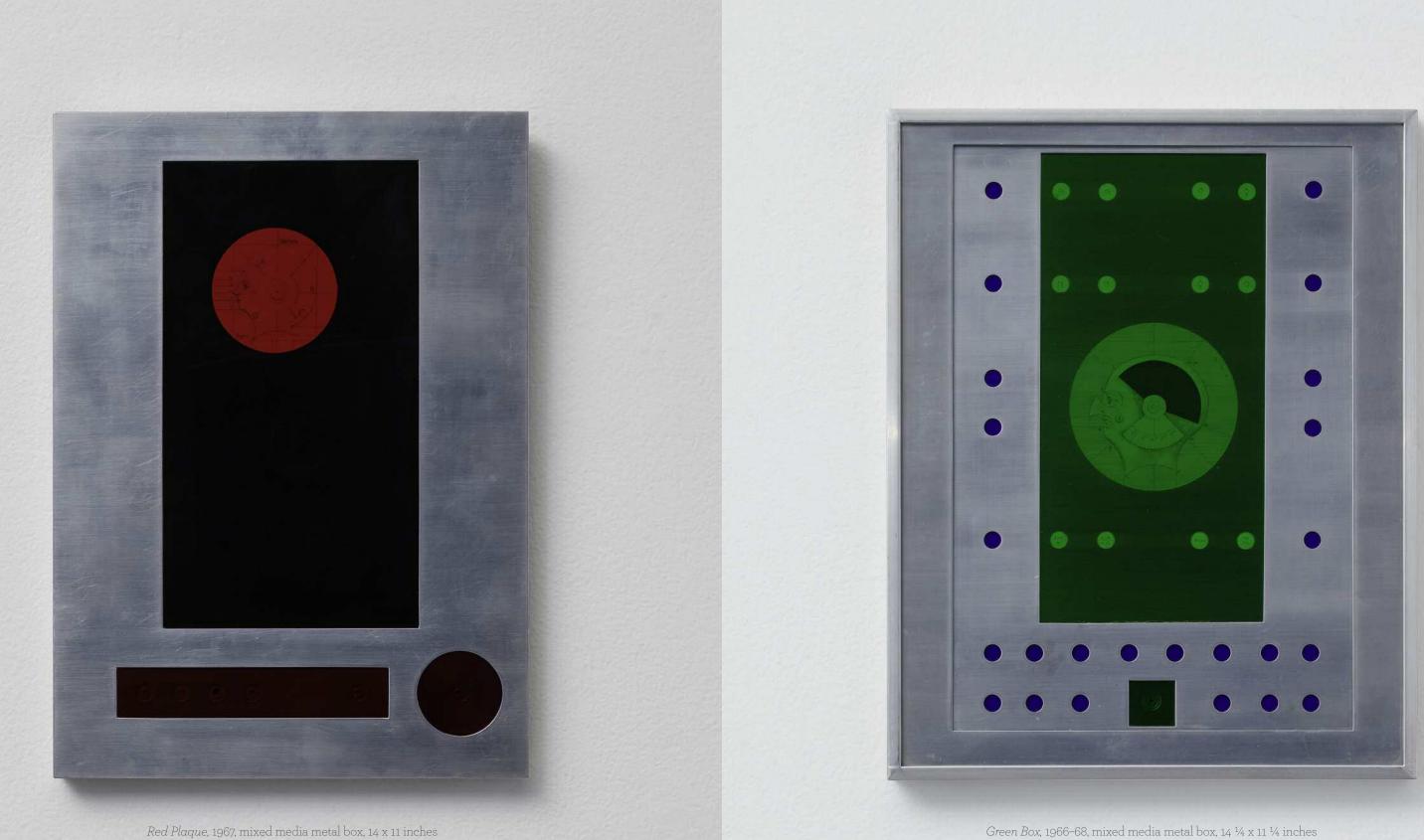
Fragment of the Deautiful that noted a small and a small fragment of the True that he unew, during the syzygy of words;

