

The Lexicon — Operational Terms

CHURCH OF CONCEPTUAL ART

The companion to The Glossary, Vol. II (the philosophical genealogy). This is what the operational terms mean.

The Concept – *The Divine Act (§1.1)*. The idea itself, held as the sacred object – the primacy of the idea over matter. The idea cannot be taxed; the Concept has no owner.

The Covenant – *The unseverable condition*. A permanent, binding condition sold with every artifact, passing to all future owners. "The covenant runs with the object. It cannot be undone."

The Mechanism – *The document changes the jurisdiction*. How the Covenant binds: not by touching the object but by a document that alters its standing – baptism as the analogy.

Psychic Real Estate – *The territory CoCA claims*. The mental and spiritual ground a brand occupies; the space between thoughts.

The Readymade – *Context above the object (§1.3.4)*. Duchamp's Fountain (1917), the Ur-Sacrament: placing context above the object is itself the artwork.

Corporate Realism – *The diagnosis*. Modern life has replaced the sacred with branded culture – "every great thinker reduced to a bullet point." CoCA performs this honestly rather than lamenting it.

Congruence, Not Goodness – *The moral stance*. "We are ethical because we do not pretend the fiction is fact. We make the fiction and sign our name to it."

Anti-Anti-Ness – *Build, do not merely negate*. Synthesis over critique. Sic et Non without the medieval anxiety: both are kept; the reader chooses the day.

Perpetual Dissolution – *Dismantle before calcifying*. Take apart your own successful frames before they harden into dogma. "Today's liberating insight is tomorrow's jail of stale contentment."

The Genesis Tranche – *The first release*. Timepieces, garments, literature, each governed by a Covenant. Instruments of voluntary subjugation.

The Critique – *The sword*. Negation as a relic – "it cuts the work from the wall." CoCA holds it, then declines to stop there.

The Cathedral for Art – *The structure itself (§3.2.4)*. The institution as consecrated ground. "The city is no longer needed; the church suffices."

The Chronicle – *The collective memory machine.* The running record of everything the Church does; it worships continuity, not finished work.

The Table of Witness – *The device that records (Law II, §1.2.2).* "Not a tool. An ancestor. A machine for remembering the present tense."

The Frictional Arc – *Promise · Friction · Turning (Law IV).* Every meeting must turn – otherwise it is only people speaking in sequence. CoCA rejects consensus.

The Generational Clause – *For the ones not yet born (Law VI).* "A public meeting is not for the artists present... so that someone in 2083 may whisper: 'They left us coordinates.'"

The Exit – *When the Chronicle stops listening (Law VII).* "The meeting does not end when the people leave... It does not record life. It confirms it."

CoLA – *The local gathering.* The Church of Conceptual Art Assembly – a public meeting run under the seven sacred laws.

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