ART & CULTURE

In Pictures | Hans Ulrich Obrist: Do It, The Compendium

— May 14, 2013 —

In Pictures is a still and moving image gallery for significant works, events and places

Initially looking to render exhibition formats more flexible and open ended at a time of marked globalisation in the art world, Do It’s pioneers came up with the idea of using scores or written instructions by artists as the starting point for exhibition making. To test the water, Obrist invited 13 artists to create their own instructions, which were then translated into nine different languages and published internationally as a book. What ensued was an extraordinary process of “call and response” as people produced and reacted to the instructions all over the world and the project took on a life of its own. Now, twenty years on, hundreds of artists have participated in Do It and more than fifty Do It exhibitions have been held – and to celebrate Obrist has created the brilliant, newly published Do It compendium. This includes an archive of artists instructions selected by Obrist, a number of essays contextualising the concept, documentation and photographs from the history of the exhibition and new instructions by 50 artists.
Here, to mark the compendium’s release, we have chosen three of our favourite sets of instructions from **Al Weiwei, Louise Bourgeois** and **David Lynch**…

(Above) **BOURGEIOS, Louise**

Instruction (2002)

When you are walking, stop and smile at a stranger.

**Al Weiwei**

**CCTV SPRAY** (2012)

© Al Weiwei

**LYNCH, David**

**Do It: How To Make A Ricky Board** (2012)

This board can be any size you want.

The proportions are dictated by four rows of five rickies.

There should be twenty rickies in all.

Each ricky is, as nearly as possible, exactly the same as every other ricky.

The ricky can be an object or a flat image.

The thing about the rickies is you will see them change before your eyes because you will give each ricky a different name.

The names will be printed or written under each ricky. Twenty different names in all.

You will be amazed at the different personalities that emerge depending on the names you give.

Here is a poem:

Four rows of five  
Your rickies come alive  
Twenty is plenty

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**NEARLY A CY**

**PHOTO**

**TWOMBLY, FERRAGOSTO V. 1961,**

**ROME, OIL PAINT, WAX**...

—by **All these moments will be lost in time.**


© David Lynch

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