

Alexandra Marati

THE HERMETIC BOOK

Die werden es sehen, denen von Ihm noch nichts verkündet ward und die verstehen, die noch nichts vernommen haben.

- Heinrich Böll

1. (description of proposal and technical details – materials and dimensions)

This is a book/construction which, when extended, alludes to a pyramid with seven steps, and when compressed – with the help of magnets – comprises a square surface which has (7) concentric squares laid out in its interior.

Its upward extension as well as its contraction are based on the principle of “*as above, so below*”.

The base is 40cmX40cm in dimension, while the dimensions of the remaining steps in ascending order are 34cmX34cm, 28cmX28cm, 22cmX22cm, 16cmX16cm, 10cmX10cm, 4cmX4cm.

Thin magnetic stainless sheets have been used for the construction.

Excerpts of “cryptic” speech as well as fragments of images from past artworks by Alexandra Marati have been printed/inscribed on the surface of the base, as well as on all other outer surfaces of the magnetic sheets.

Blue LED lights have been placed on the base. Light mostly visible in darkness, with electrical power supply. Also, a small orgonite* sphere may float magnetically directly above the void between the smallest square and the tip of the pyramid-like construction.

*orgonite is an ethereal energy transformer which can operate with a wireless connection.

2. (theoretical approach)

"Tout, au monde, existe pour aboutir à un livre"

("Everything in the world exists in order to end up in a book")

-Stéphane Mallarmé

Mallarmé’s notion that the world exists only to end up in a book is like a kind of aphoristic statement on a version of a book in its absolute form : an ‘oeuvre totale’, in other words, which completes in its entirety the mnemonic dimension.

The proposal for a book in the shape of a pyramid, evoking a version of ‘ideal memory’, leads automatically to a visual proposal for the organizing and recording of the ‘ideal memory’ throughout the centuries.

Such an example – of, essentially, a utopian book – which extends in height but also contracts in both dimensions, projects on the one hand the promise of elevation in stages, and on the other that of equal, even access, where the different levels are assimilated to one another to form the concentric squares of the base in a rational arrangement of peace and simplicity.

The extracts of written discourse that were chosen, signs in secret languages (codes, allegories, symbols or verbal variations and rhythmic repetitions) from Plato, Heinrich Böll, Edgar Cayce, Jorge Luis Borges, Marcel Swob ... – are interrelated in many ways, referring to one another directly or indirectly, allowing infinite possible combinations and dialogues or dimensions of perception.

A portable, pyramid-shaped manual of this kind, incorporating obscure extracts from writings on knowledge and thought, resembles a portable 'shrine', offered up in a purely personal decision of ritual ceremony.

- Thalea Stefanidou
art historian - curator

3. (excerpts – citations)

Plato :

Timaeus 37d: The father of the universe thought of making a kind of moving image of the eternal; and while setting heaven in order, he made an eternal image, moving according to number, of eternity remaining in unity. This, of course, is what we call time.

Lysis 214a: Poets are in fact the fathers of every discipline and our guides. It is they who admit that divinity is what creates friendship, because a god always draws those who are alike to each other.

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Jorge Luis Borges :

The Keeper of the Books: Here they stand: gardens and temples and the reason for temples.

Exact music and exact words.

Ceremonies, which are the only wisdom that the Firmament accords to men.