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**Confronting The Museum:
The Function Of Parody In The Work Of Illya Kabakov and
Marcel Broodthaers.**

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A research report submitted to the Faculty of Arts, University of the
Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
degree of Master of Fine Arts by Dissertation.

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Abstract

This study investigates the ways in which museums are understood as texts, and how artists challenge those assumptions within their work. The extent to which parody, a central tenet of post- modern art, can be used as an effective means to challenge the hegemony of the art museum, is investigated through an analyses of artworks by Illya Kabakov and Marcel Broodthaers. The first part of the study interrogates the hegemonic function of museums, through a discussion of the central tenets of museological discourse, in order to contextualise the discussion of the artworks in question. The second part of this study includes an analysis of specific artworks by Illya Kabakov and Marcel Broodthaers, detailing the ways in which these artists parody aspects of museum practice. The concluding chapter interrogates my own artistic production in relation to this research.

Declaration

I declare that this research report is my own unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Master of Fine Arts by dissertation in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination in any other university.

_____ day of _____ 2005.

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The discourse of the museum is a politically loaded discourse and the exhibition is an utterance within that discourse [Bal, 1996: 214].