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Henry Art Gallery

FALL/WINTER 2013

Jason Dodge: What We Have Done

OCTOBER 19-JANUARY 26
STROUM GALLERY

Entering a Jason Dodge exhibition a viewer may be struck by its seeming emptiness and deceived by its apparent simplicity. The Artist works by placing collections of objects - some familiar, others not - in the galleries to create broad associations between them, often introducing us to finished, truncated, or open-ended narratives via descriptive titles that can sometimes be a few lines long. Some recount how the works were made, others suggest what they could be or even add a sense of impending danger with troubling information that declares them unfinished as a playful challenge for the viewer to ponder. In every case, the succinct text relates to the piece itself, but extends far beyond it, igniting our imagination, interpretive skills, and heightening our sense of presence and responsibility in front of art.

Dodge's Sculptures are made in "performative" ways and are almost always discrete to the point of being - at times- imperceptible. These artworks intently mark their location and reveal meaning, not by declaring loudly or literally their objecthood, but by transmitting bits of information to the viewer, activating our cognitive skills, and awakening our senses.

The artist's interest in literature and, in particular, poetry informs his practice. Dodge is interested in and hyper-aware of the architectural context and the physical conditions of the gallery spaces where he shows, treating them similarly to a blanksheet of paper that awaits information. He is also deeply cognizant that his works as units are like words that hold numerous meanings and that fit together in different arrangements can form ambiguous sentences that in turn create experiences which can profoundly reconfigure a site. Dodge's aim is always to elicit a personal and emotional experience that is borne out of his ability to stretch time and also his appreciation and understanding of the poetic and real potential of space.

What We Have Done, the artist's first comprehensive exhibition in North America, will create an experiential journey that will include both recent and new work. A publication will be produced in conjunction with the project.



Jason Dodge, *Copper pipes connected to the water supply, your dear, sub-marine*, Collection William and Ruth True

Jason Dodge was born in 1969 in Newtown, Pennsylvania, and lives and works in Berlin, Germany. Recently he has had solo shows at the Lenton Museum, in Linz Austria, the Albrecht Durrer Gesselschaft/Kunstverein Nurnberg, CAC Vilnius, Lithuania, the Hannover Kunstverein and the American Academy, Rome, Italy. He has participated in La triennale, at the Palais de Tokyo, curated by Okwui Enwezor, The 2013 Bienal do Mercosul, in Porto Alegre Brazil, the 2013 Biennale de Lyon, and the 2013 Venice Biennale curated by Massimiliano Gioni. In the United States he has had a solo exhibition at the Orange County Museum in 2004 and has been part of group exhibitions at the Walker Art Center, the MCA Chicago, MOCAD, Detroit, and Western Bridge in Seattle.

Jason Dodge: *What We Have Done* is curated by Luis Croquer, deputy director of art and education. The exhibition is made possible with the generosity of our Presenting Sponsor, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. Funding is also provided throughout gifts made to the Henry Now Campaign by the Barton Family Foundation in memory of Irving Marcus; Cathy and Michael Casteel; the Jon and Mary Shirley Foundation; William and Ruth True; and Bagley and Virginia Wright Fund. Presenting Sponsor The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation



Jason Dodge, *Copper pipes connected to the water supply your dear, sub-marine*
Collection William and Ruth True
Photo: Cary Chittier