

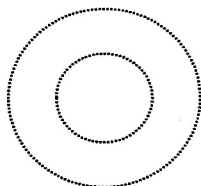
Stamp of self-recognition.
To be designed.

Stamp of Guarantee,
including the signature
of Gitte Weise.
To be designed.

An Absolute Guarantee

This parchment is offered as proof of its own self-assurance, and is cross-guaranteed in such a way that it should be impossible for the owner to be unaware of the secureness of its promise. In order to provide absolute surety to the potential buyer, the seal below refers to the verity of the guarantee while the stamp above left proves itself as official recognition of its own existence as a stamp recognising itself in the context of this parchment of guarantee. The said stamp has been made especially for this document. Through its self-realisation as a stamp of approval it mirrors the self-recognition of the document as a whole. No part of this self-assured system of references between official acknowledgements is extraneous to the process of recognition, each part adding a valuable level of security. You are therefore, the bearer of a completely verified and genuine statement of guarantee, which guarantees itself as such to an extent that leaves no room for doubt.

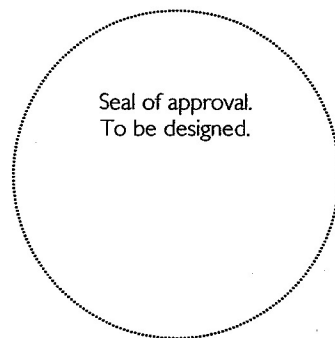
Official stamp of the artist.
To be designed.



Signature of Edward Wright

Signature of witness (justice of the peace)

Seal of approval.
To be designed.



Mock-up of the proposed parchment

AN ABSOLUTE GUARANTEE

The Absolute Guarantee, a parchment produced in an edition of 20, is a self-referential system of certification. It guarantees itself in as thorough and complicated manner as possible without risking overcrowding and inelegance. Existing for its own sake without consequences or bearing on the concerns of the real world, it is entirely contained within its system of cross-guarantees save for the verifying signatures of real people. The project is in part a response to the hysterical pursuit of certainty contrived by certain Western governments, and delight in the creation of amusing but essentially useless idea cycles.

To launch the project, an invitation will be sent with the gallery's regular mail-out. While the project does not require gallery space, it would be launched alongside an opening, though not necessarily at the same time as the Shallow Painters. The parchments will be available from the gallery office as of launch date, and until either sold-out or the gallery sees fit to discontinue. One will be framed and on display in the office. This way the project can run without impinging upon the exhibition space, but still be visible to those who enquire after the work. I propose that a fee be negotiated for the cost of invitations and mailing. The gallery's standard commission might apply to the sale of the work.

The front of the invitation might simply read: AN ABSOLUTE GUARANTEE

The back: "You are invited to acknowledge a self-referential system of guarantee.

As of (day/month/2004) Edward Wright's parchments titled "An Absolute Guarantee" will be available from the gallery office." (Then the usual details regarding the gallery hours etc.)

THE TEXT ON THE PARCHMENT

"An Absolute Guarantee. This parchment is offered as proof of its own self-assurance, and is cross-guaranteed in such a way that it should be impossible for the owner to be unaware of the secureness of its promise. In order to provide absolute surety to the potential buyer, the seal below refers to the verity of the guarantee while the stamp above left proves itself as official recognition of its own existence as a stamp recognising itself in the context of this parchment of guarantee. The said stamp has been made especially for this document. Through its self-realisation as a stamp of approval it mirrors the self-recognition of the document as a whole. No part of this self-assured system of references between official acknowledgements is extraneous to the process of recognition, each part adding a valuable level of security. You are therefore, the bearer of a completely verified and genuine statement of guarantee, which guarantees itself as such to an extent that leaves no room for doubt."

OTHER DETAILS

A valid parchment will bear three stamps, three signatures and one seal.

SEAL: The seal approves the artist's act of creation and authenticates the guarantee. It reads: *Seal of Approval for the Guarantee. Official Recognition.*

STAMP (TOP LEFT): This stamp exists to recognise itself a stamp recognising itself, but only within the context of the parchment. Used anywhere else it would be void. It reads: *This parchment is void if not stamped with this stamp of self-recognition. In recognising itself within the context of the parchment, this stamp proves the parchment to be guaranteed to the level it states.*

STAMP (TOP RIGHT): This stamp guarantees that the seal was placed in the presence of the witness (Gitte Weise). It reads: *The sealing of this particular Guarantee was sighted by ____ on ____.* Authentic Seal.

STAMP (BOTTOM LEFT): Official stamp of the artist. By placing this stamp on the parchment, the artist attests to the indisputable guarantee, and authenticates the other stamps as genuine and correct.

It reads: *Official stamp of Edward Wright. Parchment and all stamps are genuine and in good order.*

SIGNATURES: Edward Wright, Gitte Weise, and a Justice of the Peace.