

**Paul Soulellis**

*273 Relics for John Cage (A Likeness Is an Aid to Memory)*

October 7 - November 7, 2011

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New York artist Paul Soulellis is pleased to present *273 Relics for John Cage (A Likeness Is an Aid to Memory)*, a new installation of printed works and video exploring chance, memory and the photographic image. Conceived for the 2012 John Cage centennial celebration, *273 Relics for John Cage* will first be installed at *Revisiting Black Mountain College 3: John Cage's Circle of Influence*, a conference and exhibition co-sponsored by the Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center, the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and the John Cage Trust. The work will be on view October 7 - November 7 at Highsmith Gallery, Asheville.

John Cage's seminal work *4'33"* (1952) provides the core narrative for *273 Relics for John Cage*. Each relic is numbered and refers to a single second of silence in *4'33"*. At once a translational work, an experimental portrait and a performative tribute, *273 Relics for John Cage* explores the impossibility of the image - dismantling the photograph to render it irrelevant, as it disappears. The viewer is left with faint traces of source material and the freedom to investigate phantom images, imagined narratives and other associations.

*273 Relics for John Cage* is an installation of books, printed works and video. It includes an edition of ten limited-edition books (digital print on paper, 294 pages, silver foil-stamping on linen, 5" x 7" each), a unique large-format photograph (archival pigment print on rag paper, surface-mounted to Plexiglas, 43" x 51"), six limited-edition prints (silkscreen ink on paper, 20" x 26") and video. The book features 273 images, texts and other artifacts assembled and chosen by chance operations, including 160 photographs sampled from a single 12-megapixel image of John Cage's mushroom collecting basket (selected by John Cage Trust director Laura Kuhn and photographed by Paul Soulellis). The volume also includes 52 poems, generated and assembled by chance operations from Aristotle's "On Memory and Recollection" (350 B.C), John Cage's "Lecture on Nothing" (1961), M.E. Hard's "The Mushroom, Edible and Otherwise" (1908), and fragments of conversation recorded at the John Cage Trust on August 22, 2011.

Artist Paul Soulellis explains: "Individual pixels can take on and exceed the meaning of the source material, like precious boxes presented to pilgrims for worship. These works are first-order relics of lost meaning and memory, but they point to future landscapes. At the scale of the close zoom, they reveal pure color. These relics open and vibrate with possibility."

*273 Relics for John Cage (A Likeness Is an Aid to Memory)* will be on view at Highsmith Gallery, University of North Carolina at Asheville, through November 7.

Please contact [paul@soulellis.com](mailto:paul@soulellis.com) for further information or for images.

<http://soulellis.com/projects/johncage/>