

*Indulge me  
as I reference  
the arts  
as my bailywick.*

## *Vulgar Subjectivity: Brackets* [1991-2022]

**I**t has been a while, but the closing bracket just fell into place. The starting bracket, 1991, Russian dissolved. This gesture, which weighed heavily in the minds of 20th Century folk, signaled a departure from the old Them/Us quandry, which had been status quo since the Cold War. Deemed no longer relevant, in its absence arose a prevailing subjectivity, where emerging values reflected an aggrandizement of celebrity, real estate, tech, social interests and topicality. "Everything is good." Criticality moved aside for commerce. Art became acceptable, and encouraged, as an educational/redemptive tool.

Enter our current moment, 2022, as the closing bracket: War in Ukraine. It was a nice run, as it is said. All of the pesky references to history - linear or non-linear - the subtlety of appropriated acts, copyrights, galleries as community centers, etc. During this span a plethora of really remarkable works had been produced, boundaries were expanded, lifted and creativity flowed. Vulgar simply means extreme, unfettered, determined by economic forms. It grew without the need for gatekeepers, because there was no longer anything to control beside € (though there are still cultural gatekeepers). Aesthetics became mere pretty... so any exhibition, presentation, or display of vulgar subjectivity would literally be everything and anything, an all-at-once, free-for-all, without the need for thematic distinction or connoisseurship. We currently receive our daily information in this manner and seem we to welcome it into our homes, workplace, politics, and relationships without a pause. This is where we reside.