

‘Anatomies in Action’: Artaud’s Written Drawings as Machines of Instant Utility

This essay examines Antonin Artaud’s “written drawings,” produced in the aftermath of his long incarceration and electroshock treatment at Rodez, as a form of embodied resistance and psychic reconstruction. Situating these works within Artaud’s fractured relationship to Surrealism, it traces how his practice evolved beyond automatism and representation toward a gestural philosophy of being. The “written drawings,” combining image, language, and incantation, are read as **machines of instant utility**—acts of thought made visible, in which drawing becomes an exorcism of the clinic and a theatre of the body’s survival.

Engaging with critical readings by Blanchot, Foucault, and Deleuze & Guattari, the essay explores how Artaud’s late work challenges psychiatric and aesthetic taxonomies, reconfiguring art as an alchemical process of unmaking and re-becoming. Through detailed analyses of drawings such as *Being and its Foetuses*, *Couti Anatomy*, and *The Earth’s Bodies*, it argues that Artaud’s practice constitutes a radical poetics of recovery—one that dissolves the boundaries between therapy, performance, and metaphysics.