

ADAMSKI

GALLERYFORCONTEMPORARYART

Joel Tauber / „The Underwater Project: Turning Myself Into Music“

22. Januar - 19. Februar

We are pleased to announce the second European solo exhibition of Joel Tauber at our gallery.

Joel Tauber creates films about his investigation of the physical and intellectual borders of what is considered to be impossible. The impossible is emblematic of the unknown and signifies our search for meaning in our confusing world. Therefore, the search for the impossible is a fertile terrain for art. It is both an action and a sign, reflecting our most profound desires. This duality is critical to understanding Joel Tauber's work.

Tauber sees himself as part of a continuum of fools, including his heroes, Eilmer the Flying Monk (11th century) and Chris Burden. He defines the fool as someone whose beliefs lead him to eccentric actions, even if they appear irrational or dangerous at first glance. Tauber follows the footsteps of earlier fools who have searched for the impossible, while taking enough precautions to avoid becoming a cripple like many of his heroes. Tauber is pragmatic, bringing a crash mat and helmet, as he tries to achieve his foolish goals.

In contrast to earlier performance artists like Chris Burden, the documentation, not the action, is the artwork. In his films, Tauber's narration contextualizes his actions through a subtle interplay of histories and motives. This narration introduces the repeated failure of others, but it maintains the hope and expectation that success is possible. Joel Tauber is Sancho Panza, playing Don Quixote. He accepts the fact that he will never fully succeed, but nevertheless, he blows his trumpet, and attacks the windmill.

When Tauber surprisingly floats 150 feet above a dry lake underneath 35 large helium balloons at the end of *The Flying Project*, he blows his bagpipe with complete confidence that it is the music that makes him fly. It is this belief that invites us to re-think our notions of what is possible.

In his new work, "The Underwater Project: Turning Myself Into Music", Tauber continues to spin a tale around the desire for spiritual experience. At the same time, he develops the idea further by turning his bodily experience into the musical score of the piece itself.

Presented as a three channel video installation, the work traces a total of 40 scuba dives the artist performed over the last year. The monitors show crossovers of the underwater world he discovers during these dives, images of the artist underwater immersed in clouds of air bubbles, and a motion graph that chronicles the parameters (depth and duration) of each dive. The images are accompanied by a musical score that is composed by translating the dive parameters into different instrumental voices and notes, resulting in a different melody or "song" for each dive. The installation encompasses a 51 minute musical composition that is interwoven with the imagery and the narrative of the dives.

Joel Tauber received his MFA degree from Art Center College of Design. His "Flying Project" has been shown in solo exhibitions at the Adamski Gallery, Aachen, Germany, and at Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects. He has been included in the "California Biennial" at the Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, in „Light and Spaced Out: 11 Artists From Los Angeles" at the Herve Loevenbruck Gallery, Paris, in „Stuff From L.A. and Other Places" at Christine Koenig Gallery, Vienna, and in „To Believe Much More Than That" at the Wight Gallery, UCLA, Los Angeles.

Opening reception, Friday, January 21st, 7 - 9 PM

For further information, please contact the gallery

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