

Shaun Gladwell, Planet and Stars Sequence and Notational Sequence for Freestyle Skateboard, 2014

Video 30'30", performance

°1972, Sydney, lives and works in London

Shaun Gladwell's work is full of art-historical references that are translated into a contemporary visual language. The performative also plays an important role in his work, which mainly consists of video and film. He often gives the props from these video works a second life, as it were, in installations and paintings. Through his unique projects Shaun Gladwell connects the world of extreme sports like mountain biking, surfing and skateboarding, and that of art.

For his contribution to AIR Traces: Austruweel, Shaun Gladwell has continued building on an idea that he developed during a residency in AIR Antwerpen in 2010. During the opening of the exhibition the artist will combine two existing works (Planet and Stars Sequence and Notational Sequence for Freestyle Skateboard) in a new live performance based on rhythm, improvisation, movement and the graphic notation of these various elements. In the following days the project will further unfold in phases and will spread across the city. The performance takes place in an anonymous abandoned warehouse in the neighbourhood of the lockkeeper's house. On October 5th a live version of the performance will take place.

In Notational Sequence for Freestyle Skateboard, the artist alternates between a series of short but intense freestyle skateboard manoeuvres and the graphic notation of the executed movements. In doing so he refers to the history of notation of modern dance. In Planet and Stars Sequence, Shaun Gladwell creates in quick succession a series of pictures using spray paint and a number of arbitrary, everyday circular objects. The nature of these pictures (kitschy, cosmic landscapes) allows him to refer to the principle of the chiaroscuro, a technique we are familiar with from the work of many old masters.

The paintings – the residue of the Planet and Stars Sequence performance – will subsequently be disseminated throughout the public urban space (along streets and squares around the Museum of Fine Arts, the Public Library and the Central Station). Shaun Gladwell hopes that the city and its inhabitants will appreciate this gesture and will cherish the works left behind by reacting to them or even by giving them a home. Perhaps they will end up in a collection, although the artist is simultaneously running the risk that these 'traces' of his performance will be removed by the city's waste-collection authorities and he might even be fined. Throughout the various phases of this project, the actions, the abandoned traces and the experiences and reactions of the public will be documented. These will be collected in an artist publication that will ultimately be the only remaining trace of this project.

Shaun Gladwell has taken part in the following solo exhibitions (a selection): Shaun Gladwell: BMX Channel, Mark Moore Gallery, California, 2014; Morning of the Earth, Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne, 2013; Shaun Gladwell: Afghanistan, Australian War Memorial Touring Exhibition; Broken Dance (Beatboxed), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2012; Perpetual 360° Sessions, SCHUNCK* Heerlen, 2011; Portrait of a man: alive and spinning/ Dead as a skeleton dressed as a Mountie, George Sherman Projects, Toronto, Canada, 2010; MADDESTMAXIMVS: Planets and Stars Sequence, Australian Pavilion, 53rd Venice Biennale, 2009. His work has also featured in the following group exhibitions (a selection): Motopoétique, Lyon, Musée d'art contemporain, Lyon, 2014; Surf: Shaping Taranaki, Puke Ariki, 2013; Curator's Egg Altera Pars, Anthony Reynolds Gallery, London, 2012; Meditation, Trance, Mendes Wood, São Paulo, 2011;

Cairo Biennial, 2010; The Thrill of the Heights, OK Centre, Linz, 2009.

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Venue: AIR Antwerpen

Performance: 05/10 - 2:30pm meeting point AIR Antwerpen

3pm performance at secret location

Map: 10