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	MoMA Exhs.	1828. 415

## The Museum of Modern Art

Department of Painting  
and Sculpture

Mr. Daniel Filipacchi  
63, Champs Elysée  
Paris 75008  
France

June 26, 1997

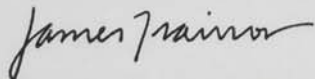
Dear Mr. Filipacchi,

I am contacting you on behalf of Kynaston McShine, Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture, for whom I am currently conducting research for an upcoming exhibition. As part of this research we would like to locate a work by Joseph Cornell entitled Metaphysique d'emphemera: Novalis, 1941, which was reproduced in the exhibition catalogue for the Joseph Cornell show at Galerie 1900-2000 in Paris in 1989. I have spoken with David Fikiss at Galerie 1900-2000, who unfortunately has no record of this work as it was not actually shown in the exhibition. He thought, however, that you might be able to help us in locating the work.

I include here a photocopy of the piece taken from page 28 of the exhibition catalogue.

I thank you in advance for your help in this request, and please feel free to contact me for any reason at the numbers above.

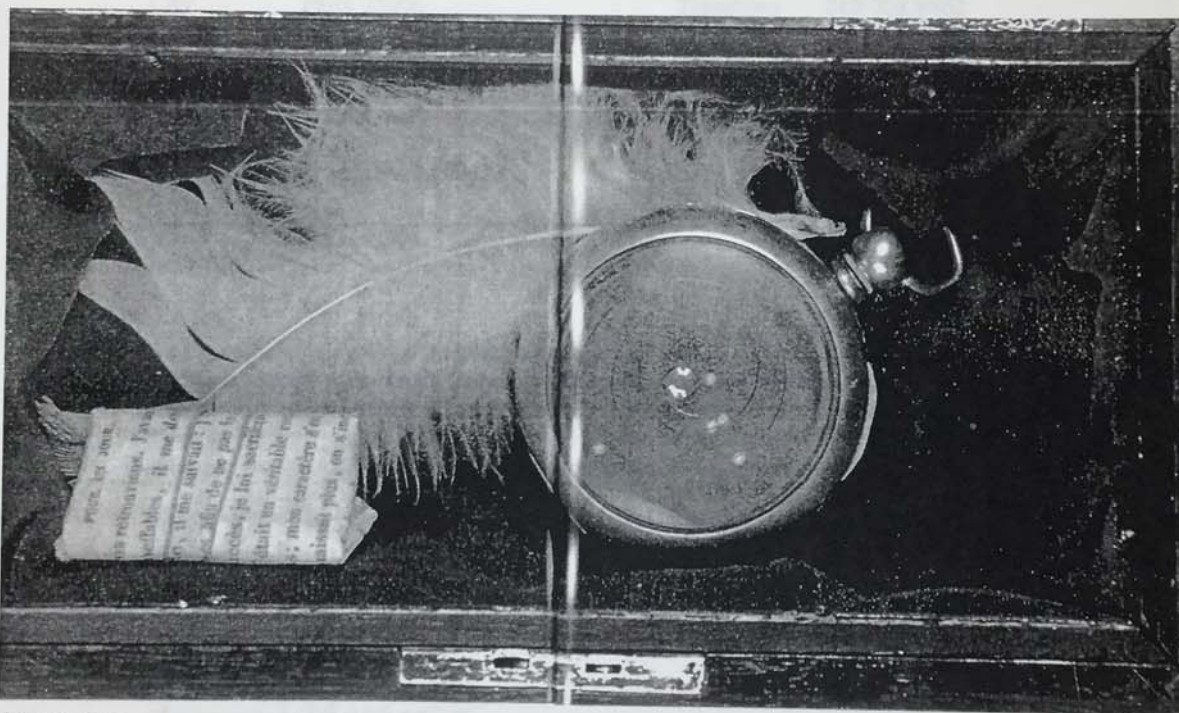
Sincerely,



James Trainor  
Department of Painting and Sculpture

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Joseph CORNELL American, 1903 - 1972.  
METAPHYSIQUE D'EPHEMERA: NOVALIS 1941  
Construction  
4 1/2 x 8 x 2 3/4" (11.5 x 20.5 x 7 cm)



