Max

Herbert Brün

(1990)

X: (screaming) Maiax!!
Y: (behind X) Yes!!
X: (screams) Come here!!
Y: (still behind) I have!!
X: (suddenly dry, but loud) Have—What?!
Y: (suddenly dry, but loud) Come—Here!!
X: (turns slowly all body to Y) Weren’t you there?
Y: (seriously concerned) I was.
X: (no move, no face, just) When?
Y: (still more caringly) When you are right.
X: (puzzled) When am I right?
Y: (cajolingly) When you think that I was there.
X: (rebellious) But you are here! Not there!
Y: (applauding) Right! You see, you’re right.
X: (sincerely) How can I be right and wrong at the same time?
Y: (lecturing but starting a crescendo) You can’t. When you think I was there, you are right. When you think I am here, you are right. Since I, at the same time, was there and am here, you, at the same time, were right and are right, while I was first there and now am here. You simply have to be able to change your mind, and the sloppy language that runs your mind; you have to try to be intelligent, to be trustworthily unreliable; and then you have to use this ability, not to cheat and deceive, but use it rather to liberate process from the bondage of belief, custom, habit, principle, prejudice, fashion, medium, and other mentally popular and violent immutables. The retroactive correction does not lead to apology, confessionals of sins, contrite genuflections, and vengeful hypocrisy; it encourages change of mind, thinking, rethinking, self-reflection, humor, and immense and cheerful respect for audacious inconsistencies when confronting so-called Reality with critical contemplation, and your contemporaries with wonder and grateful disbelief.
X: (screaming) Maiax!!
Y: (surprised) Yes!!
X: (screams) Where are you??
Y: (surprised) Here!!
X: (suddenly dry) You see, Maiax was and is a dog. Who are you? Who were you? Who have you been? Have you ever been a dog?
Y: (loud but cold) Yes and No.
X: (equally arrogantly) Well then: I’m afraid that you are right. At the same time, however, I wish I were, where you are right, wrong.
Y: (triumphantly shaking X’s hand) Yes. Yes! Yes!!! You were, you’ve got it, where I was wrong, right!! Let us go, and tell the world!!