



Superficial

Andrei Koschmieder
Oliver Michaels
Damon Zucconi
Curated by Jasmin Tsou

September 9, 2010

Cleopatra's

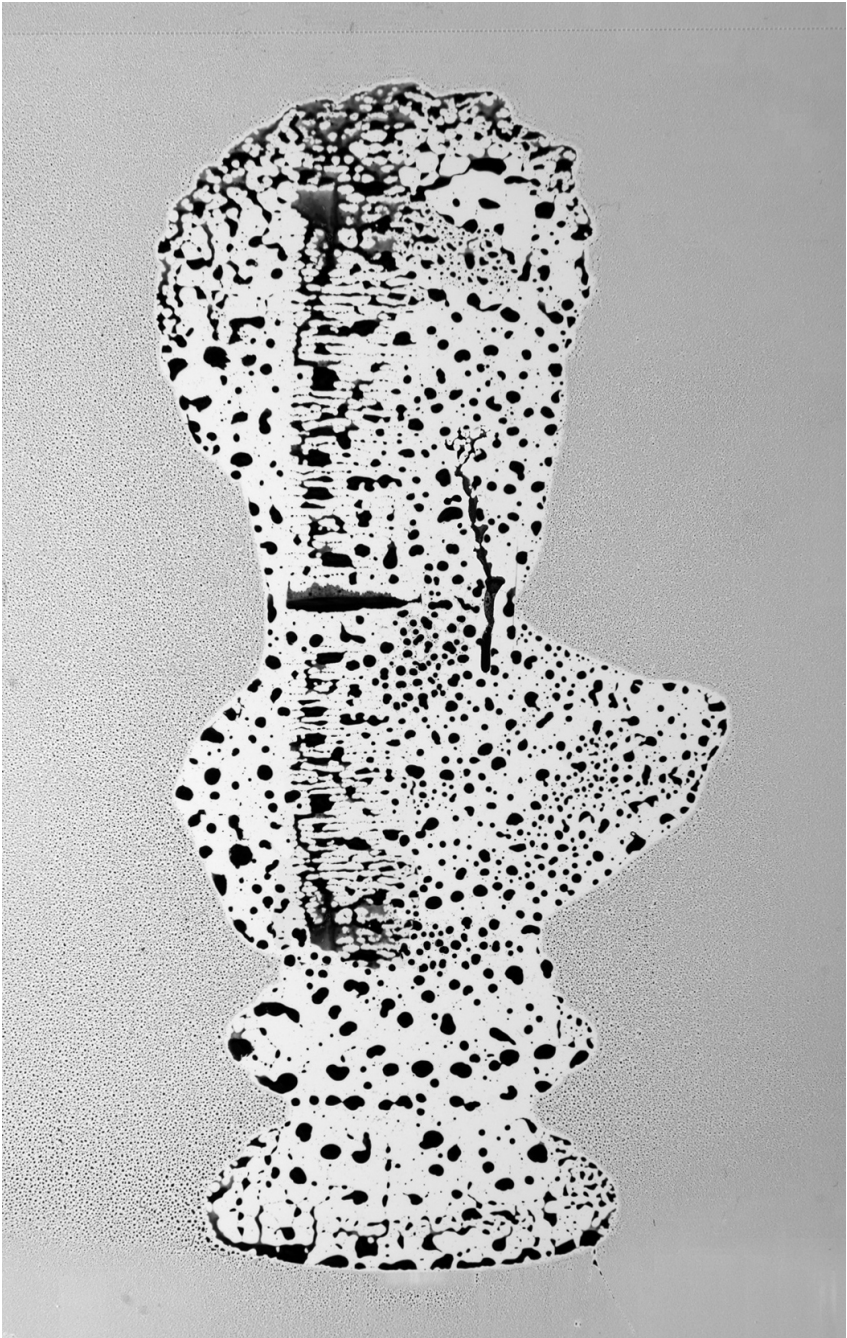
110 Meserole Avenue
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Bridget Donahue
Bridget Finn
Kate McNamara
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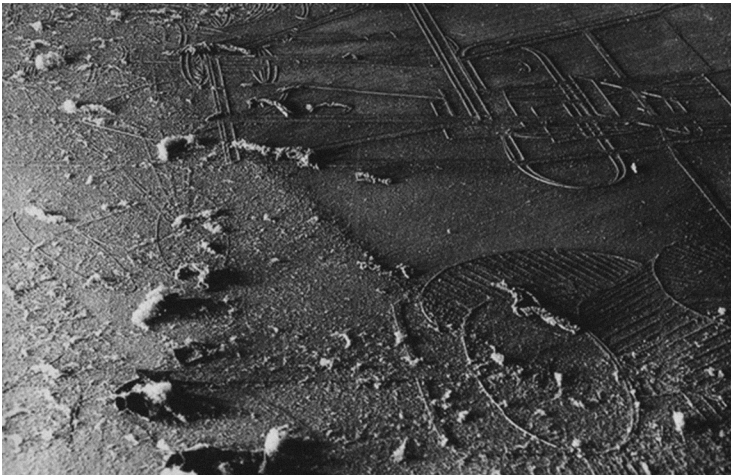
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Western philosophy is used to dealing with ideas of depth and surface, essence and appearance, or basis and superstructure, and this just about always translates into a moral distinction between the profound and the superficial. So where does colour lie along this well-worn path? Well, if colour is make-up, then it is not really on this path at all, and perhaps this is a part of the colour problem. If surface veils depth, if appearance masks essence, then make-up masks a mask, veils a veil, disguises a disguise. It is not simply a deception; it is a double deception. It is a surface on a surface, and thus even farther from substance than 'true' appearance. How things appear is one thing; how things appear to appear is another. Colour is a double illusion, a double deception. It is not just that colour is at the wrong end of a moral opposition; it is perhaps, just beyond the wrong end.







**The ink wasn't dry yet on their divorce papers before
he was shacking up with you-know-who.**

In this sentence, there's an idiom—the ink wasn't dry yet—which does a nice job of creating a picture of a temporal event—a relatively short temporal event—by thinking of this event in terms of observable material phenomena—ink drying on paper.

One could say, It didn't take that many days after their divorce before he was shacking up with you-know-who, but, in so doing, one loses the image of time as material; it lacks the bite of the previous sentence in which time is given the same oppressive materiality as an object in space.

Here's another example:

We've each said things we don't really mean, so let's let the dust settle and talk this over in the morning.

Again, one could say here, We've each said things we don't really mean, so let's wait a couple of hours and talk this over in the morning, but, in so doing, one might lose something of the imagistic power which the idiom let the dust settle affords the sentence.

All of the sudden, that stretch of time becomes an object—an accumulation of dust following a confrontation—and, thus, becomes more dynamic than a reference to the passage of time through standardized time units—minutes, hours, etc. which are decidedly more difficult to picture concretely.

The idioms in which time is pictured as an entity with its own materiality and its own objective weight on one's experience are often powerful because they nudge one towards the intuition that time is as much a material as space (albeit a very different kind of material).

With the advent of Radio Astronomy in the early 1960's, techniques for the mapping of space made enormous technological advances. New findings were applied to existing data, and it was discovered that within maps charting vast swathes of the Southern Hemisphere, astral bodies — estimated to be millions of light years away — had been erroneously named and catalogued after microscopic inconsistencies within photographic emulsion. Solar systems identified from particles of dust, galaxies from dandruff.





When I first painted a number of canvases grey all over (about eight years ago), I did so because I did not know what to paint, or what there might be to paint: so wretched a start could lead to nothing meaningful. As time went on, however, I observed differences of quality among the grey surfaces — and also that these betrayed nothing of the destructive motivation that lay behind them. The pictures began to teach me. By generalizing a personal dilemma, they resolved it. Destitution became a constructive statement; it became relative perfection, and therefore painting. Grey. It makes no statement whatever; it evokes neither feelings nor associations; it is really neither visible nor invisible.

Its inconspicuousness gives it the capacity to mediate, to make visible, in a positively illusionistic way, like a photograph. It has the capacity that no other colour has, to make 'nothing' visible. To me, grey is the welcome and only possible equivalent for indifference, non-commitment, absence of opinion, absence of shape. But grey, like formlessness and the rest, can be real only as an idea, and so all I can do is create a colour nuance that means grey but is not it.

The painting is then a mixture of grey as a fiction and grey as a visible, designated area of colour. Finally; this kind of reductionist painting fascinates me in general, because I believe that it is a highly scrupulous and cautious attempt to achieve correctness, or rather definitiveness, in painting; that it pursues a quality which tends towards the valid and the universal. This seems to me important, in the face of a mindless, proliferating productivity that becomes less and less definitive.



From the subjective point of view there is no such thing as nothing — Blank Form shows this, as well as might any other situation of deprivation.

So long as the form (in the broadest possible sense: situation) is not reduced beyond perception, so long as it perpetuates and upholds itself as being an object in the subjects perception, the subject reacts to it in many particular ways when I call it art. He reacts in other ways when I do not call it art. Art is primarily a situation in which one assumes an attitude of reacting to some one's awareness as art.

Blank Form is still in the great tradition of artistic weakness — taste. That is to say I prefer it — especially the content (as opposed to 'antiform' for the attempt to contradict one's taste). Blank Form is like life, essentially empty, allowing plenty of room for disquisitions on its nature and mocking each in its turn. Blank Form slowly waves a large grey flag and laughs about how close it got to the second law of thermodynamics.

Some examples of Blank Form sculpture: 1. A column with perfectly smooth, rectangular surfaces, 61×61×244 cm [2×2×8 ft] painted grey. 2. A wall, perfectly smooth and painted grey, measuring 61×61×244 cm [2×2×8 ft] 3. A cabinet with simple construction, painted grey and measuring 30.5×61×183 cm [1×2×6 ft] — that is a cabinet just large enough to enter.



Sheffield, England, 4 March 1962





ALISON SKY: Isn't entropy actually metamorphosis, or a continual process in which elements are undergoing change, but in an evolutionary sense?

ROBERT SMITHSON: Yes and no. In other words, if we consider the earth in terms of geologic time we end up with what we call fluvial entropy. Geology has its entropy too, where everything is gradually wearing down. Now there may be a point where the Earth's surface will collapse and break apart, so that the irreversible process will be in a sense metamorphosed, it is evolutionary, but it's not evolutionary in terms of any idealism. There is still the heat death of the sun. It may be that human beings are just different from dinosaurs rather than better. In other words there just might be a different situation. There's this need to try to transcend one's condition. I'm not a transcendentalist, so I just see things going towards a... well it's very hard to predict anything; anyway all predictions tend to be wrong. I mean even planning. I mean planning and chance almost seem to be the same thing.









New International Version (1984)

Meaningless! Meaningless! says the Teacher. Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.

New Living Translation (2007)

Everything is meaningless, says the Teacher, completely meaningless!

English Standard Version (2001)

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

New American Standard Bible (1995)

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

GOD'S WORD Translation (1995)

Absolutely pointless! says the spokesman. Absolutely pointless! Everything is pointless.

King James Bible

Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

American King James Version

Vanity of vanities, said the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

American Standard Version

Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher; vanity of vanities, all is vanity.

Bible in Basic English

All is to no purpose, said the Preacher, all the ways of man are to no purpose.

Douay-Rheims Bible

Vanity of vanities, said Ecclesiastes vanity of vanities, and all is vanity.

Darby Bible Translation

Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities! all is vanity.

English Revised Version

Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher; vanity of vanities, all is vanity.

Webster's Bible Translation

Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

World English Bible

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.

Young's Literal Translation

Vanity of vanities, said the Preacher, Vanity of vanities: the whole is vanity.







36

Smell

Does it smell of bubble gum and pine.

No it doesn't smell of bubble gum and pine

Does it smell of rats, chocolate icing and chicken

Yes, it does smell of rats, chocolate icing and chicken

Does it smell of vomit, cheap Hawaiian cigarettes and autumn

Yes, it does smell of vomit, cheap Hawaiian cigarettes and autumn

Does it smell of chalk chalk-dust and new shoes

No, it doesn't smell of chalk chalk-dust and new shoes

Does it smell of sulfur sandalwood and rubber boots

NO, it doesn't smell of sulfur sandalwood and rubber boots

Does it smell of shit come and axel grease

NO, it doesn't smell of shit come and axel grease

Does it smell of new rope, neglect and mildew

YES, it does smell of new rope, neglect and mildew

Does it smell of grass, rancid butter, cut fruit and bitter almonds

YES, it does smell of grass, rancid butter, cut fruit and bitter almonds

Does it smell of the end of summer and rotting fish

NO, it doesn't smell of the end of summer and rotting fish

Does it smell of the musty hallways of exotic hotels, bracken fires and freshly baked bread

Yes it does it smell of the musty hallways of exotic hotels, bracken fires and freshly baked bread

Does it smell of a cold snowy Saturday night

Yes, it does smell cold, snowy, like a Saturday night

Does it smell of Apple pie and sheep's teeth

Yes, it does it smell of Apple pie and sheep's teeth

Does it smell of ocean breeze and dirty hair

NO, it doesn't smell of the ocean breeze or dirty hair

Does it smell creamy, milky, sweetly sour.. that of a freshly washed infant.