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## The Museum of Modern Art

# FAX



To Galerie 1900-2000 Date June 24, 1997  
Address 8, rue Bonaparte Sender James Trainor  
City Paris 75006 Telephone 212 708.9862  
Country FRANCE Fax 212 708.9884  
Fax No. 1.4634.7452 Department Painting and Sculpture  
Cover page plus 1 additional page(s)

Dear Sir,

As I mentioned to you on the telephone, I am currently conducting research for Kynaston McShine, Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture, for a possible future exhibition. As I also mentioned, we would like to locate the Joseph Cornell work entitled Metaphysique d'ephemera: Novalis, 1941, that was exhibited at your gallery in 1989. I include here a photocopy of the specific piece, taken from page 28 of the catalogue.

I thank you in advance for your help, and please feel free to contact me for any reason at the numbers above.

Sincerely,

James Trainor  
Department of Painting and Sculpture

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27-06-1997 16:28 DE GALERIE 1900-2000 A 0012127089884 P.01

10:1

212 708 9884

22:41 24-06-1997

## The Museum of Modern Art

### FAX

To: Galerie 1900-2000 Date: June 24, 1997  
 Address: 8, rue Bonaparte Sender: James Trainor  
 City: Paris 75006 Telephone: 212 708.9862  
 Country: FRANCE Fax: 212 708.9884  
 Fax No.: 1.4634.7452 Department: Painting and Sculpture

Cover page plus 1 additional page(s)

Dear Sir,

As I mentioned to you on the telephone, I am currently conducting research for Kynaston McShine, Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture, for a possible future exhibition. As I also mentioned, we would like to locate the Joseph Cornell work entitled Metaphysique d'emphemera: Novalis, 1941, that was exhibited at your gallery in 1989. I include here a photocopy of the specific piece, taken from page 28 of the catalogue.

I thank you in advance for your help, and please feel free to contact me for any reason at the numbers above.

Sincerely,

*James Trainor*

James Trainor  
 Department of Painting and Sculpture

UNFORTUNATELY THIS  
 PIECE WAS NOT IN  
 OUR EXHIBITION BUT ONLY  
 IN THE CATALOGUE, YOU  
 SHOULD TRY WITH GALLERIE  
 DANIEL JARENNE IN SWITZERLAND  
 OR WITH DANIEL FILIPACCI IN PARIS  
 Yours Sincerely  
*Daniel Filipacci*

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	MoMA Exhs.	1828. 415

## The Museum of Modern Art

# FAX

To	Galerie Daniel Varenne	Date	June 27, 1997
Address	8, rue Toepffer	Sender	James Trainor
City	Genève 1206	Telephone	212 708.9862
Country	SWITZERLAND	Fax	212 708.9884
Fax No.	22.789.1688	Department	Painting and Sculpture

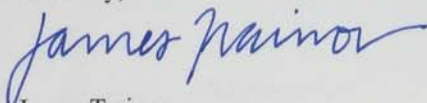
Cover page plus 0 additional page(s)

Dear Daniel Varenne,

I am contacting you on behalf of Kynaston McShine, Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture, for whom I am currently conducting research for a future exhibition. As part of this research we would like to locate a work by Joseph Cornell entitled Metaphysique d'ephemera: Novalis, 1941, which was reproduced in the exhibition catalogue for the Joseph Cornell show at Galerie 1900-2000 in Paris in 1989. I have spoken with David Fikiss at Galerie 1900-2000, who unfortunately has no record of this work as it was not actually shown in the exhibition. He thought, however, that you might be able to help us locate the work.

I include here a photocopy of the piece taken from page 28 of the exhibition catalogue. I thank you in advance for your help in this request, and please feel free to contact me for any reason at the numbers above.

