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San Francisco, May 10, 2008

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- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Downloads](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [Messages](#)
- [Site Seeing](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Stories Archive](#)
- [Submit News](#)
- [Surveys](#)
- [Tell a Friend](#)
- [Top Stories](#)
- [Topics](#)
- [Web Links](#)
- [Your Account](#)

Survey

Who is the most influential artist of the 20th century?

- Joseph Beuys
- Robert Rauschenberg
- Andy Warhol
- Marcel Duchamp
- Christo
- Pablo Picasso
- Jackson Pollock
- Andre Breton
- None of the above
(send us an email who it was)

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Knocking On Bricks: Artists vs. Institutions

Posted on Tuesday, May 06 @ 19:33:44 EDT by [HRay](#)

writes "



"Part of the spirit of this project is mean-spirited. Like the girls of the cult film, *Heathers*, curators Shoshana Brand and xtine created false correspondence that taunted the unsuspecting. Imagine writing to institutions and large corporations with absurd, yet socially engaged proposals, and understanding from the start that rejection is the center of the concept. Brand and xtine's idea begins as a prank percolated through an understanding of bureaucratic systems, and the way art institutions, governments, and corporations function."

-- Kim Abeles 2007 | excerpt from *Introduction to Knocking On Bricks*

In the initial phase of KNOCKING ON BRICKS, ARTISTS VS. INSTITUTIONS, artists and curators Shoshana Brand and xtine composed absurd proposal letters and mailed them to different national institutions and well-known public personas. Shortly after the expected rejection letters arrived, they extended themselves into an individual creation of two-dimensional artwork, by mentoring, curating and promoting an international group of visual artists to create artwork addressing the absurd proposals, which had already been rejected. The final step includes essays written by well-known visual artists, commenting on the topic of rejection and personal success in the art arena.

KNOCKING ON BRICKS, ARTISTS VS. INSTITUTIONS subverts the dynamic force of creation in the face of rejection. The artists deliberately chose to empower themselves by writing towards decisive refusals, and once their proposal was delivered they visited their mailbox daily in hopes of finding a letter of rejection. They received one rejection letter after another, some sent only one week after they mailed their proposal.

Should it be considered a success or failure? Was it the result of an unusual talent or merely blind luck? The artists were amazed to find throughout the process of writing, deliverance and anticipation that they transcended the aching concept of rejection by transforming it into a work of art.

Launched on April 24, 2008, the project includes the work of 18 international artists.

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