

Yves Klein

Truth Becomes Reality//1961

[...] It is not with rockets, Sputniks and missiles that modern man will achieve the conquest of space. That is the dream of present-day scientists who live in a state of mind romantic and sentimental enough for the last century.

It is by means of the powerful yet pacific force of his sensitivity that man will inhabit space. It is by the impregnation of space with human sensitivity that the much coveted conquest of this space will be achieved. For human sensitivity is omnipotent in immaterial reality; it can even read in the memory of nature about the past, the present, and the future!

It is our effective supply of extradimensional power.

Proofs? Precedents?

... Dante, in the *Divine Comedy*, accurately describes the Southern Cross, a constellation invisible in the northern hemisphere, and which no traveller of his time could have told him about. Swift, in his *Voyage to Laputa*, gives the distances and the rotation periods of the two satellites of Mars, unknown at the time. When the American astronomer Asaph Hall discovered them in 1877 and saw that his calculations corresponded to those of Swift, seized by a sort of panic, he called them Phobos and Deimos, Fear and Terror.

May the authentic realism of today and tomorrow flourish. I want it to live with the best of myself, in total freedom of mind and body. The universal cannibalism that is approaching, the anthropophagous era through which we are soon to pass, is not by nature cruel or fierce, nor inhuman; quite the contrary – it will become the living expression or rather the assimilation of a biological synthesis. It will finally free us from the few tyrannical aspects of nature vis-à-vis ... such as ... ¹

¹ In the original publication, Klein had the last page of his article burned off – dematerialized by fire, at this point.

Yves Klein, extract from 'Le Vrai devient réalité', *Zero*, no. 3 (Düsseldorf, July 1961); trans. Howard Beckman, in *Zero*, ed. Otto Piene and Hans Mack (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1973); reprinted in *Yves Klein 1928-1962: A Retrospective* (Houston: Institute for the Arts, Rice University/New York: The Arts Publisher, Inc., 1982) 231-2.