

JIMMY RASKIN

Jimmy Raskin was a poet. At the age of nineteen, however, Raskin stopped writing poetry to devote himself entirely to exploring and manifesting the conditions under which what he calls 'the Poem' might remain an achievable possibility in this day and age. Toward this end, Raskin has unwaveringly developed a theatrical multimedia universe, fluidly combining writing with sculptures and the production of props for lecture-performances. Collages typically appear alongside videos, cartoons, and diagrams of what he has determined to be the essential existential problems confronting the central figure of the 'Poet Pure.' Since 1989, a diverse body of work has emerged, marked by remarkably consistent subject matter and a restricted set of visual motifs, all in the service of Raskin's mysteriously pedagogical aims. His illustrational project articulates a dualistic cosmology—a grandiose effort that attempts to capture and affirm the fundamental opposition between, on the one hand, the 'Spirit of the restless Poet' under the expressive mode of 'Inseparability' and, on the other, 'Critical Distance' under the mode of 'Simultaneity,' or what he calls 'Infinite Juxtaposition' and the figure of the 'Documentarian.'

Ultimately, modes of expression themselves are Raskin's medium. His sources are few, but intensely engaged and idiosyncratically referenced. Roland Barthes's 'rustle of language' comes back to haunt the artist time and again; entire exhibitions can be directly about specific poems by Arthur Rimbaud, such as "Vowels" or "The Drunken Boat." Raskin's major book to date is titled *The Prologue, The Poltergeist & The Hollow Tree, On Friedrich Nietzsche's Thus Spoke Zarathustra*.

If the mode of the Poet is rigorously distinguished from the mode of the Critic, it is because the artist has been fundamentally attracted to their potential yet uneasy fusion. Raskin has had deep insight into the dangers of one mode killing the other, which is perhaps why his work has so arduously separated the two. He shows us with clarity and persistence, however, that any work of art worthy of the name, any potential Poem, must stage one *and* the other.

Jimmy Raskin was born in Los Angeles in 1970. He lives and works in New York. A graduate of CalArts, Raskin has exhibited his work and staged "lecture-performances" in institutions, art galleries and other non-traditional gathering places internationally since the mid-1990s, notably at the P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Thread Waxing Place, Foundation 20 21, Greene-Naftali, Cooper Union, Miguel Abreu Gallery, SculptureCenter (all in New York), as well as at the Centre Pompidou, Paris, Real Art Ways, Hartford, The Swiss Institute, Paris, and KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin. In 2013, Raskin participated in Performa 13 as part of Performa After Hours, which marked his second contribution to the performance biennial, following A Certain Misgiving in the Disciple (2009). Raskin's third one-person exhibition at Miguel Abreu Gallery, Petals Ears & Tears, took place in 2013.

Previously, he was selected for the Art Statements sector of Art |42| Basel (2011) was included in For the blind man in the dark looking for the black cat that isn't there (2010), a major group exhibition organized by Anthony Huberman at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. The show traveled to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, the ICA, London, de Appel Arts Center, Amsterdam, and Culturges, Lisbon. Raskin also participated in the group exhibition Breaking New Ground Underground (2009), curated by Thea Westreich at Stonescape, a private museum in Napa Valley, California. Raskin's book Corner Jump was published by Onestar Press in 2012.

MIGUEL ABREU GALLERY

JIMMY RASKIN

Born in Los Angeles, 1970
Lives and works in New York

EDUCATION

1992

BFA, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PERFORMANCES

2017

I MAY HAVE TO MISUSE SOME TERMS TO GET THIS POINT ACROSS, 148 Dean St, Brooklyn, NY

2013

Performa After Hours, as part of *Performa 13*, Fig. 19, New York

Petals, Ears & Tears, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York

The Lisbon Lecture, as part of *Book Machine*, organized by Christophe Boutin and Melanie Scarciglia, *Le Nouveau Festival*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

2011

The Return of the Drunken Boat (The Burden of Display), Art|42|Basel – Art Statements, Miguel Abreu Gallery, Basel, Switzerland

2010

Inseparability vs. Simultaneity, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York

2009

A Certain Misgiving in the Disciple, in *The Prompt* performance series, curated by Sarina Basta, *Performa 09*, New York

The Disciple's Premature Nostalgia, in *Blinding the Ears* performance series, curated by Andrea Bellini, *Artissima 16*, Turin, Italy

The Disciple's Premature Nostalgia, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York

2007

Jimmy Raskin's Confession, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York

2006

The Prologue, The Poltergeist & The Hollow Tree, lecture-performance, Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris, France

2004

The Prologue, The Poltergeist & The Hollow Tree, Foundation 20 21, New York

2003

The Prologue, The Poltergeist & The Hollow Tree, lecture-performance, Greene-Naftali Gallery, New York

1999

Why Must We Draw The Tightrope Walker This Way? (Part 1), lecture-performance, Thread Waxing Space, New York

Why Must We Draw The Tightrope Walker This Way? (Part 2), lecture-performance, Thread Waxing Space, New York

1998

Pinocchio, The Poltergeist & The Hollow Tree, lecture-performance, Greene Naftali Gallery, New York

1997

In Memory of The death of a Tightrope Walker, permanent outdoor sculpture, Bavaria, Germany

1994

The Prologue, the Poet, and A Shorter Story On The Line, second of the two-part lecture performance, The Great Hall, Cooper Union School of Art, New York

