

## Stop searching

If you search the internet with the mean machine, you'll find within 0,35 seconds 224.000.000 results for Adele<sup>1</sup>, 187.000.000 for Justin Bieber<sup>2</sup>, 97.100.000 for James Joyce<sup>3</sup>, 65.200.000 for Simpsons<sup>4</sup>, 21.700.000 for Philip Roth<sup>5</sup>. Pynchon gets 648.000 and Thomas Pynchon a lousy 583.000 hits. The most present Dutch writer at the moment is Grunberg<sup>6</sup> with 720.000 results<sup>7</sup> but probably that is partly caused by his omnipresence on the internet as he works for several media both at home and abroad.

Anyhow

If you have ever heard about Thomas Pynchon you are member of a non-specified minority. This non-specified minority is a subset of a larger minority in relation to the world population. This minority is called readers. The present day<sup>8</sup> world population is close to 7 billion 400 million people of whom 13,7 % is illiterate. Does it mean the literate ones read novels? Probably not. Do they watch porn? Sure. The illiterate do as well.

It's not too risky to estimate that reading books and more specifically novels and even more specifically novels that try to be a little more dense, is a highly intellectual and counter-cultural activity. Reading a novel written by Thomas Pynchon, especially when it is not translated into your native tongue, is an act of masochist counter-cultural subversiveness.....

Anyhow

The chances that you will meet somebody who actually knows about Pynchon and has read, one way or another, at least one of his books are not too big. But if you do, this person can be considered as a mere expert. Something with one-eyed kings.

The chance that an average visual artist will be aware of a writer that is called Thomas Pynchon and is influenced by his views (what the fuck are his views?) or his life as a reclusive<sup>9</sup>.....

I promised myself not to use that word<sup>10</sup> in any text on Pynchon.

Anyhow

I did some research on the issue but I couldn't find any visual artist<sup>11</sup> that was influenced directly by Pynchon or his works. I did find a blog-article<sup>12</sup> though that seems encouraging enough for every

---

1 Female English singer and songwriter who is popular and has a fat ass that functions like a resonance box.

2 Canadian boy-singer who was involved in several fights.

3 Irish cultural refugee early 20th Century who wrote a pastiche of Homer's (who's not a Simpson) Odyssey that's considered to be a little bit better than Gravity's Rainbow.

4 Based on true events animated sitcom that depicts Homer (not to be confused with the Greek poet) and his family.

5 Jewish-American novelist who keeps chasing girls despite prostate problems.

6 Loved his mother when she was dying.

7 Results can differ on a daily basis.

8 Check out <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>

9 David Whelan convincingly stated in an article on Vice.com that a writer (or a visual artist for that matter) of whom we know almost everything relevant but is reluctant to appear in public or give interviews can't be regarded as reclusive necessarily.

10 Pynchon in a phone call to CNN (5 June 1997): My belief is that 'recluse' is a code word generated by journalists meaning "doesn't like to talk to reporters".

11 Finally I did. Zak Smith (Syracuse, NY, July 16 1976) made a drawing of every page of Gravity's Rainbow in 2006.

12 Use the mean machine, type Pynchon Visual Artist and you'll get there.

contemporary artist to give it a try to get as close as you can get to the complexity Pynchon offers us in his novels. But then again: doesn't it prove that every picture tells you less than thousand words can?

Moreover: critics and art-historians categorize and look for influences. Artists make art. And sometimes they help critics and historians to find their way. The wrong way and the right way. But they have to decide themselves which turn to take.

Anyhow

If you quote a quote that is a quote you get into quoting. Lots of people quoting<sup>13</sup> believe they have a full understanding of present day events. If you are not aware you are quoting you might even think that you are part of some kind of counter-culture. Forget it. You are tangled up in deception<sup>14</sup>.

Anyhow

Performing Pynchon:

Set up an Adam<sup>15</sup> chair. Next to the chair a Jablochkov<sup>16</sup> lamp and a Baker side-table<sup>17</sup>. Light the floor-lamp, take a seat and start reading *Gravity's Rainbow* out loud during opening hours of the gallery where the performance is executed. Preferably located at Prinsengracht 785 in Amsterdam, Netherlands<sup>18</sup>.

If you can't find the proper props go to Ikea<sup>19</sup>, buy a chair, a floor-lamp and a side-table and start reading *Bleeding Edge* in any gallery that invites you to perform something that has to do with Thomas Pynchon. Stream the performance on the internet. Tom might give it a look. Repeat reading when the exhibition is not over yet.

Anyhow

On his way to set off for 'In search of the miraculous'<sup>20</sup> Bas Jan Ader<sup>21</sup> drove on Highway 90 and crossed in between the towns of Holyoke and Springfield, Massachusetts towing his little boat Ocean Wave to Cape Cod. The first town named after the spouse of Mary Pynchon who was the sister of William Pynchon, the founder of Springfield.