Sincerely,

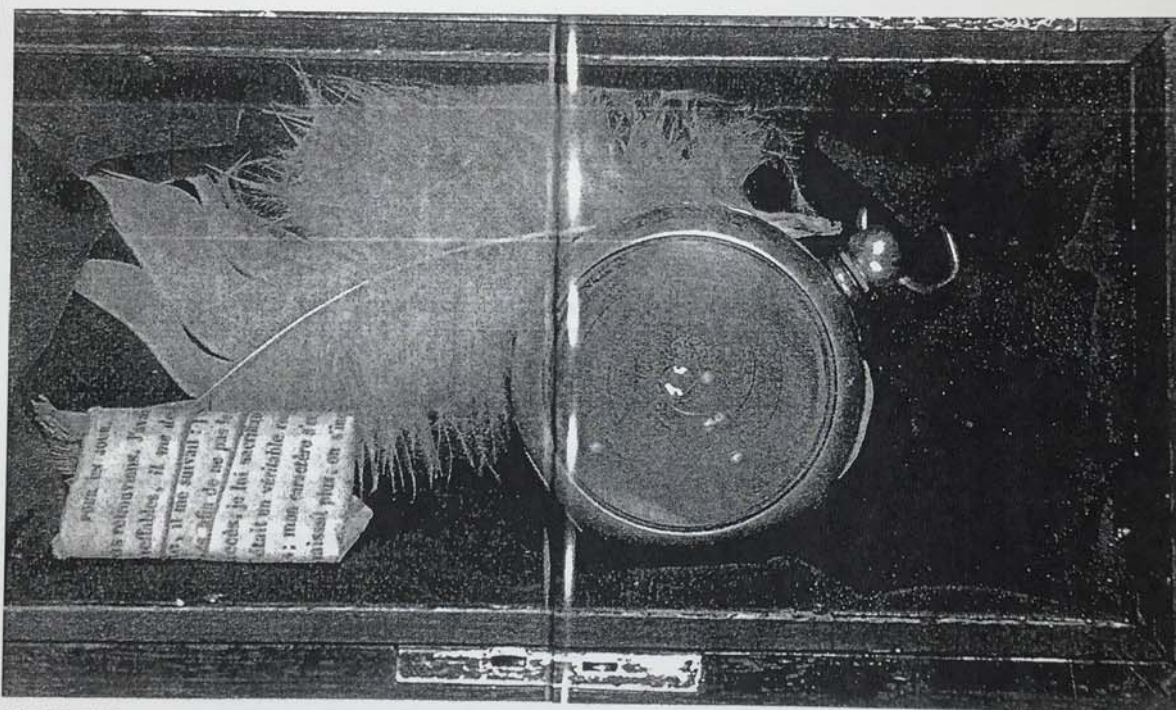


James Trainor  
Department of Painting and Sculpture



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Joseph CORNELL American, 1903 - 1972.  
METAPHYSIQUE D'EPHEMERA: NOVALIS 1941  
Construction  
4 1/2 x 8 x 2 3/4" (11.5 x 20.5 x 7 cm)

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11 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10019. USA  
Tel: 212.708.9649 Fax: 212.708.9884 EMAIL: james\_trainor@moma.org

## The Museum of Modern Art

# Fax

**To:** Maureen Bray  
C&M Arts

**From:** James Trainor  
Department of Painting and Sculpture

---

**Fax:** 861.78508

**Pages:** 1

---

**Phone:** 861.0020

**Date:** February 24, 1998

---

**Re:** Cornell

**CC:**

---

☐ Urgent    ☐ For Review    ☐ Please Comment    ☐ Please Reply    ☐ Please Recycle

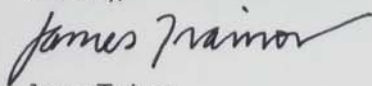
Dear Ms. Bray,

Below are the three Joseph Cornell titles that I am trying to locate. Information on them is a bit sketchy, but they all date from 1946 or before.

