

## ON JULIAN SCAFF, FOR EXAMPLE

by **Vito Acconci**

*This text is not ABOUT Julian Scaff's work exactly, but rather sets a context for the extraordinary breadth of his work.*

What do artists want? Some artists do art because they love art. Some artists do art because they love what art was. Some artists do art because they love what art is. Some artists do art because they love what art might become. Some artists do art because they hate art. Some artists do art because they hate what art was. Some artists do art because they hate what art is. Some artists do art because they hate what art might become, unless they do something to stop it. Some artists do art because they doubt art. Some artists do art because they doubt art but shrug their shoulders and do it anyway. Some artists do art because they doubt art and want to do something about it. Some artists do art because they don't know what else to do. Some artists do art because they don't know what to do in art, so they have a fresh start. Some artists do art because they don't want to think. Some artists do art because, from time to time, they don't want to have to think. Some artists do art because they want to think for the very first time. Some artists do art because they want to think harder than they've ever thought before. Some artists do art because they want to channel all their thinking into one activity, separated from the rest of their life. Some artists do art because they can stop thinking when they're not doing art. Some artists do art because, from time to time, they want to think more deeply, more concentratedly, than they normally think. Some artists do art because, from time to time, they want to think more vaguely, but more openly, than they normally think. Some artists do art because they want to be different from everybody else. Some artists do art because they want to get ahead like everybody else. Some artists do art because they want to get ahead of everybody else. Some artists do art because they want to get into their heads. Some artists do art because they want to get out of their bodies. Some artists do art because they want to go out of their minds. Some artists do art because they want to enrich their minds. Some artists do art because they want to do the same thing everyday. Some artists do art because they want to do something different everyday. Some artists do art because they

want as much as they can get. Some artists do art because they'll take anything they can get. Some artists do art because they want the money. Some artists do art because they want their money cleaned by culture. Some artists do art because, though they can be more famous in mass-media fields, they don't want to make the concessions those fields demand. Some artists do art because they can do what they want. Some artists do art because they can fool themselves into thinking they can do what they want. Some artists do art because they don't know what they want. Some artists do art because they want to find what they want. Some artists do art because they want to hide what they want. Some artists do art because they want to be famous. Some artists do art because, though they can be more famous in mass-media fields, they don't want to take the risk. Some artists do art because they want to stay home. Some artists do art because they want to stay in their studios. Some artists do art because they want to leave home. Some artists do art because they want to leave their studios. Some artists do art because they want to be discovered. Some artists do art because they don't want to ever be discovered. Some artists do art because they want to use any medium available yet still do art. Some artists do art because they want to use any medium available while not having to specialize in any medium. Some artists do art because they want to use any medium available while not having to be responsible to the standards of any medium. Some artists do art because they want to be free. Some artists do art because they want everything to be art. Some artists do art because they want to bring everything into art. Some artists do art because they want to be prisoners of art. Some artists do art because they want to be safe within the haven of art. Some artists do art because they want to be free while remaining safe within art. Some artists do art because they want to have a reason for what they do. Some artists do art because they want to have an excuse for what they do. Some artists do art because they want to be serious. Some artists do art because they want not to be serious. Some artists do art because they want to be too serious. Some artists do art because they want to fool other people. Some artists do art because they want to fool themselves. Some artists do art because they want to never grow up. Some artists do art because they want to grow. Some artists do art because they

want to, gradually, eventually, someday, grow into art. Some artists do art because they want to grow out of art.

*Julian Scaff does art for all these reasons.*

What do art-students want? Some art-students go to art-school because they don't know what they want. Some art-students go to art-school because they can find out what they want. Some art-students go to art-school because they will never know what they want. Some art-students go to art-school because they want what artists want. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to learn what artists want. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to believe what artists want. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to enter the art-world. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to work their way up, from the ground up. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to be discovered, so that they don't have to work their way up. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to know where they are. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to know where they came from. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to know where they might go. Some art-students go to art-school because they want art to rub off on them. Some art-students go to art-school because they want camaraderie. Some art-students go to art-school because they want discussion and argument. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to be in a group. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to distinguish themselves from other art-students. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to fuck. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to fuck lesser art-students. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to fuck art-teachers. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to learn what has been done. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to learn what hasn't been done. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to discover what can be done. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to discover what can't be done. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to discover what might be done anyway. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to learn what's in the air. Some art-students go to art-school because they

want to discover what isn't in the air. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to grow into artists. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to grow up into artists. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to decide if they want to be artists. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to test the waters. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to try. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to be able to say: well, at least they tried. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to never have to try again. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to go on to something else. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to have a past. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to have a history. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to change their past. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to have a past to change. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to fit into art-history. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to change art-history. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to fit into art-news. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to change art-news. Some art-students go to art-school because they want to never have to be artists.

*Julian Scaff wants it all.*

What do ex-artists want? Some ex-artists leave art because they want to go back to everyday life. Some ex-artists leave art because they want to go back to everyday life, but with a difference. Some ex-artists leave art because they want to be responsible to everyday life. Some ex-artists leave art because they want to be responsive to everyday life. Some ex-artists leave art because they want to bring art into everyday life. Some ex-artists leave art because they want to change everyday life. Some ex-artists leave art because they don't want to fall back on art. Some ex-artists leave art because they don't want to use art as an excuse. Some ex-artists leave art because they don't want to have an excuse.

*Julian Scaff left art just to come back to it.*