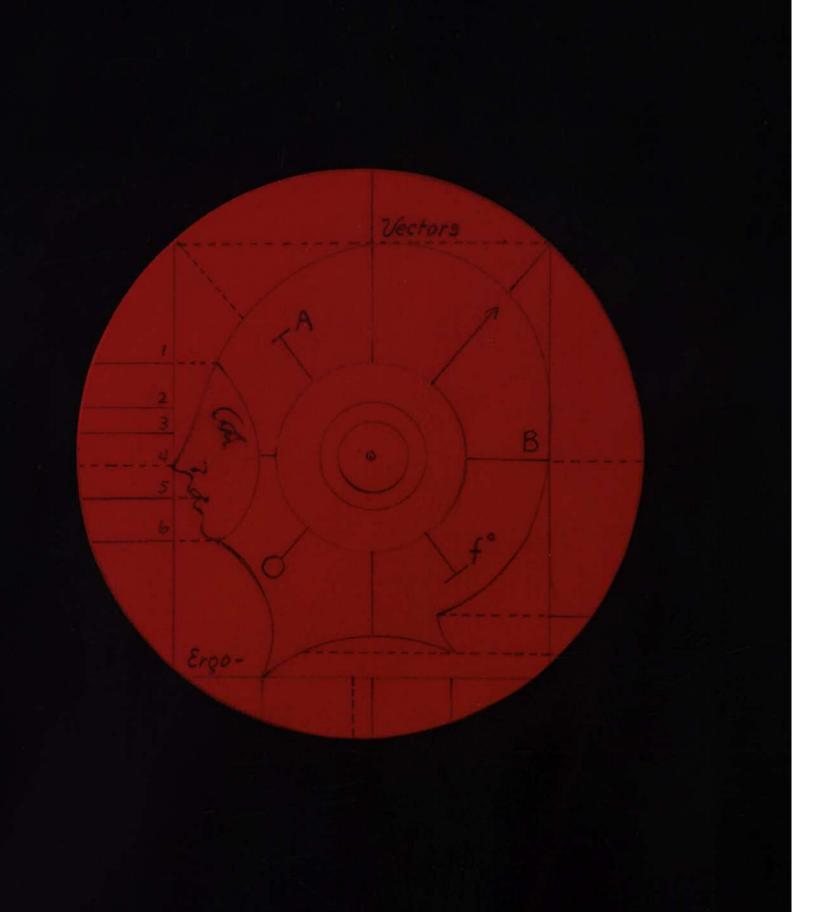


Faustroll Had Noted a Small Fragment, 1995, oil on wood panel, 11 ¾ x 11 ¾ inches



Yes, 1965, mixed media metal box, 13 5% x 16 inches





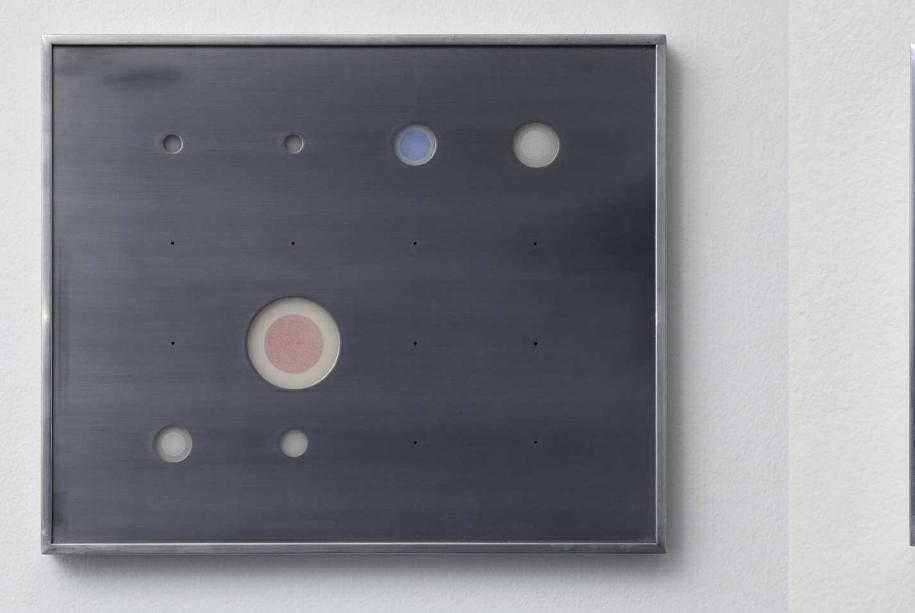
The real nature of matter was unknown to the alchemist: he knew it only in hints. In seeking to explore it he projected the unconscious into the darkness of matter in order to illuminate it. In order to explain the mystery of matter he projected yet another mystery—his own psychic background-into what was to be explained: Obscurum per obscurius, ignotum per ignotius!

