

MAY 5, 1975 354-4730

I'm working on a public poetry project in CAMBRIDGE which involves painting 1 VERSE of a poem, OTOS NUMEROSOS on each of 23 WALLS. Each verse would be painted 12x12 feet. I have permission from several owners to use their walls. I would like the council to permit me to use a few city-owned WALLS which would be chosen by the DPW. I AM interested in walls East of Prospect and

western Avenues, especially
walls which are already covered
with writing or walls of
structures which are to be
demolished. I will be happy
to describe this project in detail.

Mark Mendel

MARK MENDEL
45 Mt. Pleasant St
Cambridge, Mass.

Cambridge Art Center, Inc.

31 Newtowne Court

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Telephone 864-3840

4 February 1975

To Whom it May Concern:

The Cambridge Art Center supports the public poetry project of Mr. Mark Mandel, and encourages you to co-operate if at all possible in providing the wall space necessary.

The particular value of this project lies in its use of an exciting visual format available to and identifiable with people ordinarily excluded from the world of letters. In other words, the project as presented addresses people ordinarily not addressed by poets, in a language & format that is in some sense their own as much as it is the poet's own.

I urge you to take this opportunity to broaden the impact of cultural experience on our community.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Hinderlie

Mark D. Hinderlie
Executive Director

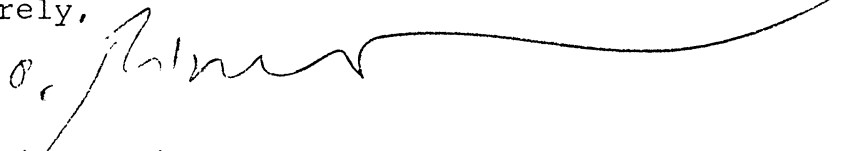
Office of the Director

February 12, 1975

To whom it may concern:

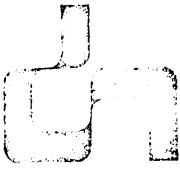
Mr. Mark Mendel has explained vividly to me his intentions and projects for communal display of poetry, especially his thirty-one stanza poem OJOS NUMEROSOS. I support his intentions to display his poem to a large number of people because I think he is an inspired, tenacious, committed and highly creative artist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'O. Piene', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Otto Piene, Director
Center for Advanced Visual Studies

OP/vmd



Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
617 266-5151

14 February 1975

To whom it may concern:

The Institute of Contemporary Art supports the efforts of Mr. Mark Mendel to bring his poetry to public spaces. As innovators in the public art field, we appreciate his creativity as a poet and his commitment as a public artist.

This poetry project serves to expand the definitions of public art and the general conceptions surrounding poetry and its audience. Our experience indicates that a wide variety of people will respond to his work once it is made accessible to them.

We urge your cooperation in any way possible.

Sincerely yours,

Susan R. Garber
Director, Public Art

(for George Oppen)

double this chain

half moonlight

goes nowhere

pull this change

sweet and twenty

reckless dust

dig this chain

of lives

it's yours

pull this change

moonlight city

and paint

pull this chain

and ring the bell

Lorca's silver moon

pull this change
rusty hands
and muscle

dig this chain
be here tomorrow
times stone

double this change
roll down your window
you've got a light

shake this change
pick this brick
this red birth

pull this change
the trowel was here
like your heart

pull this change
this is no longer
a boundary

grab this chain
you can. you live
behind this wall

pull this change
the shadow runs without oil
the blood of two bit machines

remember this chain
cave man
and stone age

pull this change
for your brother
turn off the tube

pull this chain
out the library
window

pull this change
you've found
it's green

feel this chain
chevrolet girl
in tow

pull this change
bricklayer
union scale

follow this chain
the next link
is now

touch this chain
I'm no stranger
than the January sunset

hook this chain
catch the man
who throws your shadow

pull this change
the poem is your sister
on parole

The poet's eye in a fine frenzy rolling,
Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven;
And, as imagination bodies forth
The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen
Turns them to shapes, and gives to airy nothing
A local habitation and a name.

-Shakespeare

(A Midsummernight's Dream)

190
Hearing at 8:00 P. M. on May 12, 1975 re:
Permission requested from Mark Mendell
to paint poetic verses on city owned property.

May 12/1975
After Hearing
Deferred to
the Cultural
Committee to
Be formed by
the City Manager.