

# OCTET: A FRAGMENT

---

DEAN RADER

Cy Twombly, *Untitled (To Sappho)*, 1976

black line

/

blank page

/

did I write *page*? I meant *canvas* [so I wrote *page*]

/

[I am beginning to believe that everything might be about its own making]

/

did I say *write*? I meant *draw* [watch me write *line*]

/

[every word is a mark of its own failure]

/

Did I write *word*? I meant *images*, so I drew *line*

/

[to solve the problem of language,] you need language



CY TWOMBLY

*Untitled (To Sappho)*, Rome, 1976

© Cy Twombly Foundation; courtesy: Cy Twombly Foundation

# UNFINISHED SONNET

---

DEAN RADER

Cy Twombly, *Untitled* (1971)

I've been thinking about lines of music as furrows in a field.

I've been thinking about paper as a field of pure becoming without being.

I've been thinking about transition—

show me where absence stops.

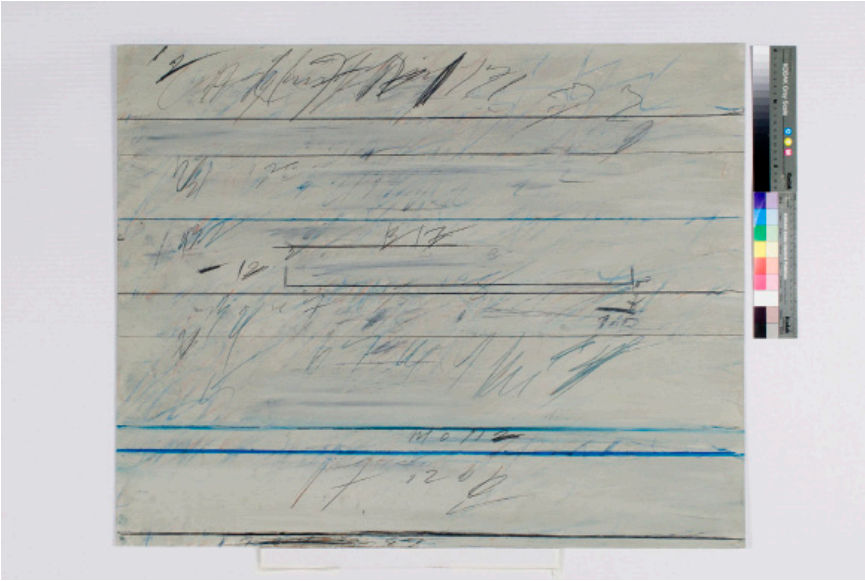
I used to know what the pencil wanted.

I felt I knew what the hand needed from the pencil.

I felt I thought the way birds know air—

everything is transference:

.....  
*Dean Rader's poems "Still Life with Cacography" and "What Happened" appeared in ZYZZYVA No. 111..*



CY TWOMBLY

*Untitled, Rome, 1971*

© Cy Twombly Foundation; courtesy: Cy Twombly Foundation  
photo: Belisario Manicone, Rome