–Carl Gustav Jung





Repousse, 1973, mixed media metal box, 10 % x 9 inches





Sixteen Circles, 1970, mixed media metal box, ? inches

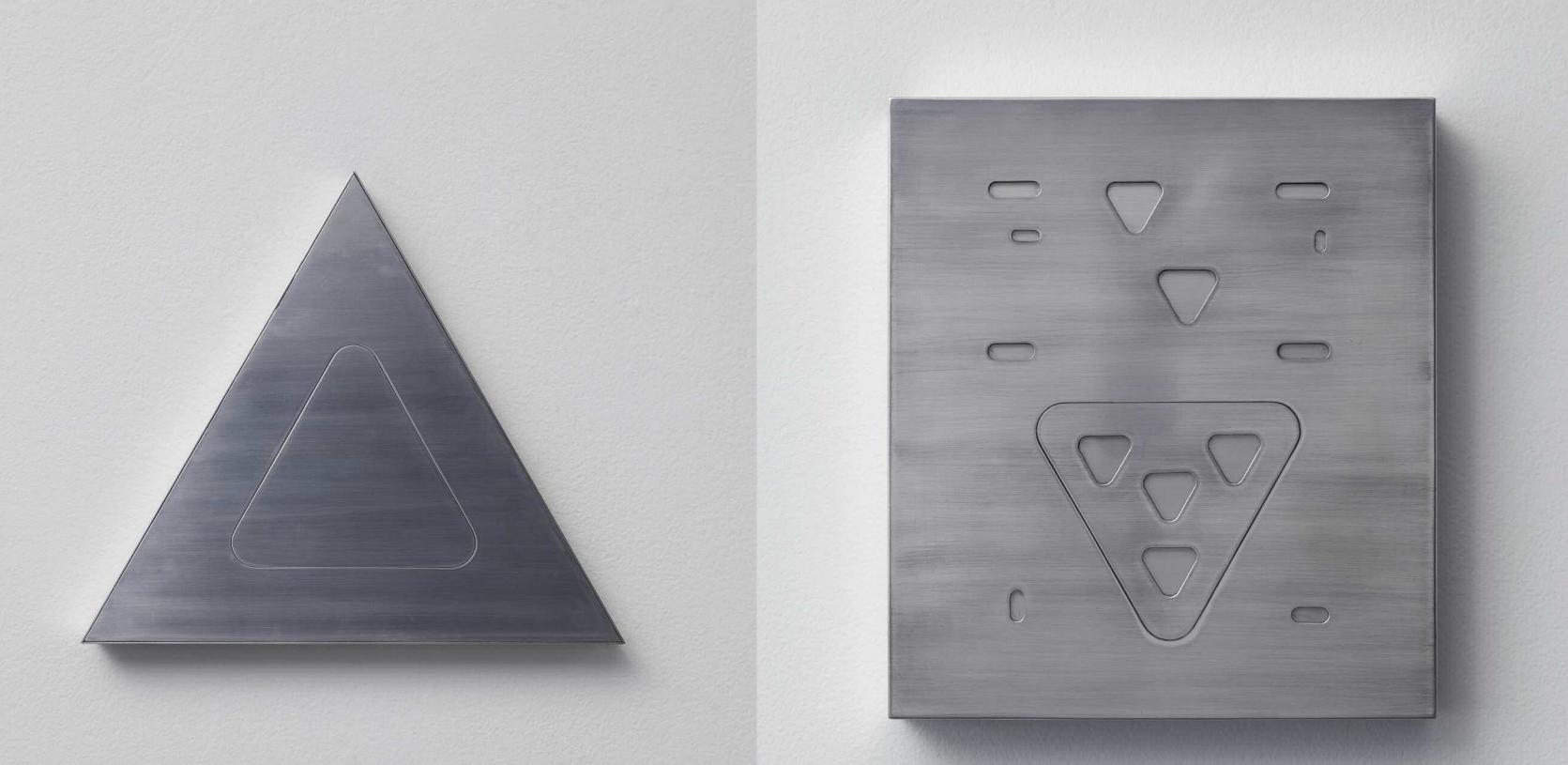
Exhibition Calculator, 1969, mixed media metal box, 8 ½ x 10 ½ inches

God is, by definition, without dimension; it is permissible, however, for the clarity of our exposition, and though he possesses no dimensions, to endow him with any number of them greater than zero, if these dimensions vanish on both sides of our identities. We shall content ourselves with two dimensions, so that these flat geometrical signs may easily be written down on a sheet of paper.

