
Pro Rege

Volume 42
Number 2 *Fine Arts Issue 2013*

Article 8

December 2013

Just Phatic

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Recommended Citation

Matthews, Joshua (2013) "Just Phatic," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 42: No. 2, 12.
Available at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol42/iss2/8

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(Just) Phatic

Josh Matthews

The way I offer just
to the public is the
way I disperse like and
so and you know
as sprinklers water
lawns during
thunderstorms.
Just is another sixteenth
note in the drum
solo of speech and I
do not play like Buddy
Rich but like the little
kid next door who
whacks his starter
kit like a running
lawnmower left over a
rabbit warren.

Sometimes just serves
as a way to downplay
a statement you might
just find offensive. Just
also articulates an effect where I
may not finish a
flourish because I do
not know how to
solo, as in a moment
where the terrible news is
told of the surprise sinkhole or
of the thousand-year flood
event and so I pick up my
my sticks, whirling and
splattering my uneven notes
on practice pads that
echo back the
same bladed
rhythms of
That is just ...
... That is just ...
... ... That is only just ...