

15/1/39

George Gessert,
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Dear George Gessert,

thank you for your letter of Dec. 14 through Artforum. I am glad to read that we shall be meeting at S. Paulo from 1-17/8 for the Casa da Cor meeting. Let me comment on a few points in your letter in the meantime: (1) Break between two realities: When hominides began manipulating objects they became subjects of an objective world. The abyss between subjectivity and objectivity became wider as "art" (civilisation) advanced. The Marxist hope that art (work) can humanize the objective world and naturalize man and thus overcome "alienation" is no longer convincing. The hope now is to project alternative objective worlds (including artificial living beings). It is not a very convincing hope either. (2) Danger: If you mean "danger to human existence" then what of it? Are we not destined for death, each one of us and all together? This is what existence is about. But if you mean "danger to human creativity" I do not see it. An opal insect which causes sexual delirium is a good challenge. (3) Sex: Orgasm is an opening within our genetic information. It permits us to forget ourselves (death), and is thus opposed to what life is about. Probably orgasm is an "error of programming" in evolution. Let us profit from it in our effort to overcome our animal condition.

I tell you all this with a purpose. The German Magazine "Spuren" (founded by the philosopher Ernst Bloch) has asked me to compose an issue on the subject "Kuenstliches Leben-Lebende Kunstwerke" (artificial life-living works of art). Would you like to contribute to it? Here their address: Lerchenfeld 2, 2 Hamburg 76. But you may send your paper to me, if you prefer.

All the best for 39, and I am looking forward to meet you.

Yours sincerely,