

**CONSTANT NIEUWENHUYS – Personality Profile based on letter to Willem Sandberg, 1960.**

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If I had to assign a culminating word to Constant's personality at age 40 it would be, *passion*. He was mission-minded, strong willed and focused on expressing who he was through his numerous and varied creative endeavors. Those traits though admirable, could also affect him adversely in certain areas of his life. When he died, he was married to his fourth wife. Another member of the SI stated, "Staying friends with Constant was quite difficult. He liked to fight." Paradoxically, his life's work emphasized remaining, "playfully expressive and creatively free." Yet, his writing demonstrates that he was very set in his ways, and was not able to apply that same sense of "light-hearted freedom of choice" specifically to those who opposed his beliefs.

The heavy-looking lines of his script that cause some of the letters to be filled in, demonstrate an intense, enduring sensuality. His senses automatically responded to his surroundings like ink to a blotter, ultimately fueling the fire of his creative inspirations. Constant did not just create art, he lived through his art. He once stated, "For to live means to be creative." This strong, sensual attunement also meant that he was very color sensitive and loved to experiment with it, as is readily seen in his art work. Because he engulfed himself so fully in whatever he did, Constant was potentially prone to mental and emotional exhaustion and was most probably challenged by intermittent depressive feelings. This condition is demonstrated in the last part of his passage where the final portion of the lines end in a distinct downward motion.

His analytical/critical mind, when combined with his intuitive abilities, provided him with the innate resources to accomplish what he set out to do. His connected, forward-leaning writing shows that he was emotionally driven and could be kind, caring, and socially congenial while enjoying the company of others. His loyalty was ever-present to those who earned his trust. However, if betrayed, Constant could readily dismiss such individual(s) and hold a grudge for quite a while, perhaps even forever. Constant's many "resistant to change" traits indicate that if his belief system was challenged, his temper could be triggered and his wrath would be quite obvious. Here again is another paradox. Constant, acknowledged and promoted the importance of the ever-changing art experience, yet these changes had to be on his terms. Perhaps that is why the personality traits in Constant's handwriting indicate that he was more of a loner rather than a team player and preferred to make decisions without having to consult others. He was very much his own person. The small mid-zone letters combined with the wide spaces between the words reinforces those aspects of his personality. He could retreat mentally, emotionally, as well as physically for long periods of time while welcoming the quiet solitude.

Others in his field have referred to Constant as courageous. His writing represents that courage as he remained passionately focused on promoting the right to express freely through one's art.