

Robin Parsons

excerpt from MAHONING EKPHRASIS HOMAGE TO FRANZ KLINE

1973

A boy stands in the museum.

There is only one painting and two colors to paint with;
broad BOLD black brushstrokes
bisect intersection of black pigment on white.
Black swaths ladder and rail the canvas
double back girdled geometries
of dark

invade

light, subdue canvas

mass against mass push-pull
the

explosive!!

statement.

1949

Kline stands against a wall
gaunt face, hair akimbo
shirt sleeves torn off,
his narrow slatted eyes avoid,
glance left at next blank canvas.

From that Opticon day, Kline;
a total painting conversion,
fast drying enamel, canvas as large as walls
white background asserts against black, The Actor...
painting over black with white
painting over white with black