- Metaphysique d'Ephemera
- Malibran (A Sailor's Star for Maria Felicia)
- Malibran Glasses

Thank you in advance for your help. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the numbers above.

Sincerely,



James Trainor

Department of Painting and Sculpture



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	MoMA Exhs.	1828. 415

MoMA PAINT.&SCULPTURE

ID:212-708-9884

FEB 24'98 11:28

## TRANSMIT CONFIRMATION REPORT

NO. : 003  
RECEIVER : G3  
TRANSMITTER : MoMA PAINT.&SCULPTURE  
DATE : FEB 24'98 11:29  
DURATION : 00'32  
MODE : STD  
PAGES : 01  
RESULT : OK

# Fax

To: Mr. Michael Day From: James Towner  
Subject: Expertise of Painting and Sculpture  
Page: 2 of 2  
Phone: 212 708 1234 Fax: 212 708 1234  
Email: j.towner@moa.org  
Re: Joseph Cornell  
Fax  
☐ Report ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Reply

Dear Michael,

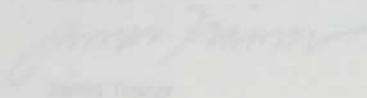
Attached please find a photograph of the Cornell work which has been ultimately titled:

- \* Untitled (for the Synthetic Color Grids)
- \* Untitled (Color Grids in La Solfan)
- \* Untitled (Message in the Rhythmic Field)

Could you confirm that this work is in the estate, and its current title, date, and dimensions?

Many thanks again for your help!

Sincerely,



James Towner

Department of Painting and Sculpture

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	MoMA Exhs.	1828. 415

11 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10019. USA  
Tel: 212.708.9862 Fax: 212.708.9884 EMAIL: james\_trainor@moma.org

## The Museum of Modern Art

# Fax

**To:** Ms. Maureen Bray

**From:** James Trainor

Department of Painting and Sculpture

**Fax:** 861 7858

**Pages:** 2

**Phone:**

**Date:** February 27, 1998

**Re:** Joseph Cornell

**CC:**

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

Dear Maureen,

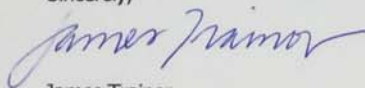
Attached please find a photocopy of the Cornell work which has been alternately titled:

- Untitled (For the Sylphide Lucile Grah)
- Untitled (Lucile Grah as La Sylphide)
- Untitled (Homage to the Romantic Ballet)

Could you confirm that this work is in the estate, and its correct title, date, and dimensions?

Many thanks again for your help!

Sincerely,



James Trainor

Department of Painting and Sculpture

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	MoMA Exhs.	1828. 415

FEB-28-1998 12:25

C&M ARTS

212 861 7858 P.01

## C & M Arts

### FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: Mr. James Trainor

FAX #: 708-9884

FROM: Maureen Bray

DATE: February 28, 1998

No. of Pages including this page: 1

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Re: Cornell, Untitled (for the Sylphide Lucile Grah, et al)

Dear James,

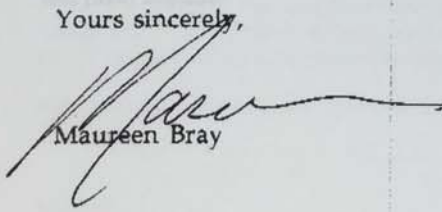
Following are the details on the whereabouts of the above work:

The work belongs to a collector named Mr. Menno Meijyes. The lady who works for him is Sara Nickles - her address:

2625 Alcatraz Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94705  
(415) 441-4100  
fax (415) 441-0348

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

  
Maureen Bray



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Joseph CORNELL:

- Untitled (For the Sylphide Lucile Grahn)
- Untitled (Lucile Grahn as La Sylphide)
- Untitled (Homage to the Romantic Ballet)

The work probably belongs to Mr. Menno Mejjes, and is on consignment at Pace-Wildenstein Gallery, Beverly Hills.

