

GALE RIE
MICHELINE
SZWAJ CER

MATT MULLICAN
Recent Works

23/03 - 05/05/2012

Opening Thursday 22/03/2012, 18 – 21 h

‘My idea of knowledge is more affiliated with the eighteenth century than it is with the twentieth or twenty-first century. In the eighteenth-century, at least one had the idea that one could actually list all knowledge.’*

Matt Mullican (b. 1951, USA) is at pains to lend the world order and structure and thereby derive meaning from it. To do this, Mullican relies on the encyclopedic method to chart what he finds. In pursuit of this lifelong project, he has developed a system of pictograms as his personal model of a cosmology, the basis of which is a cartographic structure consisting of a color and sign system.

His second solo exhibition at Galerie Micheline Szwajcer consists of several large-scale paintings and smaller iron and blown-glass sculptures. The latter’s reflective forms, reminiscent of test tubes, mirror the cosmology itself, as well as details from the cosmology.

Inspired by historical systems for ordering the world, Mullican’s new series of oil-stick rubbings references the work of the Encyclopédistes, a group of Enlightenment intellectuals who compiled the ambitious *Encyclopédie* edited by Denis Diderot in the 18th Century. Their endeavor was founded on the belief that all knowledge could be apprehended in script and illustrations alike.

Likewise, the exhibited rubbings, some of which nearly cover the wall from floor to ceiling, are either text-based or figurative. While the lyrical script canvases are directly derived from the plates of the encyclopedia, the wide and vivid polyptychs represent Mullican’s self-proclaimed interest in ‘the possibility of somehow encoding it all’*.

In the back room, finally, a *Typology of Gestures* is projected; an extensive compilation of Mullican’s hypnosis-performances. This looped sequence of short clips has been edited following the particular gestures and actions that are carried out, and which piece by piece unearth the thoughts and expressions of whom the artist calls *That Person*.

**Matt Mullican. Conversations with Koen Brams, Dirk Pültau*, edited by Ulrich Wilmes, Cologne (DuMont Buchverlag), 2011, p. 203.

Matt Mullican
Evolution Of Man, 2012

609,6 x 243,8 cm (total)

76,2 x 243,8 cm (each)

8 colored rubbings on canvas

unique



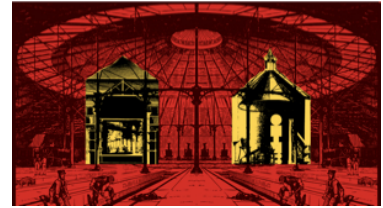
Matt Mullican
Roundhouse, 2012

609,6 x 335,3 cm (total)

121,9 x 335,3 cm (each)

5 colored rubbings on canvas

unique



Matt Mullican
Subjective, 2012

609,6 x 335,3 cm (total)

121,9 x 335,3 cm (each)

5 colored rubbings on canvas

unique



Matt Mullican
Elements, 2012

609,6 x 335,3 cm (total)

121,9 x 335,3 cm (each)

5 colored rubbings on canvas

unique



Matt Mullican
Untitled (diderot, Différentes Écritures De Bâtardes), 2012

121,9 x 182,9 cm

black and white oil stick rubbing on canvas

unique



Matt Mullican
Untitled (diderot, Différentes Écritures De Rondes), 2012

121,9 x 182,9 cm

black and white oil stick rubbing on canvas

unique



Matt Mullican
Untitled (diderot, Exercices Préparatoires), 2012

121,9 x 182,9 cm

black and white oil stick rubbing on canvas

unique



Matt Mullican

Untitled (diderot, Alphabets Des Lettres Bâtardes), 2012

121,9 x 182,9 cm

black and white oil stick rubbing on canvas
unique

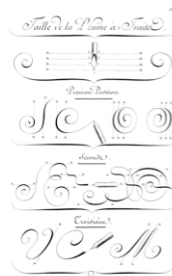


Matt Mullican

Untitled (diderot, Taille De La Plume À Traiter), 2012

121,9 x 182,9 cm

black and white oil stick rubbing on canvas
unique



Matt Mullican

Untitled (diderot, Lettres Capitales), 2012

121,9 x 182,9 cm

black and white oil stick rubbing on canvas
unique



Matt Mullican

Untitled (diderot, Différentes Écritures De Coulée), 2012

121,9 x 182,9 cm

color oil stick rubbing on canvas
unique

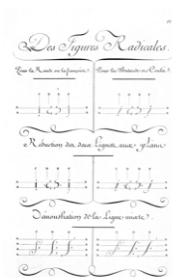


Matt Mullican

Untitled (diderot, Des Figures Radicales), 2012

121,9 x 182,9 cm

color oil stick rubbing on canvas
unique



Matt Mullican

Untitled (diderot, Symbols), 2012

243,8 x 335,3 cm (total)

121,9 x 335,3 cm (each)

two color oil stick rubbings on canvas
unique



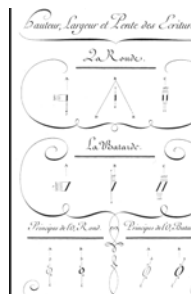
Matt Mullican

Untitled (diderot, Hauteur, Largeur Et Lente Des Écritures), 2012

243,8 x 335,3 cm (total)

121,9 x 335,3 cm (each)

two color oil stick rubbings on canvas
unique



Matt Mullican

Untitled (diderot, Alphabets Des Lettres Rondes), 2012

243,8 x 335,3 cm (total)

121,9 x 335,3 cm (each)

two color oil stick rubbings on canvas

unique