YES, it does smell creamy, milky, sweetly sour.. that of a freshly washed infant.

Does it smell of cigarettes, fore arms and trumpet grease.

NO, it doesn't smell of cigarettes, fore arms and trumpet grease.

Does it smell of animal hearts, pigskin, hair, garbage, worms and plants.

NO it doesn't smell of an animal hearts and pigskin, there is hair, garbage and worms, but not plants.

Does it smell of the perspiration of tired horses and the sweet breath of patient cows.

YES, it does smell of the perspiration of tired horses and the sweet breath of patient cows.

Does it smell of huge red velvet curtains that are soft and warm

Yes there is huge red velvet curtains that are soft and warm

Does it smell of women in hospitals with their throats slit, with blackened eyes, broken noses and shit pushed into their hair

NO, it doesn't smell of women in hospitals with their throats slit, with blackened eyes, broken noses and shit pushed into their hair

Can I smell the piss stained crevices of decrepit ladies who neglect

themselves, boils, shoddily wiped ass-holes, soiled flannel, un-swept floors, finger nails, clean feet, athletes foot cream and new furniture

Yes it does smell of the piss stained crevices of decrepit ladies who neglect themselves, boils, shoddily wiped ass-holes, soiled flannel, un-swept floors, finger nails, clean feet, athletes foot cream and new furniture

Does it smell of varicose veins and cellulite, box bushes, sun cream and food cooking on an open grill

YES, you can smell varicose veins and cellulite, bushed, sun cream and food cooking on an open grill

Can I smell pasty white bum cheeks and freckles

No, you can't smell pasty white bum cheeks and freckles

Are there barrels full of bottles, tin cans, black oil drums, rusty
pitchforks busted chicken crates and an old bathtub

*YES there are barrels full of bottles, tin cans, black oil drums, rusty pitchforks... there
are no busted chicken crates, but there is an old bathtub*

Does it smell of sores and dull skin

YES it does smell of sores and dull skin

Does it smell of a long summers breeze, chocolate, wax paper, bubble gum and fishing nets.

*NO, it doesn't smell of a long summers breeze, chocolate, wax paper, bubble gum and
fishing nets*

Does it smell of joss sticks lank on rising damp, black cherry and old
coins squeezed in the cracks of creased faux leather

*No it doesn't smell of joss sticks lank on rising damp, black cherry and old coins
squeezed in the cracks of creased faux leather*

Does it smell of a retro melony take on an ocean breeze, mushrooms in the dark
and damp nooks hidden by green birch leaves and children's knees?

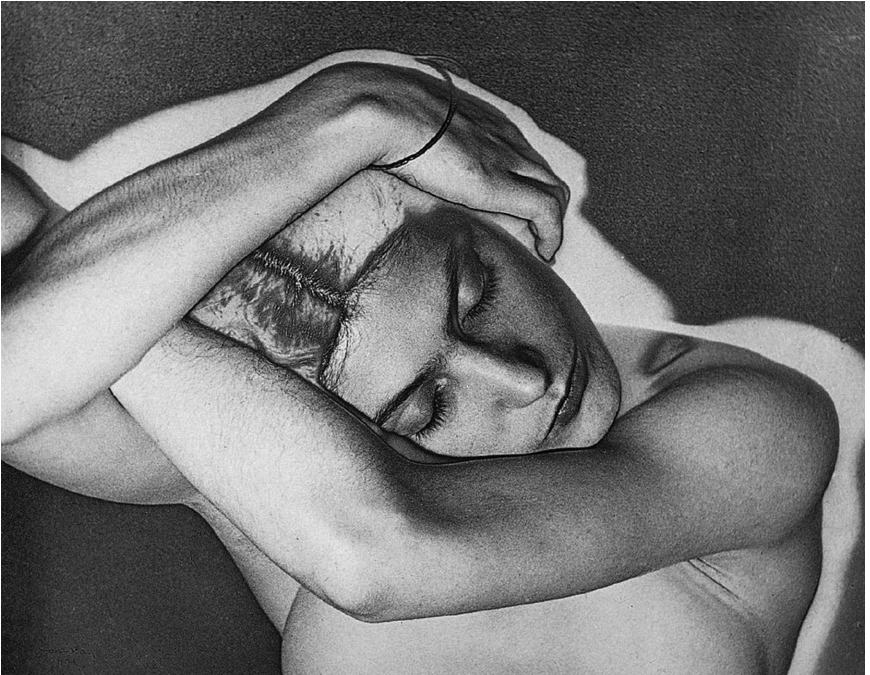
*YES, it does smell of a retro melony take on an ocean breeze, mushrooms in the dark
and damp nooks hidden by green birch leaves and children's knees?*

