

"Contract"*

We intend to translate each other's work, to allow ourselves to be suspended in collaboration. Our reality shall be each other's work, assisted by each other's presence. We have no purpose other than to extend, linguistically, the identity of the other. It is a self-validating activity, wholly gratuitous, and will be done without anything more concrete in mind - that is, without the stated intention of publication. We shall begin our mutual indulgence in Berlin, where we are both strangers, and continue when we return to our home cities. The company we keep - with each other - shall be imaginary, given over to the work of imagination.

Berlin - January 13, 1991

* (Work relationship between Mark Strand and Juan Sánchez Peláez as defined by Strand: the first stage of a relationship which continues to mature through correspondence and further face to face contact.)