

**Opening up the lamp store and closing down the lamp store.**

"The language of this lamp, for example, communicates not the lamp (for the mental being of the lamp, insofar as it is communicable; is by no means the lamp itself) but the language-lamp, the lamp in communication, the lamp in expression...To whom does the lamp communicate itself?"

-Walter Benjamin, On Language as Such and on the Language of Man, 1916.

**Opening up the lamp store**  
**June, 2025**

Turn the knob and open the front door into the hallway, opening away from you to the left. Go up the stairs to the right, however many steps to the next floor, second floor, around the balcony to the right, open the door towards you, this one opens out against the wall into the hall.

SOCIETY (the ceiling fixture in the gallery), switch to the left of the door UP! Warm glow and a dark intricate silhouette. SOCIETY hangs above the shades of lamp store and is part of the store during this presentation of the sculpture, Lamp Store, but is not for sale.

Lamp Store initially had only one step from the street level but had to turn the lights off before they could be turned back on and now we are here, to provide this service to the community of SOCIETY, up a few more stairs now, but these are the shifts a lamp store must make in order to continue to turn the lights on after the lights had to be turned off. The woman who operated the gallery, here, where Lamp Store first appeared says she is asked if she is the former owner of the lamp store on Taylor St.

Lamps might be a little easier to live with than sculptures, offering a justifying service in exchange for floor or table space. SOCIETY asks about how we live together.

"SOCIETY (ON): How do we live together?"

Lamp store asks how can an art expand its value through models that already exist or used to exist.

"Lamp store (press the black floor button once to illuminate bottle with straw and cast shadow): How can art expand its value through models that already exist or used to exist?"

Sometimes we need to make a practice to make a living like Ben Kinmont's Sometimes the best sculpture is making a living for your family. Sometimes an art exhibition is not for sale but then how does an artist make money and where does that money come from? How was that money made?

"Guys, Do we need as much money as we have? -GL (at the back side of the artificial lettuce lampshade turn a small knob until it clicks): How was that

money made?"

A singularly focused business like a lamp store suggests that it might be a place to find specialists. You might be inclined to visit a shop to learn what parts are needed for a repair or something about an item you already have. Enough need and interest can form a community of specialists and hobbyists who can start to shape something else. But when too many hobbyists become specialists, the market becomes oversaturated and some will leave the community in search of a place with more hobbyists. Lamp store is a sculpture that exists as a fictional place always and as a real place only when the lights are on together and when the store can be open. Lamp store is only open by invitation.

"Let's get together when the reign ends-GL (reach inside aluminum can to push switch above socket.)"

In its preoccupation with fiction and that being lampstore's initial form, the lamp sculptures are in dialogue with different fictions and in these sometimes textual references, the lamps each voice a reference to a fiction, bringing together a room filled with different voices from different levels of fictions present in daily life.

Lamps with a suffix -GL are given titles from a man who mistook himself as my father, an elderly Jewish man who was mistaken and in disbelief that he could have the wrong person on the other line. Because his tone was so familiar, there were moments of questioning, am I someone else?

"People of the Uncaring World -GL (rotate switch in upwards motion to turn on)"

"All to myself is what you are!-GL (reach inside lampshade and push switch under bulb)"

These lamps are talking with the archives box lamp with a suffix -DR a reference to my actual father, an archivist who discovered a 16th century list of suspects accused of practicing protestantism in rejection of the catholic church.

"List of Suspects -DR (press floor switch once)"

"Issues and names issues and names -GL (reach into bag and press push switch)"

Interjecting in this confusion are lamps that tie in title and form to fictional lamps like two from the movie La Bamba which was made during the year I was born. A fictional lamp from a movie is really a prop which is a real lamp, the sculptures are replicas of readymades inserted into fictions.

"I thought you were somebody. (La Bamba, 1987) (rotate switch in upwards motion to turn on, to replace bulb, remove pink lampshade.)

Readymades make their way into fiction all the time. The lamp sculpture titles are like speaking parts in a scripted dialogue between the objects and their referents.

"He's good when he wants to be—GL (rotate knob to click sound)"

"He always said you were gonna be somebody. (La Bamba, 1987) (reach under lampshade and rotate knob to click sound and lamp is on)"

A lamp store was probably a spectacle at some point, and some still fear the power of electric light. Flickering lamps and household electronics are common channels for restless spirits in campy horrors and ghost stories.

"Light from beyond" (by Patience Worth) (reach into spirit cone and press push switch)" is a book channeled through a living human vessel and is included with the purchase of the lamp.

