A list of vocabulary and short explanations of terms that will hopefully make the article, “Painting Beside Itself” easier to read and think about. This list follows the progression of the text. The first entry is at the beginning of the text and the last is towards the end.

cynosure
	noun
1. something that strongly attracts attention by its brilliance, interest, etc.:
the cynosure of all eyes.
2. something serving for guidance or direction.

interlocutor
	noun
1. a person who takes part in a conversation or dialogue.
2. the man in the middle of the line of performers in a minstrel troupe, who acts as the announcer and banters with the end men.
3. a person who questions; interrogator.

The contemporary sublime

Contemporary artists have extended the vocabulary of the sublime by looking back to earlier traditions and by engaging with aspects of modern society. They have located the sublime in not only the vastness of nature as represented in modern science but also the awe-inspiring complexity and scale of the capitalist-industrial system and in technology.

diachronic

1. of, relating to, or studying the development of a phenomenon through time; historical: diachronic linguistics

synchronic

1. having reference to the facts of a linguistic system as it exists at one point in time without reference to its history:

Institutional critique
is an artistic practice that reflects critically on its own housing in galleries and museums and on the concept and social function of art itself. Such concerns have always been a part of modern art but took on new urgency at the end of the 1960s, when—driven by the social upheaval of the time and enabled by the tools and techniques of conceptual art—institutional critique emerged as a genre.

“modernist trap of negation, where works on canvas are repeatedly reduced to degree zero”

Roughly thirty years ago, in the late sixties and early seventies, a revolution in painting occurred. A number of artists in Europe and the United States developed new ways of painting that disregarded any traditional notion of what constitutes a work of art. Robert Ryman, Niele Toroni, John McCracken and Daniel Buren, among others, reduced their practice to the “basics,” variously eliminating brush stroke, color, and canvas...

nodal - of or relating to a node
node
a. A point or area where two lines, paths, or parts intersect or branch off: "The nodes, or branching points, are usually demarcated by sets of one or more new, evolutionary characters that typify all taxa" (Pat Shipley).
b. A focal point or a point of interaction: "Inside the hospital, she became a node of gossip, despite being unable to communicate in the usual way" (Oliver Sacks).

Non-objective

art is another way to refer to Abstract art or nonrepresentational art. Essentially, the artwork does not represent or depict a person, place or thing in the natural world. Usually, the content of the work is its color, shapes, brushstrokes, size, scale, and, in some cases, its process.

A tondo

is a Renaissance term for a circular work of art, either a painting or a sculpture. The word derives from the Italian rotondo, “round.”

Reification

generally refers to making something real, bringing something into being, or making something concrete.

connote

imply or suggest (an idea or feeling) in addition to the literal or primary meaning.

ludic

showing spontaneous and undirected playfulness.