the history of the world

by michael petry
history 1: Aristophanes wrote that the first humans were round double beings each with two faces and sets of genitals, with four arms, and four legs. There were three kinds, men, women, and hermaphrodites that were half male and half female. They offended the gods, and were split in two and banished from each other as punishment, doomed to search out the world for their other half. From this genesis, the gods created us, men who seek men, women who desire women, and men and women who need each other for completion. We are not only ripped from our mother’s womb but our lover’s eternal embrace.
Red represents the female essence and white represents the male essence, therefore a meeting/joining/merging/blurring of the two creates pink. Be that the male with the female, the female with the male, the male within the female or the female within the male. Pink is also that most intimate and sensual of things: the kiss. No matter what the colour of skin, when lips meet and mouths are opened, tongues move only in pink.

Lisa Z. Morgan
history 412294: Einstein tells us that every object is a world line. Life is a path drawn within space-time. Two lovers kiss; two world lines intersect and love finds itself in a neighborhood of world lines. But time itself has fled from Einstein's universe. It has left behind a world without movement, a map without a key. We are unable to locate our sense of being in the now. We can no longer distinguish our past from our future. A sting of a slap, the pain of a bite mark, the blink of an eye, the touch of a hand on the nape of a neck, the stroke of the hair all cry out for time. Love must assemble history out of the fabric of memories and fictions.

Then Heisenberg reminds us that there are only potentialities. The wave function must collapse if, out of countless probabilities, a single actuality is to be made manifest. A hand leaves its impression on the skin. Lips kiss and color fades. Time is born in the encounter. In this fashion we people the past. In this way we imagine the future and draw it into our present. In this way the universe is created.

F. David Peat
history 717: My world began on the twenty eighth of December nineteen sixty four. Gerard A. Goodrow
history 181514: History of the World? As in 'the World's History.' The World doesn't write history. (As far as I can tell, it can't even read.) It's fat and happy and dumb. The World burps, spits, and shifts around trying to find a comfortable spot to rest. I think we can all identify with that. So: What's History to the World? We're the ones so proud to dig the last little bit of lint out of our navels. We collect samples of the Self, then stash them away so some poor sod will find them. We scribble away, chase after dust, inscribe the future in a lover's eyes, try to remember what we meant to say, and curse entropy till we drop. The History of the World is nothing but everything to us. Ron Caldwell
When can I look back?

Kiss me now, there is no time but the now, there is no time but the past, and then there is only the present, make me a present, present yourself to me as a present, present, present...

And so little finding, are you the one, will you be the one for a meeting?

Why can’t I know?

When we were one, I was you and you too were me, we were apart, I have searched the world over to find you, it is the history of the world that I must search, that there is searching in the world.

And when did you stop writing, when the ink dried?

Where will I look?

Where is there to look forward to except death?
The History of The World is dedicated to Togetherness Beyond

An Installation by Michael Petry
Music by Gavin Greenaway and John Powell

Cast
Blue:
Jimmy Gardner, Diana Payne-Myers
Red:
Stav Balla, Esther Tewkesbury
Green:
Jason Bowen, Steven Congreve

Texts: All texts are by Petry unless otherwise stated
Photographs and Video stills are from the installation by Petry
Voice overs:
Jimmy Gardner,
Diana Payne-Myers

Silver Ring:
Manuel Vilhena

Production Assistant:
Steven Barrett

Video Technician:
Phil Davis

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Rice Art Gallery Website
www.rice.edu/ruag

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