"Let me light the lamp before the holy image, my dear."—FD (The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky) (reach denim pant leg to push switch above socket.)

"the spirit of the lady again flickered up as the flame within the socket of the lamp" Helene Cixous, *Three Steps on the Ladder of Writing* (1990).

Lamp inventory for Lamp Store, grand reopening is made up of new, old and renewed inventory. All of the lamps are for sale and are unique sculptures. There are limited editioned night lights making it possible to purchase the lamp SOCIETY in icon form. Purchased lamps can be taken at time of payment. Payments are shared between SOCIETY and Lydia Rosenberg. Payments are negotiable.

"THE LIGHT IN THE WINDOW NO PLACE FOR AN ARGUMENT...it can't be simply a place for an argument: (Some Senses of the Commonplace, Robert Creeley at New College of California, February 21, 1991: an edited transcription)"

All of the lights don't have to be turned on at once. The lamps are functional and can be tested by interested buyers. Meanwhile the lamps when assembled in lamp store are engaging in a social scenario communicating as sculptures and lamps and as language-lamps.

"Of course I have no reason to write to you again, again—GL (press push switch)"

Thank you for shopping here, we appreciate your business.

**Closing down the lamp store**  
**November 2023**

Curtain rises to reveal a brightly lit scene with twenty one characters posed in frozen stances as Gery, the lamp store owner, slowly raises his head to face the audience. Gery walks stage left, each character, a lamp, lights up as he walks past them. He stops in front of the flower, making a crown behind his head and lighting him from behind. When each lamp speaks, it lights up before turning off when Gery flips the switch.

Gery: People of the Uncaring World

Chorus: Beacon Beacon

Gery: All to myself is what you are!

Chorus: Lamp Store, Lamp Store

Gery: Guys, Do we need as much money as we have?

Chorus: Beacon, Beacon

Lamp number 1(La Bamba,1987): I thought you were somebody

Gery turns the rotating switch and the pink light with the green and brown base turns off

Chorus: Lamp Store, Lamp Store

Lamp number 2 (La Bamba, 1987): He always said you were gonna be somebody

Gery pulls the chain chord down on the wall sconce and turns the sconce off

Chorus: He always said it

Lector Spector: Out of the root from which it sprung\*

Gery reaches into the red seance trumpet and presses the press switch and turns the lamp off

Drupe 1: Root Root

Gery switches the white toggle switch off

Drupe 2: which which

Gery switches the white toggle switch off also

Archive Box: In the List Of Suspects, I saw your name twice!

Gery steps on the floor switch and the light in the box shuts off

Chorus: Twice but not in error!

Dollhouse Lamp: THE LIGHT IN THE WINDOW\*\*

Gery: What of it?

Dollhouse Lamp: NO PLACE FOR AN ARGUMENT\*\*

Gery pulls the long beaded chain down and the small chest of drawers briefly touches ground. The light behind the green walls goes off.

Broom lamp: Do this while I wait

Chorus: ok, while you wait

Gery leans down to lift the white toggle switch off the floor and flips it off. The broom lamp slumps down at a steeper angle after Gery drops the chord.

Nightshirt Lamp: "the spirit of the lady again flickered up as the flame within the socket of the lamp"\*\*\* Chorus: Who wrote that?

Nightshirt Lamp: Helene Cixous

Chorus: Who?

Nightshirt Lamp: It could have been Tolstoy

Gery: Of course I have no reason to write to you again

Gery turns off the small fluorescent lamp. Gery flips the toggle switch behind the hanging stencil shade and the cool fluorescent bulb turns off.

Rock Salad: The language lamp

Chorus mumbles nonsense

Gery rotates the switch and the purple light turns off.

Chorus: Who writes the story?

Flower Lamp: CarefulHomonymsIndexCosmicKnowingOfReluctantYearning

Thickening Agent Lamp: The plot the plot

Chorus: When was it on?

Blue bag lamp: Approx 1980-2023 with lingering traces in the following years. Gery steps on the floor switch and flower goes dark, turning, he pulls the long chain chord down and the glowing pant leg turns dark. Gery makes a sharp turn and in five large steps makes it over to the blue bag. He reaches inside and switches the toggle off. One left.

Pink Lampshade: Her mouth like a rock tumbler

Chorus: Mouth a tumbler

Gery reaches his hand up and turns the switch to off, the pink glow dies down slowly, fading to dark.

Gery: Let's get together when the reign ends