

# RICHARD JOCHUM

## ENDLESS BODIES OF WORK

*Exhibition at the Frederick Kiesler Foundation, January 19 – March 2, 2018*

***Endless Bodies of Work*** presents new and recent work of Richard Jochum, an Austrian media artist who currently lives in New York. The exhibition is accompanied by the launch of a monograph with contributions from Livia Alexander, Agnes Berezcz, Peter Bogner, Katy Diamond Hamer, Thomas Micchelli, Dominique Nahas, and Işin Önel.

The following works are on display:

***Umfrage*** is a large-scale wall installation presenting viewers with an imaginary choice about their projected attitude toward the world around them. The piece is a political statement that examines the emotional undercurrent that leads people to fall for a demagogue. It highlights the critical importance of social imagination by challenging participants and viewers to reflect on their own perceived future. *Umfrage* was initially conceived as a silkscreen print in English called *Survey*. The work then developed into a mail art project with participants responding to the questionnaire. The exhibition puts on display various stages of the project. Alongside the wall installation, the outcome of the American *Survey* will be shared, encouraging the Austrian viewers to share their own thoughts on the postcards provided. Feel free to participate!

*Postcards; Silk screen print, 60 x 45 cm; Wall paint, vinyl foil, 6 x 4 meters, Vienna 2018*

***Tug of War*** is a video installation showcasing two performers struggling to pull on the same rope from either side. *Tug of War* is performed by identical twins. The video is recorded in 15 increments, each monitor showing a single slice of the recording. The installation at the Kiesler Foundation shows two out of 15 monitors. While representing a self that is forcefully conflicted, the installation embodies polarization within the self rather than in the other.

*Video projection with two monitors, Chicago/Vienna 2018*

*Co-producer: Ted Hardin*

*Performers: Liam and Adrian van der Bijl, Gianna and Olivia Aquilina*

In **Catch**, which alludes to the childhood game, two people toss cell phones between each other. The videos recorded by each of the two phones during the playful game will be shown next to each other as a projection. Referring to a pervasive selfie culture, the recordings capture the players and their environment in topsy-turvy slow motion.

*Video mapping project, New York, 2017*

*Performers: HC Huyhn & Richard Jochum*

**My Favorite Sayings** is a social practice project presenting favorite sayings from a wide range of people. The sayings reflect what those who share them care most about. The project was conceived as a video blog in 2008, which has ceased to exist. For the current exhibition it has been compiled as a continuous video sampling some of the voices. The project will continue.

*Single channel video, New York/Vienna, 2008 – ongoing*

**Index Finger #1–3** is a photographic video portrait series on the decisive role of a gesture, the index finger, throughout the history of religion, philosophy, and pop culture. The three shorts include Headmaster Lämpel by Wilhelm Busch, John the Baptist by Leonardo da Vinci, and Plato in The School of Athens by Raphael. The 30 second video portraits are looped and constitute a triptych installation.

*Video installation, New York, 2006*

### **Artist Bio:**

Richard Jochum is a media artist with a strong focus on video, video installation, performance and conceptual photography. He is a studio member at the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts and an associate professor of art and art education at Teachers College, Columbia University. He has worked in various media since the late 1990s and has had 200 international exhibitions and screenings. Richard received his PhD from the University of Vienna (1997) and an MFA in sculpture and media art from the University of Applied Arts in Vienna (2001). Richard's art practice is accompanied by publications and research in the field of cultural theory, new media, and contemporary art and he has been awarded several grants and prizes. One of his latest large scale art installations has been a 30,000 square feet collaborative video mapping project onto the Manhattan Bridge.

See also: <http://richardjochum.net>