–Alfred Jarry



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Untitled (Aluminum Triangle), 1973, mixed media metal box, 11 ¼ x 13 inches

970, mixed media metal box, 12 ³⁄₄ x 11 ¹⁄₄ inches





Triangle Flower, 1970, mixed media metal box, 6 x 9 inches



Untitled, 1969, mixed media metal box, 18 ½ x 13 ½ inches

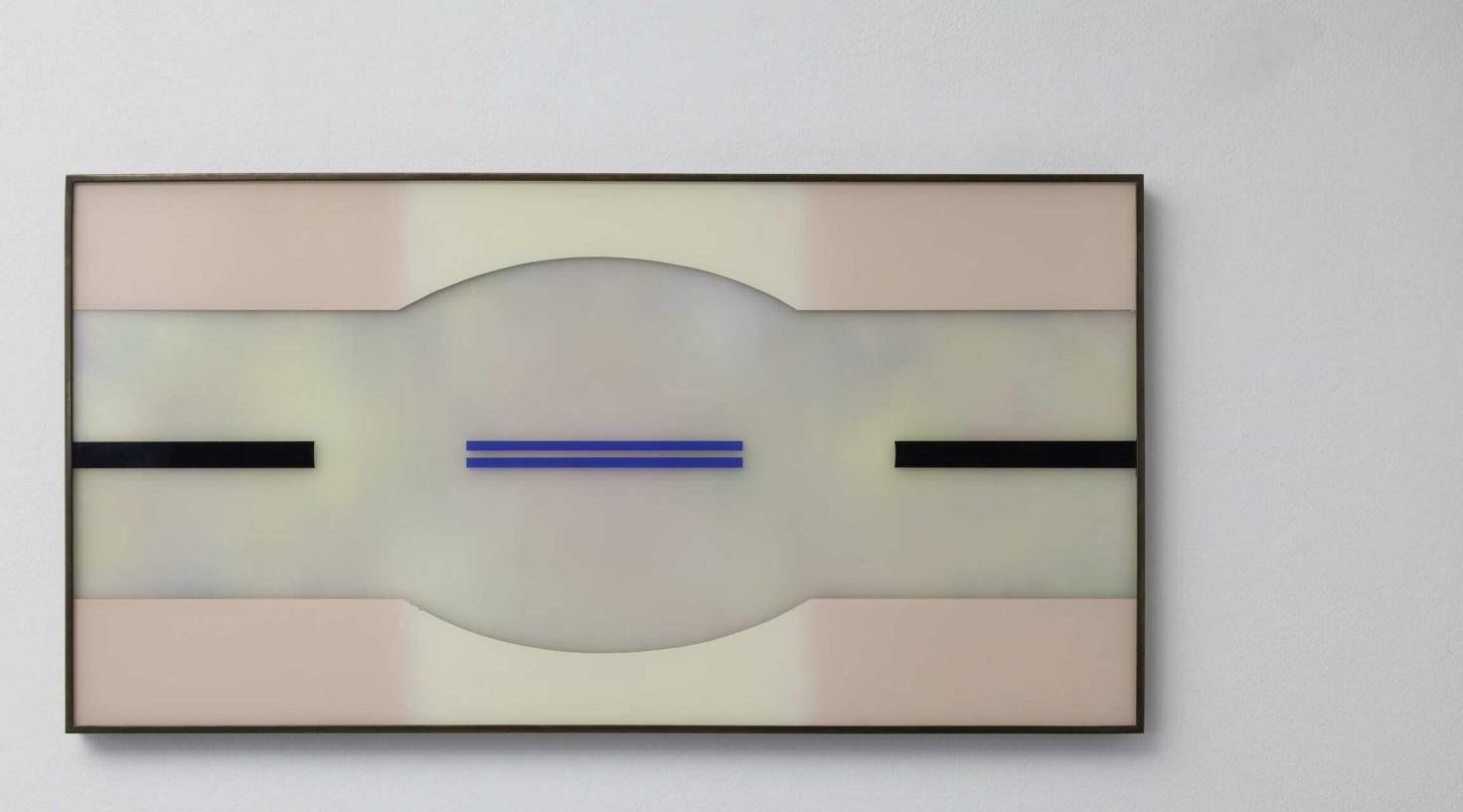


Rider, 1970, mixed media metal box, 14 5/16 x 17 5/16 inches





Cathedra, 1970, mixed media metal box, 17 5/16 x 14 5/16 inches



Skylane, 1969, mixed media metal box, 21 x 41 inches

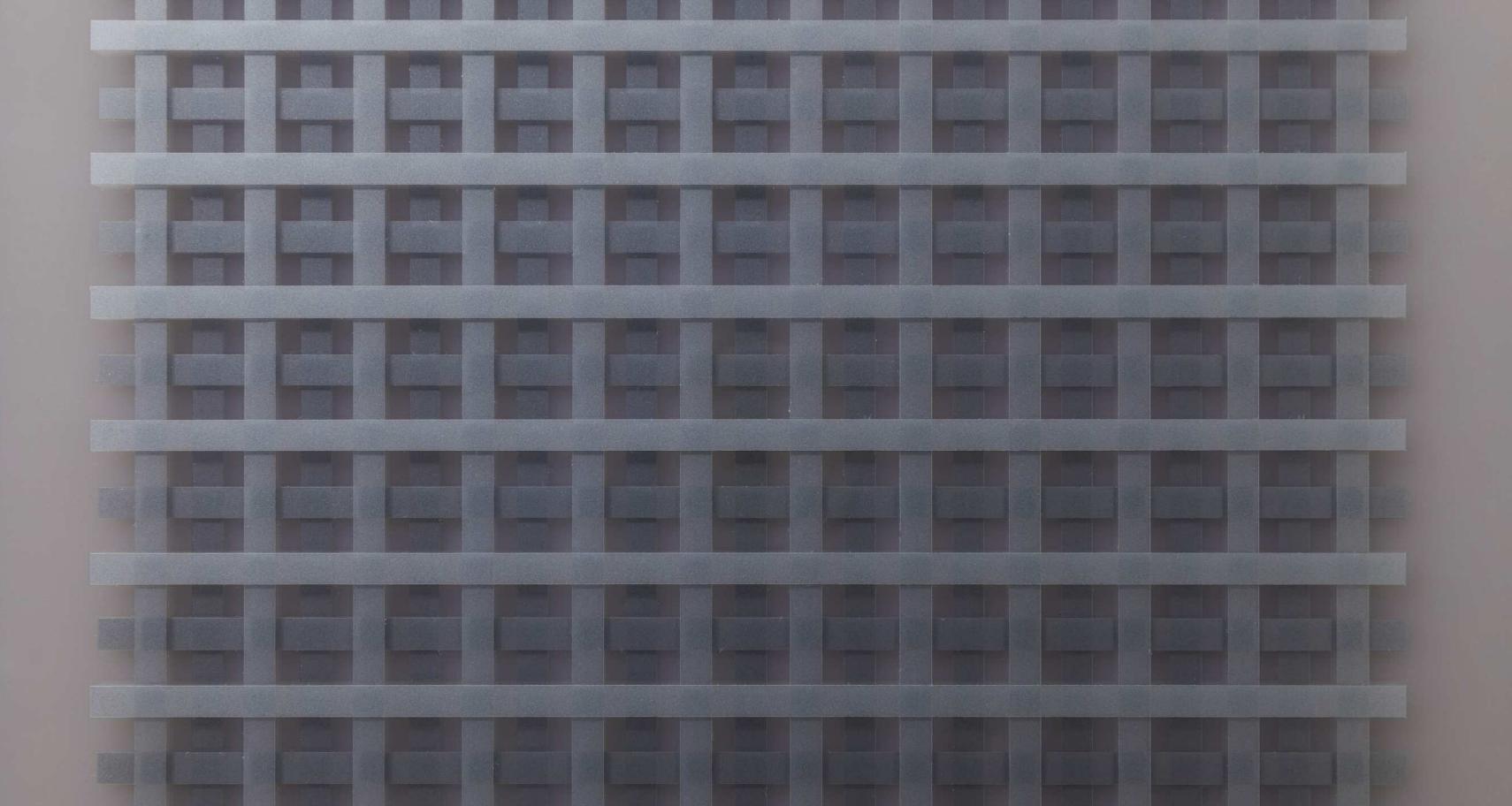


Untitled, 1970, mixed media metal box, 14 ¾ x 17 ¾ inches

Untitled (Horizontal), 1970, mixed media metal box, 17 x 14 inches



Untitled, 1970, mixed media metal box, 17 3% x 14 3% inches



Chronology

1921

Thomas James Chimes is born April 20, 1921 in Philadelphia to James and Agnes Chimes, both immigrants from Greece.

1939

Chimes enrolls at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in September (instructors include Francis Speight and Daniel Garber).

Due to financial pressure and a disagreement with an instructor, Chimes leaves the Academy two months later to join his family, who have since moved to Alabama.

1941 Chimes enrolls at the Art Students League in New York.

1943

Chimes is drafted into the U.S. Army Air Force.



Chimes circa 1943

1945

James Chimes dies of a heart attack. Thomas is released from service to help his mother run the family business.

1946

Chimes returns to the Art Students League where he will continue his studies through February 1948.

