

DEAN RADER

In Advance of All Parting

Cy Twombly, *Orpheus* (1975)

Another canvas,
another blank page—
more of the same: absence within absence,
uncertainty and indeterminacy,
those twins language lifts out of.
What came first—drawing or writing?
Every sign is a symbol of its vanishing,
every mark the beginning of its erasure.
Among the waning,
be the singing glass that shivers as it rings,
be both the tracing and the trace—
be the mark that marks the
unmarking.



Cy Twombly, *Orpheus*, 1975, collage (drawing paper, staples), oil paint, wax crayon, pencil, 55 1/2 x 39 3/8 in. Collection Cy Twombly Foundation.