1993

How the Transcendent Is Within The Orthodox Fixation, first of the two-part lecture-performance, Visiting Artists Hall, Cooper Union School of Art, New York

1992

BFA thesis exhibition, Cal Arts Gallery, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

SELECTED GROUP & TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS**2016**

Summer Installation of Works by Gallery Artists, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York

2014

Brooklyn in Belleville, curated by Marie Maertens, part of *La Biennale de Belleville 3*, Paris, France

2013

Legislator, Voyeur, Onestar Press, Paris, France

2011

Art|Basel|Miami Beach – Art Galleries, Miguel Abreu Gallery, Miami, FL

Where Language Stops, Wilkinson Gallery, London, UK

A Place To Which We Can Come, Saint Cecilia's Convent, Brooklyn, NY

New York to London and Back: The Medium of Contingency, Thomas Dane Gallery, London, UK

2010

For the blind man in the dark room that is looking for the black cat who isn't there, organized by Anthony Huberman, Musuem of Contemporary Art, Detroit. A slightly modified version of the exhibition travels to the de Appel Arts Centre, Amsterdam, the Netherlands and Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal

2009

Artissima 16, Miguel Abreu Gallery, Turin, Italy

Thunk, Khastoo Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Practice vs. Object, organized by Margaret Liu Clinton, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York

For the blind man in the dark room that is looking for the black cat who isn't there, organized by Anthony Huberman, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. A slightly modified version of the exhibition traveled to the Institute of Contemporary Art, London, UK

2008

Art|Basel|Miami Beach, Miguel Abreu Gallery, Miami, FL

2007

Form As Memory, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York

2006

Hands Up/Hands Down, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York

2005

Untitled lecture-performance, *Faith*, curated by James Hyde, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT

Animations, collaboration with Gareth James, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Queens, NY, 2001

Animations, collaboration with Gareth James, Kunst-Werke, KW, Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany, 2001

1998

The Drawing Show, Greene Naftali Gallery, New York

1997

Ut Scientia Pictura, St. Clair Cemin, James Hyde, Charles Long, Christopher Lucas, Donna Moylan, Jimmy Raskin, Paolo Baldacci Gallery, New York

1994

Crash, curated by Tom Zummer and Rob Reynolds, Thread Waxing Space, New York

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

A Letter to Miguel Abreu, self-published booklet, Los Angeles, 2009

Animations, collaboration with Gareth James, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Queens, NY, 2001

Blinding the Ears, Jimmy Raskin in conversation with Miguel Abreu, Kaleidoscope, *Artissima*, Turin, 2009

Corner Jump, Paris: One Star Press, 2012. Edition of 250.

Diagram, project for the *Faith* exhibition catalogue, James Hyde, ed., Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT, 2005

The Diagram and the Poet, project for *Open City*, Issue 7, New York, 1993

Huberman, Anthony, ed. *For the blind man in the dark room that is looking for the black cat who isn't there*, exhibition catalogue, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, 2009, pp. 123-139

Lisbon Lecture, New York: Sequence Press, 2011. Edition of 100.

The Mishape of 'Always Already,' from *'The Misgivings of the The Disciple' Series*, self-published booklet, Los Angeles, 2009

van Zuylen, Marina. *The Plenitude of Distraction*, artwork by Jimmy Raskin, Sequence Press, 2017

The Prologue, The Poltergeist & The Hollow Tree, introduction by Miguel Abreu, Foundation 2021, NY, 2005

Untitled project for *Open City* magazine, Issue 2, New York, 1993

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2013

Halle, Howard, ed. "Jimmy Raskin, Petals Ears & Tears," *Time Out NY*, January 17-23
K, Jacqueline. "The Two Paradigms of Expression in Jimmy Raskin's Petals, Ears & Tears,"
ArtExperienceNYC.com, January 31

2012

Portfolio, BOMB Magazine, Issue 118, Winter

2011

Lacanian Ink, Issue 36
Saul Fletcher's Psychological Reality, BOMB Magazine, Issue 115, Spring (contributor)

2010

Neil, Jonathan T.D. "The Pedagogical Impulse," *Art Review*, March, p. 94-97
Scott, Andrea. "Jimmy Raskin," *The New Yorker*, March 15, 2010, p. 12
Johnson, Ken. "Jimmy Raskin 'Inseparability vs Simultaneity,'" *The New York Times*, February 19

2009

Cooper, Ivy. "For the blind man in the dark room...," *Art in America*, December, p. 143
"Performa 09, An Artistic Potluck," in 'The Moment,' *The New York Times.com*, November 1

2005

Davis, Nicole. "Book Report: 'The Prologue, The Poltergeist & The Hollow Tree,'" *Artnet.com*, January 11, 2005

2007

Neil, Jonathan T.D. "Jimmy Raskin's Confession," *Art Review*, November, p. 205

2004

Reed, John. "Jimmy Raskin," *Artforum.com*, November 5

2000

Hyde, James. "Jimmy Raskin at Thread Waxing Space," *Art in America*, March

1994

Zummer, Tom and Reynolds, Rob, eds. *Crash*, exhibition catalogue, Thread Waxing Space, New York

LECTURES & TALKS

2013

"Cyber-Nietzsche: Tunnels, Tightropes, Net-&-Meshworks," The New School, New York