Meets Dawn DeWeese, a fellow painting student in an evening class at the Art Students League.

1947 Chimes and DeWeese are married in New York.

1949 Chimes returns to Philadelphia.



Chimes with a metal box construction

1950

Chimes' son Dmitri is born May 29, 1950.

1950-51

Between the summer of 1950 and spring of 1951, the Chimes family moves between Chautauqua, NY, where Chimes teaches painting at a community art center; Fort Lee, NJ, staying with Dawn's sister and brother-in-law; and the Bronx, NY, where they find an apartment and where Thomas sets up a studio.

1952

The Chimes family takes a 7 month trip throughout Europe, spending time in Greece, Italy and France. While in France, Chimes visits the Chapelle du Rosaire de Vence, designed by Henri Matisse.

1953

The Chimes family returns to New York, before settling permanently in Philadelphia.

1955 Chimes' daughter Eva is born February 10, 1955.

1958

Chimes' first solo exhibition opens at Avant Garde Gallery in New York where he shows small oil paintings influenced by Nicolas de Staël.

1958-60

Chimes teaches evening classes at Drexel Institute (now Drexel University).

1961

The Museum of Modern Art acquires *Study for "The Inner World"* (1961). Alfred H. Barr, Jr., also purchases another smaller work for his private collection. *Study for "The Inner World"* is included in the Museum's *Recent Acquisitions* exhibition that winter.



Installation view of Thomas Chimes: A Retrospective Exhibition, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL, 1968

1961-63

Bazaar (1960) is included in Recent American Painting and Sculpture, organized by the Museum of Modern Art and travels to eight venues in the United States and one in Finland.

1962

Untitled (Study for "The Inner World") (1961) is given anonymously to the Museum of Modern Art by Alfred H. Barr, Jr.

1963

The Museum of Modern Art acquires *Crucifix* (1961) from Chimes' solo exhibition at Bodley Gallery in New York.

1965

Chimes begins working on his metal box constructions.

1968

The first large-scale retrospective exhibition of Chimes' work opens at the Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, FL. Thomas Chimes: A Retrospective *Exhibition* includes 80 works, including his crucifix paintings and a selection of metal boxes. The exhibition also travels to the Jacksonville Museum of Art Jacksonville FL

1971

Chimes begins teaching full-time at Moore College of Art in Philadelphia, remaining there until 1982.

1973-78

Chimes works on his wood panel portrait series.

1975

Antonin Artaud (1974) is included in the Whitney Biennial.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art acquires three panel portraits: Guillaume Apollinaire (1974), Alfred Jarry (1974) and Antonin Artaud (1974).

Thomas Chimes: Departure from the Present opens at The Peale House Galleries, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia.

1978

The Museums At Sunrise, Charleston, West Virginia presents Tom Chimes, An Exhibition of Portraits: 1973-1978. The exhibition presents 39 wood panel portraits from this series.

1979

Solo exhibition at Touchstone Gallery in New York.

Thomas and Dawn separate; Dawn moves to Venice, FL.

1980

Moves to 1722 Spruce Street, where he will live and work for the next 20 years.

1981

Chimes begins working on his white paintings of Memorial Hall.

1983

First solo exhibition at Marian Locks Gallery. Subsequent solo exhibitions at Marian Locks Gallery (later becoming Locks Gallery) follow in 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2012.

The second retrospective of Chimes' work, *Tom Chimes, A Compendium:* 1961–1986 is held at the Goldie Paley Gallery at Moore College of Art, Philadelphia. The exhibition includes works from the artist's four major phases up to this point: crucifix paintings (including the monumental *Mural*, 1963–65), metal boxes, wood panel portraits, and white paintings.

1987

Receives a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

1988

The Philadelphia Museum of Art acquires Faustroll (L'Infini) (1988).

1986-91

Between 1986 and 1991 Chimes collaborates with noted poet Stephen Berg to create *Sleeping Woman* (1991), a 1,200-foot-long poem set along the edge of the Schuylkill River in Fairmount Park. Berg's 406 word prose poem is stenciled in a specially created, weather-proof polyurethane onto the stone retaining wall that runs along the river near Kelly Drive. Unfortunately, only one month after the work is installed, a 250 foot section of the wall collapses into the river after a storm. After much debate, the two men request that blank stones replace the lost lines, thus acknowledging the transformative power of nature. In November 1993, a bronze marker is placed near the site of the collapsed bulkhead to

commemorate the partial sinking of *Sleeping Woman*. Chimes bases the design of the marker on the "Official Paper for Bailiffs" stamp used by Panmuphle in Jarry's *Exploits and Opinions of Doctor* Faustroll, 'Pataphysician.

