

Savage, *Subtitling Reality*, 2014

Installation with luminous letters

°1971, lives and works everywhere

Savage's work focuses on the complex relationship in our society between mankind and object, demand and offer, the relativity of value. In several of his works Savage debunks the process of production and consumption and in doing so he often finds himself on the edge of the law. In *Stolen White Goods* (2005), for instance, Savage exhibited 36 stolen objects and attempted to sell them as his own works of art, a course of action that drove up the value of the stolen product. In *I'll stop if I find a matching pair* (2008-today), Savage has been gathering single black gloves which, by one or other absurd natural law, often cross his path, but never two the same. This collection has now grown to 500 unique items. In *Return Series* (2003-2006), Savage breaks through the cycle of consumption by repairing and cleaning objects which he finds in the public space (a sweater, a little blanket, but also a washing machine), and then returning them to the exact place where he found them. This act of 'borrowing' is not only limited to objects left behind by others or commercial items from shops, but also extends to film. In *I asked you a thousand times* (2011, video, 23'), Savage created a compilation of television and film fragments in which the question 'What do you want from me?' constantly recurs in the most diverse situations one can imagine.

For his project *Subtitling Reality*, which features in the exhibition *AIR Traces: Austruweel*, Savage has again started out from film. On a houseboat in the bend of the river Scheldt Savage installs the sentence *Rent your freedom*. It is part of a series in which Savage creates combinations of subtitles and a particular concrete environment. The subtitles often touch a nostalgic chord and take on an alienating and emotional character in the surroundings in which he chooses to show them. For instance, *One day the sadness will end* was presented during the art world's annual jamboree, Art Brussels. The installation is designed in such a way, that it can be easily set up in another environment. During the exhibition *Rent your Freedom* can also be seen in other locations, thus becoming a mobile graffiti.

Savage is an artist and designer. He has taken part in the following solo exhibitions: *Now look what you made me go and do*, Galerie mariondecannière, Antwerp, 2013; *Why We Will*, Regina Gallery, London, 2012; *Savage Presents Jean Michel Jarre*, Spike Island, Bristol; *Hotel Marienbad 003*, Kunstwerke Berlin, 2008; *This is yours now*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, 2005-

2006. His work has also featured in various group exhibitions: *We Are Grammar*, Pratt Institute, New York, 2011; *On Purpose: Design Concepts*, Arnolfini, Bristol, 2009; *Localism*, Museum de Paviljoens, Almere, 2008.

[savegestudio.eu](http://savegestudio.eu)

Venue: a Houseboat in the bend of the river Scheldt

Map: 13

AIR Tailor Made: 24/09 - 8pm