

---

# The Origin of Worms' Altar: Make Amends

---

The artwork *Worms' Altar: Make Amends* was created in 2022 for the planned London exhibition "**Enigmatic Variations**", curated by Dr. Megakles Rogakos. Although the exhibition was ultimately cancelled, its conceptual foundation is key to understanding the sculpture's meaning.

The exhibition's theme was a postmodern re-examination of the Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. The starting point was Marcel Duchamp's pioneering conceptual work, *With Hidden Noise* (1916). Dr. Rogakos's research proposed a groundbreaking theory: that Duchamp's piece was not self-referential but was, in fact, an oblique commentary on the Minotaur myth.



Marcel Duchamp's *With Hidden Noise* (1916)

Artists were invited to create new works inspired by this interpretation, using the same "Duchampian logic" to connect with the ancient myth in a witty, transgressive, and contemporary way. The challenge was to update the myth's significance for a modern audience.

My response, *Worms' Altar*, engages directly with this challenge. Instead of focusing on the hero (Theseus) or the monster (Minotaur), I turned my attention to the Labyrinth itself and the unseen process at its core: **decomposition**.

My interpretation posits that the Labyrinth is a metaphor for the gut, and the Minotaur's terrifying secret is the biological reality of decay—a process our modern, Apollonian culture has turned into a powerful taboo. We celebrate eternal youth and light, while hiding away the natural, "disgusting" cycle of decomposition that is fundamental to life. The worms in the altar, which transform waste into life-giving compost, represent this hidden, vital force.

The sculpture thus becomes a commentary on this cultural taboo. The phrases etched on its base—*See no evil, Hear no evil, Speak no evil*—directly critique our willful ignorance of these natural processes. By presenting the worms' work on an "altar," the piece elevates this feared process to a sacred, life-affirming ritual.



*Worms' Altar: Make Amends* was conceived as an initiation for the viewer, just as the Labyrinth was for Theseus. It asks us to confront our own taboos about decay and the body, and to "make amends" with the parts of nature—and ourselves—that we have been taught to reject. While it stands as an independent work, its origin within the "Enigmatic Variations" framework reveals its primary purpose: to unravel a modern enigma by re-interpreting an ancient one.