1994

New York University's Alexander S. Onassis Center for Hellenic Studies hosts a survey exhibition ranging from 1960s metal boxes to the white paintings of the 1980s and 1990s.

2001

Chimes' first international solo show, *Thomas Chimes: Portraying Ideas* opens at the Royal Hibernian Academy in Dublin, Ireland.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art acquires four *Mômo* drawings from 1965.



2004

The Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. acquires Waterfall (1980).

2007

Thomas Chimes: Adventures in 'Pataphysics opens at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. This full-scale retrospective surveys his influences and works spanning a five decade long career. A major monograph is published in conjunction with the exhibition with an extensive text by Michael R. Tavlor.

2009

Thomas Chimes passes away on April 21, 2009 at the age of 88 in Philadelphia.

> Installation view of Thomas Chimes: Adventures in 'Pataphysics at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA, 2007

Exhibition History

Selected Solo Exhibitions

1983 1965 Avant Garde Gallery, New York, NY

Selected Group Exhibitions

2011

The Insolent Eye: Jarry in Art, Locks Gallery, Philadelph *Flirting with Abstraction,* Woodmere Art Museum, Phila **2010**

American Painting 1959-2009, National Gallery of Art, Private Future, Marc Jancou Contemporary, New York, Wall-to-Wall, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, C. Anatomy/Academy, The Pennsylvania Academy of the Philadelphia, PA

2009

Inventing Marcel Duchamp: The Dynamics of Portraitu Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington 2008 Looking Back, The White Columns Annual, White Colu New York, NY 2007 Ithaga Paggingd, Grack Artists in New York Kourse Ga

Itnaca kegainea: Greek Artists in Ivew York, Kouros Ga New York, NY

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The Big Nothing, Institute of Contemporary Art, Univer Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Joyce in Art: Visual Art Inspired by James Joyce, Roya Academy, Dublin, Ireland

Traces, Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery, University of the Arts, 2000

The Sea & The Sky, Beaver College Art Gallery, Glensid Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland. Delaware Biennial. Delaware Art Museum Wilmington

Conceptual Realism, Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery, Universi Philadelphia, PA

The Varieties of Religious Experience, Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia, PA

ia, PA	Four Score & Forthcoming, Philadelphia Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA The Realm of Morpheus: Dream Image in Art, Nexus Foundation for Today's Art, Philadelphia, PA
	1994
ıgton, D.C.	<i>Conversation Pieces</i> , Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
	1993
.rts,	<i>Tom Chimes, Joel Fisher, and Bill Walton,</i> Larry Becker Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
	Cryptics, School 33 Art Center, Baltimore, MD
onal	<i>Déjà Vu,</i> The Franklin Mint Museum, Franklin Center, PA 1992
	Pertaining to Philadelphia: Contemporary Acquisitions from the Julius Bloch Memorial Fund, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
	Transmodern, Baumgartner Gallery, Washington, D.C.
	In the Realm of the Monochrome, Moore College of Art, Philadelphia, PA
	1991
	<i>Directions,</i> Marian Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
	Philadelphia Art Now: Artists Choose Artists, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
	1989
	<i>Conspicuous Display</i> , Stedman Art Gallery, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ
	Landscapes of Thought, Momenta Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
	Looking Back: The '70s at Marian Locks, Marian Locks Gallery,
elphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA
	1988
Fraveled to	<i>Perspectives from Pennsylvania,</i> Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
	1987
e Arts,	<i>Vistas: Approaches to the Panoramic Landscape,</i> G.W. Einstein Gallery, New York, NY

1985 Penn Plaza, New York, NY Small Paintings, New Britain Museum of Art, New Britain, CT New Work, Touchstone Gallery, New York, NY 1978