The person who works for him is:

Sara Nickles

2625 Alcatraz Ave

Berkeley, CA 94705

(415) 441.4100

fax (415) 441.0348

Tracy Lew, Corcoran Gallery:

(310) 966.1010

Pace Gallery, Beverly Hills:

Tel: (310) 205.5522

fax: (310) 205.5527

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11 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10019, USA  
Tel: 212.708.9862 Fax: 212.708.9884 EMAIL: james\_trainor@moma.org

**The Museum of Modern Art**

**FAXED**

**Fax**

**To:** Sara Nickles

**From:** James Trainor

Department of Painting and Sculpture

**Fax:** (415) 441.0348

**Pages:** 2

**Phone:**

**Date:** March 2, 1998

**Re:** Joseph Cornell

**CC:**

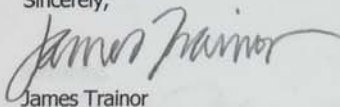
☐ **Urgent**   ☐ **For Review**   ☐ **Please Comment**   ☐ **Please Reply**   ☐ **Please Recycle**

Dear Sara Nickles,

I am writing to you on behalf of Kynaston McShine, Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture, for whom I am organizing research for an upcoming exhibition. As part of this research, I would like to confirm that with you that the Joseph Cornell work, **Untitled (For the Sylphide Lucile Grahn, et al)**, c. 1945, is presently in the collection of Mr. Menno Meijjes. Attached please find a photocopy of this Cornell work which has been variously titled and dated. Could you confirm that this work is indeed in Mr. Meijjes collection, and its correct title, date, and dimensions?

Many thanks for your help, and do not hesitate to contact me at the numbers above for any reason.

Sincerely,

  
James Trainor

Department of Painting and Sculpture

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	MoMA Exhs.	1828. 415

11 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10019. USA  
Tel: 212.708.9862 Fax: 212.708.9884 EMAIL: james\_trainor@moma.org

## The Museum of Modern Art

# Fax

**To:** Ms. Maureen Bray **From:** James Trainor  
Department of Painting and Sculpture

---

**Fax:** 861 7858 **Pages:** 2

---

**Phone:** **Date:** March 3, 1998

---

**Re:** Joseph Cornell **CC:**

---

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

Dear Maureen,

Thank you for your fax of February 28. Unfortunately, the Cornell work that we are searching for, **Untitled (For the Sylphide Lucile Grah)**, c. 1940-42, is not the same work as the one owned by Mr. Menno Meijjes, San Francisco. After conferring with Sara Nickles, who works for him, and with Pace-Wildenstein in Los Angeles, where the work is consigned, we determined that his is a work with a similar title, but quite different visually. Again, the work we are trying to locate is illustrated in the Kynaston McShine exhibition catalogue, Joseph Cornell, NY: MoMA, 1980, Ill. 91, and in the exhibition catalogue, Joseph Cornell and the Ballet, published by Castelli, Feigen, Corcoran, 1983, p.45, ill. 24. In both catalogues it is referred to as being owned by the estate at that time.

I enclose here a photocopy, and thank you in advance for your continued assistance in helping us locate this elusive work.

Sincerely,



James Trainor

Department of Painting and Sculpture



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Mar-06-98 04:49P

310 966 1020

P.01

*Lily.*

James Corcoran Gallery  
11418 Missouri Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90025  
Telephone (310) 966-1010 Facsimile (310) 966-1020

6 March 1998

To: Mr. James Trainor  
Department of Painting & Sculpture  
Museum of Modern Art

From: James Corcoran

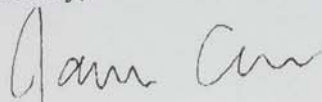
Re: Joseph Cornell  
Untitled (For the Sylphide Lucile Grahm)

Pages: 2 Total

Dear Mr. Trainor,

This particular box was probably sold by Castelli, Feigen & Corcoran in the 1980's and Richard L. Feigen & Company has the records. Their telephone number is (212) 628-0700 and facsimile (212) 249-4574.

Sincerely,

  
James Corcoran