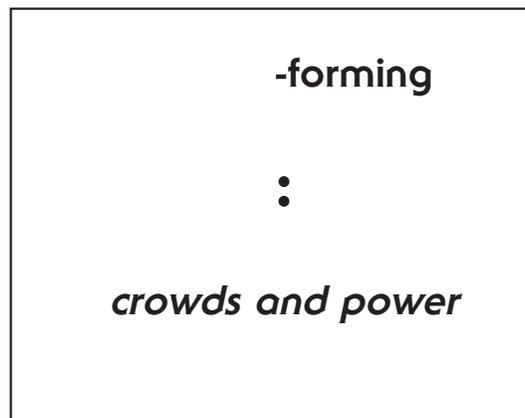Benjamin Boretz

-forming

:

crowds and power

(interface part iii)

realtime reflections
in a   -forming session
on a text from
Elias Canetti's
Crowds and Power

(pre-) music program zero
Bard College
1987

Closed:
    To do something
    You need to do
    You need a space.

        A space is not only room
        It is a room.
        A room has walls
        (is an enclosure)
        To hold what is done
        Within
        To contain accumulation
        Increment temperature
        Reciprocate pressure
        Reverberate.
        A room is about unloss.

Also walls out.
That which does not need
To do what you in this space
Need to do.
Those who need to not do
And need for you to not do
It.

        A space with room
        And walls:
        Room: at least enough.
        Walls: no more than enough.
        If possible
        To make possible
        It.

Open:
   To do something
   That is to be something
   You need to do
   You need for there to be
   Others.

                                    A space is not only room
                                    And a room which
                                    Contains and
                                    Encloses and
                                    Conserves and
                                    Identifies and
                                    Connects and
                                    Protects but also

      Isolates.

   Not only walls out but also Walls In.

      Not only creates identity but also engenders neglect.

         Not only prevents invasion but also causes loneliness.

         Not vulnerable is also unavailable.

            Makes it possible
            But also
            Obscures

            It.

The Other, behind the outside of the wall, who does not need it, does this Other not need it?
This Other, outside the wall behind us, whom we do not need, to do this, having done this, do we not need?

- Forming:

　　To negotiate the space
　　Between the Closed
　　And the Open
　　Across the walls
　　　　　　By

making space

using space

enclosing space

opening space

investing time

harvesting time

indexing time

releasing time

being available
　　　　　　to be present
to the other
　　　　　　　to the occasion
　　　　　　　　　　　of the experience

also　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　sufficiently

denying, YES!?

regarding
considering
reflecting
building
perching
dwelling
opening
closing
looking
listening
approaching
measuring
resonating
mirroring
acknowledging
allowing
imagining
addressing
responding
probing
hypotheticating
absurding
supporting
encompassing
distinguishing
availing
and

noticing

DISCURSIVELY

nonverbal

dismantling

obviating

inventing

IRREVERENTLY
respectfully
respectful
respectfully

This crowd here   (or any other)

Could not be any realer

    in playing "For Real"

        than each one
            before it was
                a crowd
                  was:

    less, in fact

in that

    the enterprise of a crowd

cannot be real as the enterprise of one: or that is

a one-manipulated crowd.

        A group is a convergence of
        ones. For a bounded purpose
        in which each contributes to
        a unit collectivity but each
        retains individual responsibility
        as well as sharing responsibility
        to the collective as well as sharing
        the responsibility of the collective
        in which "the collective" sustains no
        responsibility independent of that
        sustained by each individual. One,
        in a crowd, has no responsibility.
        A crowd, has no responsibility.

Considering the obstacles,

And that authenticity is unavailable

Why should we persist

In addressing our energies

To such futile concerns

Such that we make ourselves foolish

In the very magnitude

Of our Serious Engagement
As if we were somehow better
Because we make overt what
Everyone else knows as
well as we.

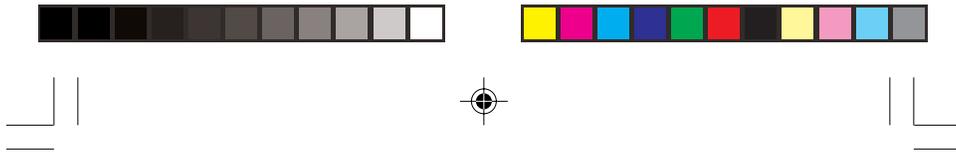So let's Give Up

and ——

P A R T Y !

BROTHERS &   SISTERS

[cf. *fun*, n.]

How do you know

the entropic form of Yourself

from Yourself?

—february 1987