1969

1968

1965

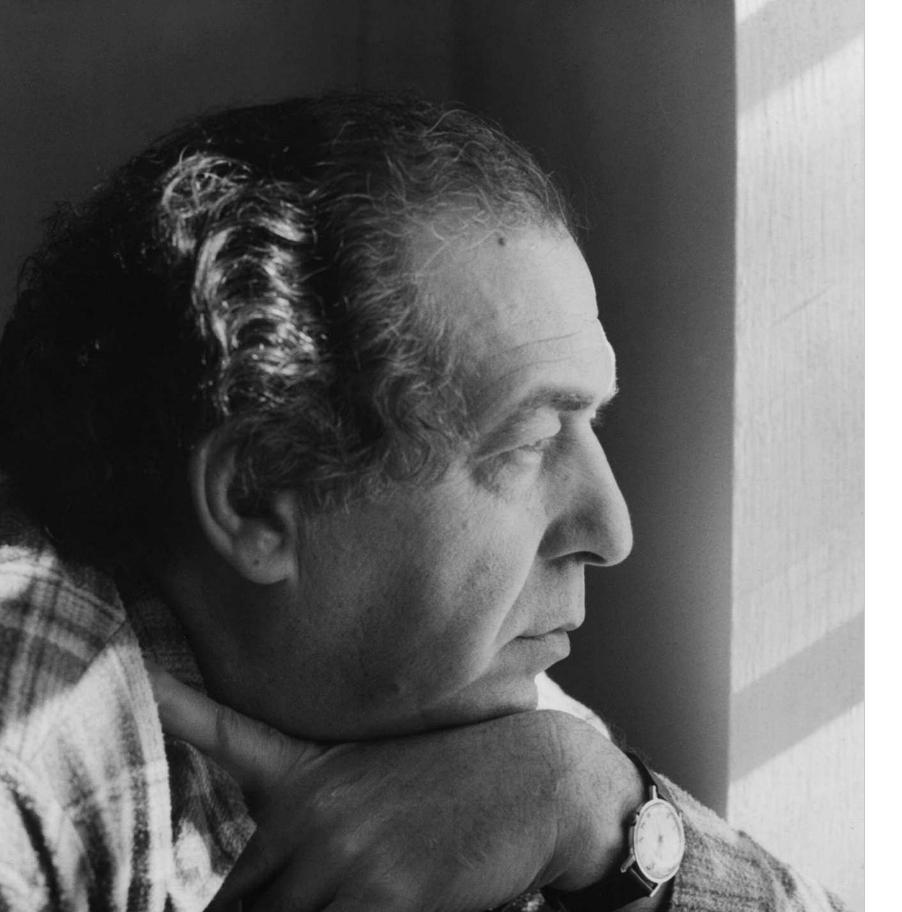
Six Surrealists Painters, Bodley Gallery, New York, NY 1963 1961–63 David Herbert Gallery, New York, NY

Awards

1979 1967

Selected Public Collections

	Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA
	Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
A <i>ldrich,</i> Krannert	Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE
	Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
	Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL
, NY	Musee National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
	Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
of Art,	Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
	National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
	Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
lodern Art, New	Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority, Philadelphia, PA
ota, FL;	Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
ina, Greensboro,	The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.
land; Rochester	The Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ
ersity, Collegeville,	Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
C; Wells College,	The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL
tgomery, AL.	Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.
	Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT
	Woodmere Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA
, NY	Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT



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Thomas Chimes THE BODY IN SPIRALS

November 7–December 13, 2014

Locks Gallery 600 Washington Square South Philadelphia, PA 19106

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Cover: Chimes' copy of *Selected Works of Alfred Jarry*, by Alfred Jarry, Grove Press, 1965 in artist made wooden slipcase

Back cover: Chimes' copy of Selected Works of Alfred Jarry

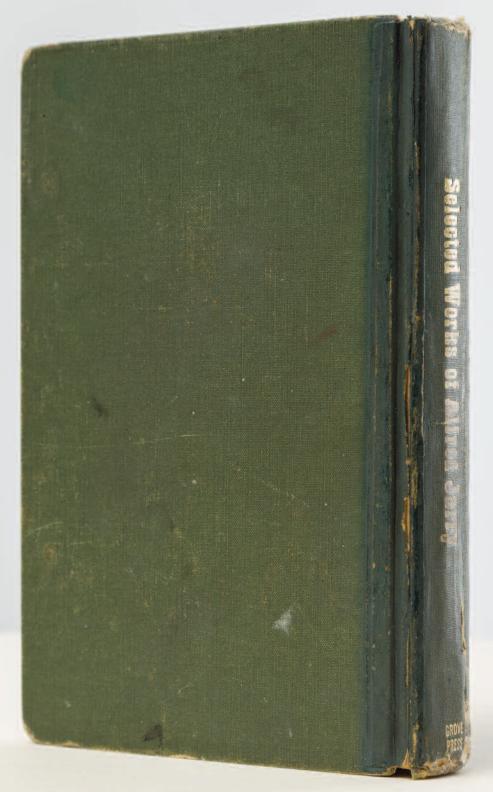
Frontispiece: Detail of diagrammatic drawing, notes, and collaged newspaper clipping on the rear inside cover of one of Thomas Chimes's notebooks, circa 1984

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