

(December 6 - 7)

2— The Front Room

ROMAN SIGNER



Roman Signer has remained an influential figure in contemporary art over the last thirty years. With his own idiosyncratic sense of a humor, Signer brings to life the objects of the everyday. A self-described “emotional physicist,” he uses simple man-made mechanisms to exploit the forces of nature, working both with them and against them - struggling upstream, defying gravity, or counteracting inertia. His deadpan incidents offer a playful metaphor for our relationships with the basic realities of existence. Although carefully planned and executed, Signer’s “events” retain a sense of danger and vulnerability, as viewers watch the artist create (small) explosions with tables, chairs, barrels, boxes and umbrellas, heroically taking an endless succession of (small) risks. This video compilation presents documentation of these so-called “action sculptures” in countless small acts of destruction.

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Roman Signer was born in 1938 in Appenzell, Switzerland, and he currently lives and works in St. Gallen, Switzerland. Recent solo exhibitions include the Rochester Art Center, Rochester, NY (2008); the Swiss Cultural Center/CCS, Paris (2006); the OK Center for Contemporary Art, Linz, Austria (2005); the Camden Arts Center, London (2001); the Secession, Vienna (1999); and he represented Switzerland in the 1999 Venice Biennale. Recent group shows include Deep Comedy, Marian Goodman Gallery, NY (2008); The Freak Show, Museum of Contemporary Art, Lyon, France (2007); and One Second, One Year, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2006), among others.

Image:  
Mutze mit Rakete, 1995  
Color and sound video, 25 seconds.  
Courtesy of Art : Concept, Paris.

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