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THE EGO AND THE OUTSIDE

Conditions of social norm are in permanent conflict with personal freedoms. Human history is mostly a history of repression. There are few instances in which states were not only used like fiefdom for the ruling classes but also developed democratic hopes. Now the progress seems to be going more towards a total control and manipulation of people as opposed to a more libertarian direction. Small groups that have power and privileges can dominate and manipulate immense numbers of people. The psychology and technology of communication has become perfectly prepared for this use. Mechanisms have become much more sophisticated and complex. Moral repression, fears and market and power interests together stimulate racialist and nationalistic obsessions and provoke religious fanaticism to the point of mass killing.

Art is based on two sources: the subjectively of the artist's fantasy and imagination and on his impressions of the outside, of the 'objective' world. He is in a permanent 'inside-outside-dilemma' and is predisposed to react sensitively to all pressures coming from the outside. This means that the term 'politics' has for an artist more of a general and philosophical meaning, not in the sense of daily or party politics. The artist is allowed to play with some absurd ideas and create concepts and models instead of making real politics.

From the very beginning of my artistic work in the early 1970s this concept of communication became important for me.

Artist's statement to *Angsthelm-serie (Helmet of Anxiety series)*.

'Macht' (German) means 'to make' and 'power'.



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1, 2
Angsthelm-serie (Helmet of Anxiety series).

3, 4
Angsthelm-serie (Helmet of Anxiety series) - play on word 'Macht'.