



Matt Mullican [us]

6 > 13 NOV 09 . 14:00 > 23:00 . STUK EXPOZAAL [CONTINUES UNTIL 24/10/01]

ENG * ZIE?OMMEZIJDE?VOOR?NEDERLANDSE?TEKST

For more than three decades Matt Mullican (born in Santa Monica, California, USA, in 1951) has been working on a complex body of works that reflects on knowledge, language and how we give meaning to the world. The work of Mullican is very diverse, it ranges from diagrams, drawings and paintings to sculpture, performance and architectural installations. His work has been presented in many solo and group exhibitions worldwide and is part of the most important museum collections.

This exhibition highlights the performance aspect in Mullican's work. The show will both be documentary and presenting works in a new installation. Links and parallels in between performances will become visible and open up to new perspectives. Performance has always been at the core of Mullican's work. In the seventies, shortly after finishing the Californian Institute of Art, Mullican started exploring actions and movements in precise performances that are related to everyday actions. Later on, in his search for real emotions and experiences, Mullican started using hypnosis as a means to explore different aspects of personality. During these 'under-hypnosis' performances, he would seek contact with a subconscious part of a person, the part which Mullican denotes as 'that person'. At the centre of Mullican's work is a unique system of giving meaning that

he develops in different forms and media. His aim is to clarify what happens in our live/the world by giving meaning to actions, events and emotions. Mullican uses his own person and his subconsciousness as a medium to give way to certain behaviour and emotions. Mullican is stretching throughout his work the boundaries of what we experience as a 'person' and analyses the complex layers involved.

The exhibition brings a combination of photographs of early work, sculptures, drawings, sketch pads, videos and installations. The multitude of works and documentation material at the exhibition aims to give a unique insight into Mullican's oeuvre. When entering the exhibition, the first thing one sees is the reconstruction of the setting of the Live under Hypnosis performance, at the Anton Kern Gallery in New York in 2001. The drawings, objects and video reconstruct the performance. A second space shows a fragment of the installation 'Learning from that Person's work'. The texts in the drawings on the bedsheets refer to basic elements of life: truth, love, beauty, work. The text has a decorative character, and can only be deciphered upon close inspection. Another room is like an archive of his work, presenting at the same time drawings, scripts, photos of many works, cartoon figures, sculptures, etc. Many video's, large drawings, sketch pads are on display and add to the reading of his work.