I find it defeating that when I attempt to theorize about art, I must draw upon specific artists and artworks as examples. This seems to limit my thinking to jumping from one point of view to another, and the constriction is no less defeating when the point of view happens to be my own.

While it may be something of a fool's task, I am trying with my present work to create objects which merely represent artworks in general - in a similar way that the word "art," as a sign, represents the notion of art in general, without the bias of a particular interpretation.

I have chosen the typical wall-mounted, framed artifact as an object of representation because it seems to offer itself most readily as a symbol for this purpose. My particular task here is to "conventionalize" the features of this type of artifact into a broadly recognizable icon; I am aiming for a symbol which appeals to common sense, and no further.

I am finding that my failures in accomplishing these ends are as revealing about the nature of art as my successes.

Allan McCollum January, 1980