IDS-RNI0388 | NAN-RDG000340

Nanopublication — A ritual that fixes the constraint and leaves the promise empty — Public Trust grips Pre-Conception, not accountability

by Arnaud Quercy

The line sits between the designed ritual and its content: P30/P28/P17 grip the structure that leaves the promise's wording open to the participant, cleanly and without strain; but the piece's point — keeping versus breaking a promise over time — is a question of fidelity-after-the-fact that none of these propositions, nor P31's responsibility-for-conditions, were built to track. Settling whether the lens could reach further would require a proposition about longitudinal accountability of the receiver's own output, which the framework does not currently have.

CONTEXT

Thin page — the source itself is thin (teaser, notice, paywalled preamble). Distinct from truncation: nothing was cut by the pipeline.

WHAT THE SOURCE SAYS [1]

Paul Ramírez Jonas's 'Public Trust' invites strangers in public squares to sit together, make a promise, swear on it, see it displayed on a marquee, and sign a one-of-a-kind contract they keep. Personal vows ('I promise to disagree better') sit beside headlines reporting broken promises by politicians, corporations, and weather forecasters. First staged in Boston in 2016 and restaged in Toronto a decade later during a municipal election, the piece is offered by its authors as a way of asking why keeping one's word, and participating at all, feels newly urgent.

WHERE THE LENS GRIPS

The piece's architecture matches P30 cleanly: Ramírez Jonas pre-conceives the conditions of the exchange — stranger pairing, oath, marquee display, contract-as-object — but does not pre-determine what any given promise says. The content ('disagree better,' a vow to family, self-improvement) belongs entirely to the participant; the artist supplies gaps and a structure, not an outcome. P28's game reading also grips: the artist designs the board and pieces (bench, stranger, oath, marquee) and releases; the receiver plays, and the promise is the score. P17 grips as well — hundreds of vows are hundreds of distinct, equally legitimate productions from the same designed ritual, not variations ranked by fidelity to an authorial intent.

WHERE IT BREAKS

The article's actual stake — whether the promise, once made, is subsequently *kept* — sits outside what any of these propositions address. P31 names the emitter responsible for the conditions of a dangerous game, not for whether the receiver's downstream conduct honors the content produced; the framework has no instrument for verifying fidelity to a promise over time, only for the legitimacy of the act of producing it. The piece's title and its juxtaposition with politicians' broken promises make accountability-over-time the point; the lens is silent on that axis, not because it fails, but because tracking kept-versus-broken content was never what diffraction, ricochet, or ethical-center vocabulary was built to measure.

PROPOSITIONAL GRID [2]

Read this grid. “Not evaluated” does **not** mean the source has nothing to say about that proposition. It means **the reading did not instruct it**. That is not a result, and it counts in no denominator. A silence, by contrast, is a finding: the reading touched the proposition without concluding, or noted its absence itself.

Evaluated

proposition		audit status	relational verdict
P17	Multiplication of Creation	not audited	evidence-for
P28	The Game Principle	not audited	evidence-for
P30	Pre-Conception, Not Pre-Determination	not audited	evidence-for
P31	Ethical Center	not audited	open-question

Not evaluated (33) — P1, P2, P3, P3a, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P14a, P14b, P15, P16, P16a, P18, P18a, P19, P19a, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P29

Overall verdict: Bounded — taxonomy of the August 2026 pass, predating the move to relational verdicts. Kept as metadata: the gap between the two forms is data, not residue. This reading's judgement is in the grid above.

Reading of 2026-11-04 · model claude-sonnet-5 · source 3,775 chars · 2 attempt(s)

REFERENCES

[1] As Politicians Break Promises, This Public Artwork Keeps Them. Hyperallergic, 2026-11-04. https://hyperallergic.com/as-politicians-break-promises-this-public-artwork-keeps-them/

[2] Quercy, A. (2026). The 31 Propositions of Ideamorphism. https://ideamorphism.org/en/publications/2026/03/the-31-propositions-of-ideamorphism.html

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	boundary reading
Voice	third person analysis
Epistemic status	bounded grip
Methodology	Boundary-finding lens applied to one source, model claude-sonnet-5, 2 attempt(s), traceability check passed.

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

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