

a vase
is a vase
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Lawrence Weiner
Robin Winters



25.01 – 30.03. 2013

Opening: Friday 25 January 6–9 pm.

Brutto Gusto_fine arts
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Years ago I had a discussion with a friend. His recent death reminded me of our conversation. He asked if a vase was a masculine or feminine object. He posited that most vases have a phallic form. Indeed, I had to agree, vases are conventionally cylindrical. He followed with the assertion that a vase has a feminine function: to receive the stems of flowers. Of course there are exceptions: vases that refer less explicitly to the male member and vases that are not designed to hold flowers.

My friend collected vases. He had a wall cabinet filled with them in his basement. Vases of all shapes, sizes and materials. It was always a celebration whenever I visited him with a carefully chosen bouquet. I knew his collection so well that when I selected the flowers I already knew which vase I wanted to see them in. Our friendship had grown so intimate over the years that he

trusted me to descend alone to choose a vase. And I was allowed to arrange the flowers myself. He was glad that my flowers made his vase even more beautiful. Blue delphiniums in an undulating vase by Gio Ponti. The numerous delicate petals complemented the spherical forms of the ceramic and the soft blue made the sang de boeuf glaze glow even more intensely. The vase was there for the flowers just as the flowers were there for the vase. It was no longer a question of masculine or feminine; the important thing was how the components reinforced each other. Each time anew, each time another vase, each time another flower. As Getrude Stein once wrote:

A rose is a rose is a rose

Piet de Jonge, Rotterdam, November 2012

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