

New York 2013

May 10, 2013

Launch of Do It: The Compendium



do it began in Paris in 1993 as a conversation between curator Hans Ulrich Obrist and artists Christian Boltanski and Bertrand Lavier. They were curious to see what would happen if they started an exhibition that could constantly generate new versions of itself. To test the idea, they invited 12 artists to propose artworks based on written "scores" or instructions that can be openly interpreted every time they are presented. The instructions were then translated into nine different languages and circulated internationally as a book. Since then, do it has taken place all over the world, from France, Australia, and Thailand to Uruguay, Canada, Iceland and on, giving new meaning to the concept of an exhibition in progress. To date, more than 400 artists have been invited to participate in different versions, including do it (museum), do it (home), do it (TV), do it (seminar), and an online do it in collaboration with e-flux, among others.

To mark the 20th anniversary of do it, Obrist has collaborated with Independent Curators International (ICI) on the publication, do it: the compendium (ICI and D.A.P., 2013), which includes a selection of instructions by 250 artists, 84 of whom were newly invited to take part. With the largest collection of do it instructions ever, do it: the compendium also includes essays

contextualizing the project; a new interview with Obrist; and documentation from past iterations, including exhibition images, texts, and interviews.

The scope of do it is as far-ranging and experimental as the people who respond to the propositions. Adrian Piper asks audiences to hum a tune in order to enter a room. Ai Weiwei instructs how to make a spray device to block a surveillance camera. Ben Kinmont wants us to "invite a stranger into [our] home for breakfast." Agnes Varda submits a "recipe" for chard gratin, while Kim Beom tells us how to fry cellular phones. Louise Bourgeois invites us to smile at a stranger. Yoko Ono encourages us to keep wishing. And John Baldessari suggests how to kill a bug, but John Armleder says to do "None of the above."

Special Events:

Fri, May 10 - Sun, May 12 | Pick up your book at ICI's Booth (111) at NADA New York

Fri, May 10 - Mon, May 13 | Pick up your book at the DAP Bookstore at Frieze Art Fair

Sat, May 11 | A Conversation with Hans Ulrich Obrist, Uri Aran, and Richard Wentworth at Burberry, Soho

For more information, contact Laurel Voss at laurel@curatorsintl.org.

Sun, May 12 | 2pm - 3pm, Book Signing at MoMA PS1

Open:Friday, 10 May 2013

Close:Monday, 13 May 2013

Address:Various Locations

Web:ICI

Opening hour:Fri, May 10 - Mon, May 13 | Various Hours and Locations

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