Does it smell of mice moths dust heat flies wind
trains stationary stores engine oil Rotting wood leather interior of a car
sea storms, seaweed, bacon
the cold grit between windows, sweat, beer, mist
sawdust, chicken soup, cigars bittersweet herbs and spices, opium,
stale cologne, raspberry jam, ivory, elephant dung, superstition
old creased leather, black cherry, noxious chemicals, cleaning supplies,
the slightly musty hallways of exotic hotels, bracken fires and bread,
potpourri, sandalwood, perspiration, bad breath from shouting
lime, almonds oranges cheese vinyl hot from the sun moist wood
earth moss boozy kisses, burning candles, cats piss cheap shampoo
stale joss sticks, rising damp, old coins, animals, the sea, malt
A melony fresh take on the ocean breeze, caramel, wild flowers, bleach
new plastic, waffles, chocolate, wax paper old dusty velvet curtains,
tires, fresh laundry, sap, black licorice.
Unicorns, rainbows spilt beer, vanilla beans, dew, mushrooms,
damp green birch leaves, candy floss, sawdust, sea shells, gunpowder

The wet vivid scent you get on spring evenings before a storm, manure
 Freshly baked biscuits, wind, amusement arcade, cake batter,
 medicine old teabags, ginger ale, big cities, rivers, eels, fresh washing,
 damp cellars, soiled laundry hot metal, ash, cabbage, puss,
 apple juice, the powdery scent of nursery school paints, spoons,
 poor people, Young people, pickled eggs, adolescent girls, dust,
 dust of cupboards full of old camera equipment. glass rain,
 the interior of a car left in the hot sun, lapsang souchong, cheap wine,
 polyvinylchloride epoxy, wood smoke, soiled underwear,
 back of a closet, the inside new shoes, whores, tequila, concrete
 Lemon, sun cream, pretty white flowers, special occasions
 churches, spain, children, cucumber chickens talcum powder,
 nuts sheep's teeth wool, fat on a broiled lamb chop, fried steak,
 sun cream, body odor, grilled hot dogs box bushes, chlorine
 new born baby lambs nursing homes, Persian rugs, oven smoke,
 summer evenings, the warm soft aroma of freshly baked tortillas, urine
 hot metal motorbike workshop welding stations, jasmine
 sandalwood, a brisk autumn morning, humidity,
 the clear aroma of mountain grasses, paint, wood turps,
 oil paint institutions, piano's trumpet grease roast dinners
 carnival food stands, stone walls, 2stroke gasoline, musty windows
 rusty neglected tools, rust, fresh ink, corn flakes old men,
 smoke-stained hair from a gentle beach fire, ear wax, cheese-plates
 icing drizzled over the top of a cinnamon roll, musky cologne tobacco
 elbows, caramel, a hint of nuttiness, school dinners, bitter almonds,

 dust trapped in old velvet curtains, pipe smoke fur coats lipstick
 Mystic's, foreign flowers, nail polish remover,
 old sleeping bags, swimming pools, fried eggs, fear, Christmas,
 cheap perfume, candy canes, Christmas presents,
 wrapping paper Apple Pie, incense, turds covered with burnt hair,
 bubble Gum, pine, moss, rats,
 vomit, chocolate icing
 chicken, cheap hawaiian cigarettes, autumn, urine, chalk,
 chalk dust, axel grease, teeth, cigarettes, toe nails, dirty hair,
 new shoes, sulfur, shit,
 cum, axle grease, rubber boots,
 new rope, neglect, mildew, grass, rancid butter, cut fruit,

the end of summer, rotting fish a cold snowy Saturday night,
ocean breeze, newly-mown hay,





