

*Now I am quietly waiting for the catastrophe of my personality to seem beautiful again, and interesting, and modern.*

I can't say that I relate to the statement. But it comes from a Frank O'Hara poem that appears as one of several adjoining passages, placed into a page-long text written by artist Tom Burr that I like a lot. Burr begins with a rather obvious observation: *Artists look at other artists*. Burr reads and admires O'Hara and his poem "Mayakovsky". O'Hara reads and admires Vladimir Mayakovsky and writes a poem. Burr writes about O'Hara writing about Mayakovsky. Artist Alejandro Cesarco likes what Burr writes. He lifts the observation, artists look at other artists, and places it into his Dia: Artists on Artists lecture about On Kawara. Seeing On Kawara's work once made me cry. I listen to Alejandro talk about On Kawara, quoting Burr so nicely. I like what I hear so much that I e-mail Alejandro for the source. He sends it to me. And I continue to read more Burr, because I like what he writes too.

My task at hand is inspired by this circumstantial genealogy. Artists look at other artists, and as Burr continues:

*We hear ourselves across time and on the other sides of walls, working, not working, listening, painting, speaking, not speaking. We watch what we make and how we make it. We search for clues, for substance, for stimulation and connection. When we work out and through each other we tangle our language together and produce new sentences, distinct syntax. Our tendencies and our preferences, our ideas and various ways of placing those ideas, our styles even, seem to need the company of each other. There is a politics to placement, and alignment, and company. And there is a genealogy created out of manifestos, practices and love poems, out of close encounters in our immediate surroundings, and out of a transhistorical crush.*

Frank O'Hara, "Mayakovsky", *Meditations in an Emergency* (1957)

Tom Burr, "Now I am quietly waiting for the catastrophe of my personality to seem beautiful again, and interesting, and modern", *Tom Burr / Anthology: Writings, 1991–2015*, edited by Florence Derieux (2016)

"Alejandro Cesarco on On Kawara", Dia: Artists on Artists lecture series (December 10, 2012)

Lisa Tan

*Other artists*

2019

Text, postcards, postcard displays, renovation of public accessible toilets

Myntgata 2, Oslo



osloBIENNALEN First Edition 2019–2024