

One Wall, One Work:

LAWRENCE WEINER

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The newest in the ongoing series, "One Wall, One Work", is Lawrence Weiner's untitled work from 2006.

If one is 'reading' the piece as if it were 'just' a text, the first line states "lo and behold", which is a phrase most commonly used to present a new situation, often with the suggestion that although surprising, the situation could have been predicted. The next 'line' in Weiner's work is the numeric equation of "1+1=2", but done with a sans-serif font so that the numeral one can be read as a capital "I". This is further complicated by the use of the 1/i in the next line, where the ampersand ("&") is used in place of the plus symbol. On first read, one can see a presentation of the numbers aligning it to Roman numerals (I, II, III, etc.). This is also referenced with the use of the ampersand, as the ampersand is a first century AD ligature (when two letters combine to form one symbol) of the letters "e" and "t" (Latin for "and"). However, the ampersand, in proper English, is never used in the way Weiner is using it, so he has conflated, in a way, time, reading, legibility, function, use and comprehension. Everything Weiner presents is straightforward, but perhaps not known or thought of, yet it all has strong poetic potential when explored more deeply.

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