Notes on the Inframince (Infrathin)

1 The exchange between what one puts on view [the whole setting up to put on view (all areas)] and the glacial regard of the public (which sees and forgets immediately). Very often this exchange has the value of an infra thin separation (meaning that the more a thing is admired and looked at the less there is an infrathin separation.

2 Spider web as an example of the natural isolation of a carcass (pseudo-geometric) of infrathin

3 shadow-caster a company of shadow casters represented by all the sources of light (sun, moon, stars, candles, fire -) incidentally different aspects of reciprocity - association fire-light (black light, fire-without-smoke - certain sources of light the shadow casters work in the infra-thin

4 Painting on glass seen from the unpainted side gives an infra thin

5 when the smoke of the tobacco smells also of the mouth from which it comes, the 2 smells marry by infra thin.

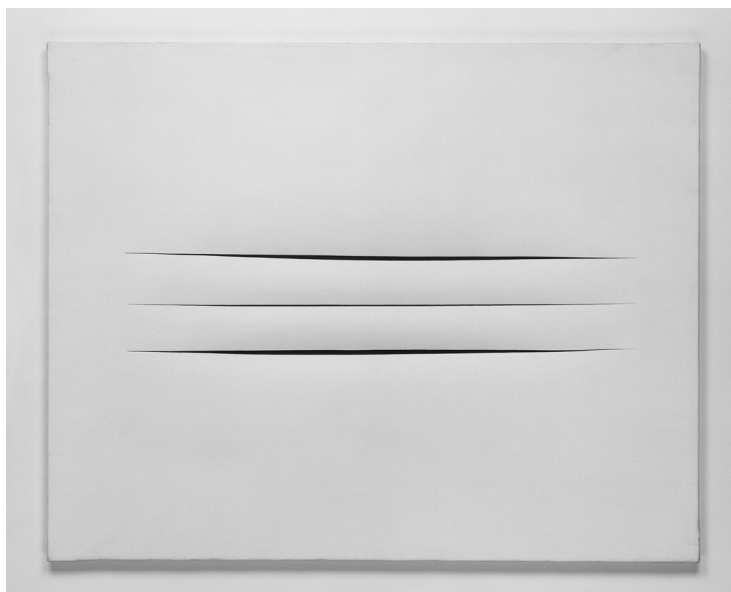
6 The possible is an infra-thin - The possibility of several tubes of color becoming a Seurat is the concrete explanation of the possible as infra thin
The possible implying the becoming - the passage from one to the other takes in the infra thin.

allegory on forgetting

7 The difference (dimensional) between 2 mass produced objects [from the same mold] is an infra thin when the maximum (?) precision is obtained.

8 The warmth of a seat (which has just been left) is infra-thin

9 Velvet trousers - their whistling sound (in walking) by brushing of the 2 legs is an infra thin separation signaled by sound. (it is not? an infra thin sound)









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Rules

- A. *Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil.*
- B. *Become incredulous and indignant.*
- C. *Create rumor mongers.*
- D. *Use a straw man.*
- E. *Sidetrack opponents with name calling and ridicule.*
- F. *Hit and Run.*
- G. *Question motives.*
- H. *Invoke authority.*
- I. *Play Dumb.*
- J. *Associate opponent charges with old news.*
- K. *Establish and rely upon fall-back positions.*
- L. *Enigmas have no solution.*
- M. *Alice in Wonderland Logic.*
- N. *Demand complete solutions.*
- O. *Fit the facts to alternate conclusions.*
- P. *Vanish evidence and witnesses.*
- Q. *Change the subject.*
- R. *Emotionalize, Antagonize, and Goad Opponents.*
- S. *Ignore proof presented, demand impossible proofs.*
- T. *False evidence.*
- U. *Call a Grand Jury, Special Prosecutor, or other empowered investigative body.*
- V. *Manufacture a new truth.*
- W. *Create bigger distractions.*
- X. *Silence critics.*
- Y. *Vanish.*