William Pynchon wrote a controversial book about Calvinistic puritanism in 1649 called *The Meritorious Price of Our Redemption*. It was regarded as a heretical work<sup>22</sup> and, as far as we know, the first-ever book that was publicly banned in what became the United States of America.

---

13 Quoting without checking is stupid. Quoting intelligent looks like you have made the quote up yourself. The result of this is you are considered an intellectual and might be invited to talk shows.

14 Thomas Pynchon is a retired surveyor who rents out his name to Klaas Koetje who prefers to be reclusive.

15 Chair designed by James and Robert Adam, 18th Century architects designing furniture as well. Pick one if you can find and afford one.

16 Electric carbon arc lamp. To be replaced on average every hundred hours.

17 Date of manufacture 1960. Dimensions: 24 in. H x 21.75 in. W x 26 in. D / 61 cm H x 55 cm W x 66 cm D

18 After visiting the performance go to restaurant D'Vijff Vlieghe and wait for Brenda. Try Dutch Fowl.

19 Mainstream counter-culture furniture and household stuff multi-national warehouse founded by Ingvar Kamprad (see note 24)

20 A book by Russian philosopher P. D. Ouspensky on the esoteric teachings of a guy called Gurdjieff that apparently inspired Ader.

21 Disappeared Dutch artist working with gravity. Might have seen a rainbow on his trip from Falmouth, MA to Falmouth, UK and survive this enlightening experience. Shit happens. He set sea from Chatham, MA.

22 Copies of the book were burned on Boston Common by a religious conservative mob called the Trumpyterians. Only four copies were saved.

Anyhow

I live in an indefinite integral of  $1/\text{cabin} = \log(\text{cabin}) + C$  in a country where in 1577 the Tristero System was invented and the pious founding fathers of South Africa took off with their insatiable horny daughters for the Cape where they met two weird surveyor guys from a kingdom that was defeated again and again by the Dutch, and these girls were clever enough to set eyes on the stars and fuck them for Gods eyes only because they were aware of the historical possibility that in centuries to come the low lands had to be liberated by a deranged squad of English and American lunatics growing bananas and considering the risks of being hit by V-2's that were launched from The Hague where at present only a small number of 100 something houseboats float in the canals despite the threat of flooding of this nederland<sup>23</sup> by water from the sea, water from the rivers and water from the sky as a result of a global conspiracy of sceptics who know that climate change is happening but by denying this they rule the world within years and change any calendar to Windows 12 and prepare and test their personal evacuation to outer space by shooting volunteers and ignorant rich people into oblivion so the next<sup>24</sup> Thomas Pynchon novel will be dealing with this world-wide coalition and is called *Gates of Secretion*<sup>25</sup>.

And by the way

I've found a recent black and white photograph of Thomas Pynchon en profile. He seems to be in good health. Not bold, light-grey hair and a little whitish beard and moustache. He looks thoughtfully but in good mood, his nose resting on his thumbs sticking out of his folded hands. His arms upright on a table or a bar<sup>26</sup>.

Apparently he has two siblings of whom we don't know names or gender<sup>27</sup>. His distant cousin<sup>28</sup> Fay Wray<sup>29</sup> died in 2004.

Cut the crap. Read (the) books<sup>30</sup>.

Klaas Koetje<sup>31</sup>, January 2016<sup>32</sup>

---

23 Nederland is a settlement in the Rocky Mountains, close to Boulder, CO.

24 Since the internet is a huge source of (dis)information (and porn) it takes less time to do research in libraries and books so you can notice a speeding up since early this century and the next novel will be published soon.

25 With the likely appearances of characters like Bill (and Melinda) Gates, Elon Musk, Richard Branson, Laurene Powell Jobs, Vladimir Putin, Charlene de Carvalho, the Koch Brothers, Ma Yun, Rupert Murdoch, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Vyacheslav Volodin, Heleen Mees, Xi Jinping, Willem Buitter, Carlos Slim, House of Orange, House of Waltons, House of Windsor etc. etc. etc. They team up once a year at the Bilderberg Conference. Check for a start: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilderberg\\_Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilderberg_Group).

26 Poet Gary Snyder was also born on the 8th of May but is 7 years older and looks the same according to <http://www.geni.com/people/Thomas-Pynchon/>

27 But they might be known as Judith and John.

28 Last joint ancestors Marie Pynchon (ca. 1732) and Benjamin Colton jr. (1-2-1722).

29 The scared girl in King Kong's hand (motion picture from 1933) is referred to in Gravity's Rainbow.

30 A book is an analogue set of usually printed sheets of paper that are inside a cover (mostly card-board) that contains information you can read for pleasure or to be informed or both and is written by an author (f/m).

31 Writer and visual artist from Groningen, Netherlands. Date and place of birth traceable.

32 According to Gregorian calendar. Depending on your territory or beliefs: 1395, 2008, 5776, 4713 or 1437.