

Mel Bochner
Misunderstandings (A Theory of Photography)
1867-70

MISUNDERSTANDINGS
(A THEORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY)
MEL BOCHNER

PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDE FOR A KIND OF PERCEPTION THAT IS MEDIATED
INSTEAD OF DIRECT...
WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED 'PERCEPTION AT SECOND HAND.'

JAMES L. GIBSON

THE PHOTOGRAPH KEEPS OPEN THE INSTANTS WHICH THE ONRUSH OF TIME
CLOSES UP; IT DESTROYS THE OVERTAKING, THE OVERLAPPING OF TIME.

MAURICE MERLEAU-PONTY

IN MY OPINION, YOU CANNOT SAY YOU HAVE THOROUGHLY SEEN ANYTHING
UNTIL YOU HAVE A PHOTOGRAPH OF IT.

EMILE ZOLA

LET US REMEMBER TOO, THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO TRANSLATE SUCH PICTURES
INTO REALISTIC ONES IN ORDER TO 'UNDERSTAND' THEM, ANY MORE THAN WE
NEED TRANSLATE PHOTOGRAPHS INTO COLORED PICTURES, ALTHOUGH
BLACK-AND-WHITE MEN OR PLANTS IN REALITY WOULD STRIKE US AS
UNSPEAKABLY STRANGE AND FRIGHTFUL.
SUPPOSE WE WERE TO SAY AT THIS POINT: 'SOMETHING IS A PICTURE ONLY
IN A PICTURE-LANGUAGE.'

LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN

I WANT TO REPRODUCE THE OBJECTS AS THEY ARE OR AS THEY WOULD BE
EVEN IF I DID NOT EXIST.

TAINÉ

PHOTOGRAPHY IS THE PRODUCT OF COMPLETE ALIENATION.

MARCEL PROUST

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE PHOTOGRAPHY MAKE PEOPLE DESPISE PAINTING UNTIL SOMETHING ELSE WILL MAKE PHOTOGRAPHY UNBEARABLE.

MARCEL DUCHAMP

THE TRUE FUNCTION OF REVOLUTIONARY ART IS THE CRYSTALLIZATION OF PHENOMENA INTO ORGANIZED FORMS.

MAO TSE-TUNG

PHOTOGRAPHY CANNOT RECORD ABSTRACT IDEAS.

ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA