



FONDAZIONE ANTONIO RATTI

with the collaboration of



Assessorato  
CULTURA

COMUNE DI  
COMO

#### Info

XIX CSAV – Artists Research Laboratory

#### **Meaning of Things**

Matt Mullican

5 – 29 July 2013

Fondazione Antonio Ratti

Villa Sucota, Como

#### Exhibitions:

##### **Corso Aperto**

**Opening:** 10 July, 6.30 pm

**Dates:** 10 – 11 July 2013

**Opening times:** 10 am – 6 pm

**Venue:** Villa del Grumello  
via per Cernobbio 11, Como

Matt Mullican

##### **The Meaning of Things**

**Opening:** 18 July, 6.30 pm

**Dates:** 19 July – 6 September 2013

**Opening times:** Tuesday – Sunday  
4 – 8 pm

**Venue:** Spazio Culturale Antonio  
Ratti (former San Francesco Church)  
Largo Spallino 1, Como

#### Lectures:

Matt Mullican

##### **About the Meaning of My Things**

**Date:** 11 July, 6.30 pm

**Venue:** Fondazione Antonio Ratti  
Villa Sucota, via per Cernobbio 19  
Como

Stephen Whitmarsh

##### **Metacognition and Nonreactivity in Mindfulness**

**Date:** 23 July, 6.30 pm

**Venue:** Fondazione Antonio Ratti  
Villa Sucota, via per Cernobbio 19  
Como

#### Ufficio Stampa

+39 0313384976

ufficiostampa@fondazioneratti.org

[www.fondazioneratti.org](http://www.fondazioneratti.org)

#### **Meaning of Things**

XIX CSAV – Artists Research Laboratory

5 – 29 July 2013

## **Matt Mullican**

### **The Meaning of Things**

**Preview 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013, 6.30 pm**

Spazio Culturale Antonio Ratti (former San Francesco Church)  
Largo Spallino 1, Como

On **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of July at 6.30 pm** the Fondazione Antonio Ratti will inaugurate **Matt Mullican's** show **The Meaning of Things**, curated by Simone Menegoi and produced by the Foundation.

The exhibition will be open until September 6<sup>th</sup>, from Tuesday to Sunday, 4 – 8 pm, at Spazio Culturale Antonio Ratti (the former church of San Francesco) in Como.

**The Meaning of Things** revolves around *Untitled*, a set of four banners made by Mullican for his solo exhibition at Le Magasin, Grenoble (1990), and then showed only one more time due to the large size of each element (each banner measures nearly 14 meters high by 7 meters wide). The banners, which will be displayed along the central nave of the church, contain a repertoire of stylized figures that, following a code elaborated by the artist, relate to every aspect of reality and human experience, from the most immediate to the more abstract.

The symbols are divided into five areas: green (physical elements), blue (the real world as life and meaning), yellow (arts), black (language) and red (subjective understanding). The visual language of the banners is extremely immediate, similar to that of commercial logos, urban signage or heraldry – a comparison that feels very appropriate given the setting in which the work is exhibited. However, simultaneously, the meaning of the symbols, and the system they form, requires the viewer to develop an understating of the code elaborated by the artist.

As Mullican never grows tired of repeating, his complex cosmology is in reality a meta-cosmology, an artistic reflexion about the way we collectively construct an image from reality: «My cosmology is a model for a cosmology; it is not a cosmology. A cosmology is a social phenomenon, not a formal one; it is a belief structure, a value structure between people». A structure as much as that of Christian religion, for instance, that has determined the architecture of the building where the exhibition will take place.

Between the banners there will be tables; they will show prints and sculpture-vitrines, offering the spectator some additional tools to interpret the code, a complex “system of systems” invented by the artists. The exhibition will be completed by a series of new cosmological schemes drawn on paper, and four videos: two are taken from “That Person”, the *alter-ego* of the artist when he is under hypnosis, and two are digital animations that illustrate a sort of ideal city designed by Mullican through his cosmology, or, to say it with his words, «a chart as a city».

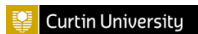
The program of the CSAV laboratory includes a series of **events** opened to the public.

thanks to



Villa del Grumello

grants



Svenska Konstskolans  
i Nykarleby Vänner r.f.

This year, the first appointment is the collective show **Corso Aperto**, which will open on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> of July at 6.30 pm** at Villa del Grumello, introducing the work and research of the young artists participating in the laboratory.

Following up two lectures on topics regarding the *Meaning of Things*: on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> of July at 6.30 pm**, **Matt Mullican** will introduce some topics linked to his artistic practice in a conference titled **About the Meaning of My Things**, and on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of July at 6.30 pm**, **Stephen Whitmarsh**, a neuroscientist of the Donders Centre for cognitive Neuroscience in Nijmegen, will present his research **Metacognition and Nonreactivity in Mindfulness**, which explores the metacognition monitoring of the brain in highly experienced mindfulness meditators.

**Matt Mullican** (born September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1951, in Santa Monica, California) is an American artist who for over four decades has created a complex body of work concerned with systems of knowledge, meaning, language and signification. Mullican creates artworks across a variety of mediums ranging from drawings and graphic works to sculptures and banners. He has developed a classification system that divides all subject matter through which the artist makes an attempt to observe and categorize all human experiences. In the 1970s Mullican began to experiment with trancelike states and hypnotism. Whilst hypnotized, he experiences the mundane details of existence more fully and deeply, creating a state of hyper-consciousness that allows him to better catalogue human behaviour.

Mullican's work has been exhibited internationally since the early 1970s in venues including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Haus Der Kunst, Munich; National Galerie, Berlin; Stedelijk Museum, Schiedam, Netherlands; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; his work was also included in the 2008 Whitney Biennial and in the 2013 Biennale di Venezia. Mullican has taught and lectured at: Columbia University, New York; The Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, Amsterdam; Chelsea College of Art and Design, London; University of Southern California, Los Angeles; Hochschule für bildende Künste, Hamburg.