

**RUBBER  
STAMPS  
THEORY  
AND  
PRAXIS**



define artists' rubber-stamps as "rubber-stamps that lack validity in an absolute sense".

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Please notice: a plain rubber-stamp stating "Valid up to the 25th of March" doesn't lack validity on the 26th. It is the other way around: the support - a document, for instance - loses its validity because the rubber-stamp is valid.

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Why would an artist choose, at a given moment to use rubber-stamps as medium? Would this mean that he has small ideas? This is possible. Or is he trying to test his ability? Is he challenging himself? Well, you think you are a great artist, here, make something great with this little rubber-stamp. This is possible as well.

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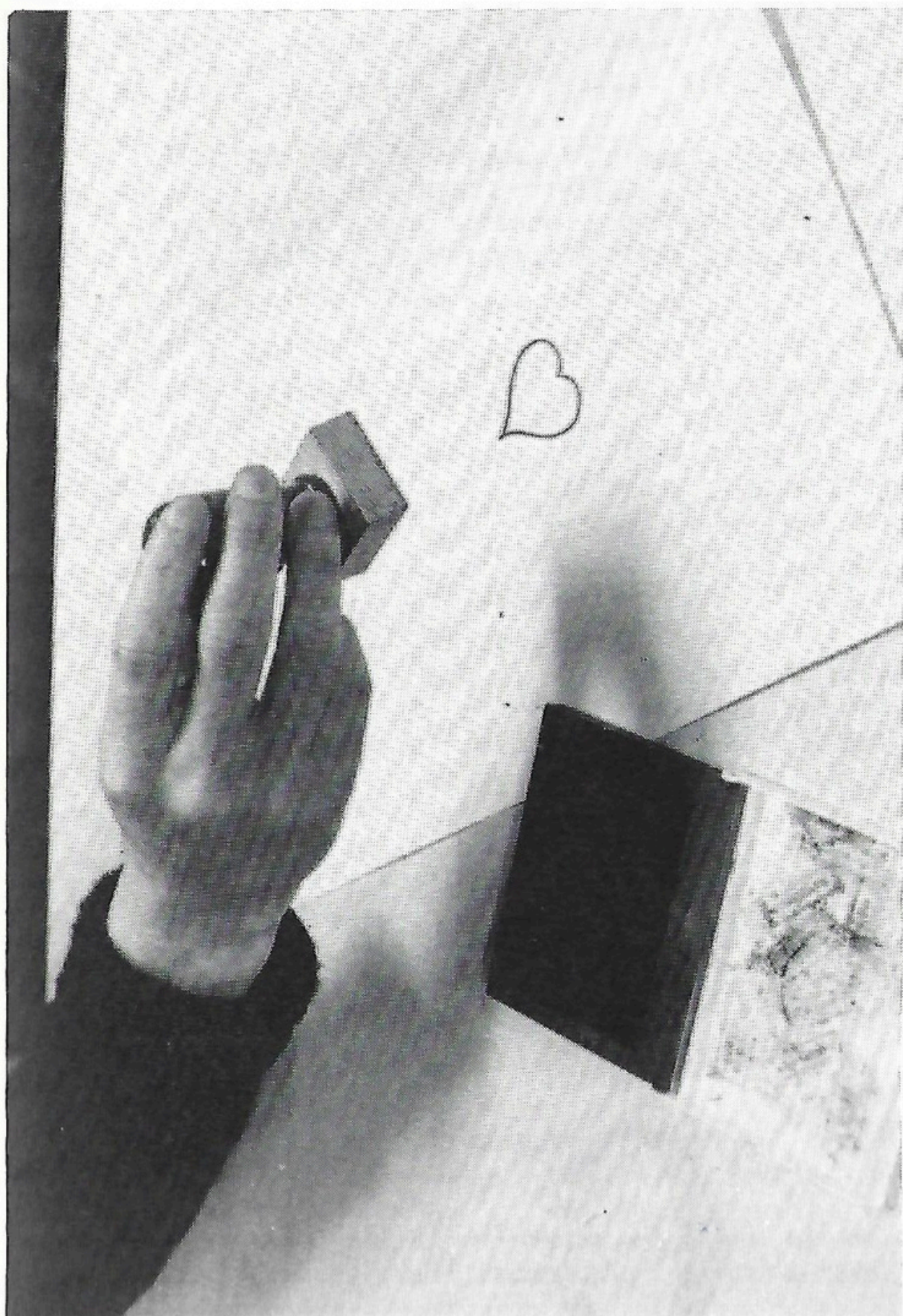
But this is not important. We cannot judge the value of art productions by the artists' motives.

