

HANS PETER ZIMMER – Personality Profile based on letter to Willem Sandberg, 1960.

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Zimmer's large and somewhat overpowering handwriting style shows that he was a, "big picture" person. He was 24 years young and wanted to experience everything that life had to offer. This large writing that spreads over most of the page demonstrates that he liked a challenge and welcomed change and variety. He could become easily bored. Zimmer tended to be a highly, emotionally responsive individual, perhaps letting his heart get in the way of his decisions. This would also make him impulsive when he felt passionately about something. The strong angular appearance of many of the mid-zone letters, (particularly in the m's and n's) indicate that Zimmer was a man who enjoyed analyzing and investigating all sides of a situation. He was a problem solver by nature and probably loved to be challenged in this area. More often than not, he also wanted to do his problem solving by himself and at his own comfortable pace. He was not a man to be rushed or told what to do. There is stubbornness and a strong defiance against authority in his writing, traits that would be activated if he felt he was being overly controlled by someone or some group and/or ideal with which his beliefs did not align.

The overall relaxed rhythm of his handwriting means that he felt comfortable with who he was and had a certain predictability about his nature. This does not mean that he did not have occasional outbursts when someone stepped on a nerve, it probably just didn't happen very often. He usually welcomed diversity and was open to explore various opinions and ideas, even those that might have been contrary to his own. This open acceptance eventually manifested into his establishing an association in which tolerance was the joining principle. Zimmer tried to put into practice what he preached.

Zimmer was a perfectionist and would lose patience with those who appeared incompetent or showed apathy in their endeavors. He was an independent thinker and responded easily and quickly to thinking outside the box. Yet, the concave appearance of the t-bars demonstrate a collapse of his goals due to some doubt about his professional direction. Perfectionists have a habit of saying, "Do it right or don't do it at all." That thought could have had him put his goals on hold on occasion. Though not as obvious in his early years, this postponement could have been occurring intermittently and in a more subtle way. However, it had definitely become evident when, in 1967, he decided to withdraw from all groups and did not paint for a year.

Though dying at the young age of 53, Zimmer left a legacy that represented what his heart and soul felt and what his art and personality exemplified. The eventually formed Hans Peter Zimmer Foundation stated, "He wanted to create an open, living space where artists, curators, and guests will be challenged to experiment and exchange idiosyncratic installations and ideas."