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Rubber-stamps offer possibilities that no other medium offers, because they possess unique characteristics: they are, by definition, intended for reproduction.

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A photographic negative can be reproduced. But the multiple reproduction is inherent neither in the original photograph nor in the negative. Whereas a rubber-stamp exists in order to make several, many, countless prints.



The stamp my hand is holding is not a stamp of a heart.

Of all new media, rubber-stamps are the most anonymous. There is no way to see "the hand of the artist" in a rubber-stamp.

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But we can see the complete image of the artist in the way he uses his rubber-stamps. Like all new media, rubber-stamps turn away from technical skills and concentrates on praxis.

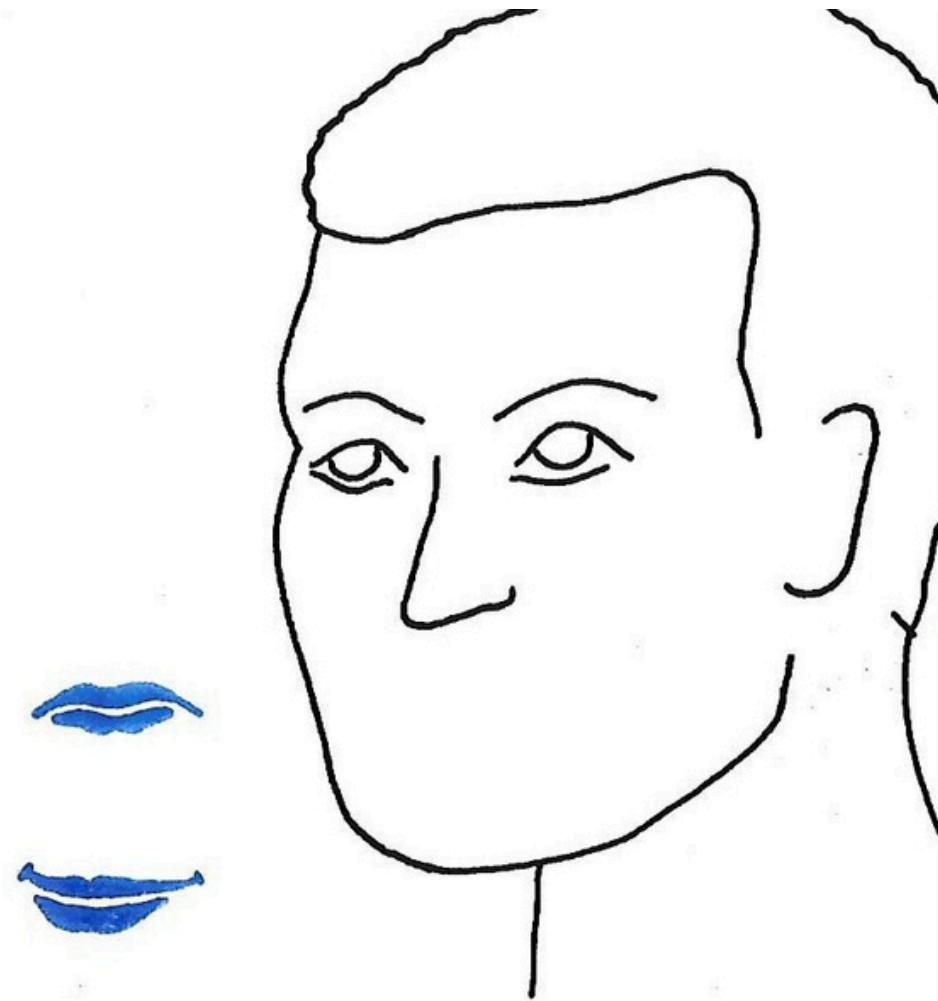
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Whatever an artist wants to say, the making of a rubber-stamp with his message gives him both his message and the possibility to reproduce it. There is, there must be a dialectical relationship between these two things

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Closed

Closed



Every print of a rubber-stamp implies a choice of the artist. He creates not only when he designs his rubber-stamp, but also everytime he makes a print.

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Artists' rubber-stamps can be anything except derivative. Their background (normal rubber-stamps) is too loaded with associations related to our daily life, and not necessarily the most joyful part of it.

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In contrast with other means of reproduction (photography, for instance - rubber-stamps are associated with power). Artists' rubber-stamps reminds us of those old rubber-stamps that actually control and direct our lives.

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