

Two Sides of Matt Mullican on View in France



Courtesy the artist, Contemporary Art Institute of Villeurbanne
An installation view of Matt Mullican's "12 by 2" exhibition at the Contemporary Art Institute of Villeurbanne

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Published: July 22, 2010

VILLEURBANNE, France— Matt Mullican's first solo show in France in 20 years is at the Contemporary Art Institute of Villeurbanne near Lyons through September 19. His last exhibition in France took place at the Magasin, the Contemporary Art Center of Grenoble.



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In the show, Mullican displays his idiosyncratic color-coded cosmology.

The artist's project is based on a cosmological model enhanced by a unique identification system. He maps the world into five parts, each associated with a color: natural elements (green), spiritual values (red), conscious manifestations of art and science (yellow), events that escape human perception (blue), and language (black). Since the 1970's, Mullican has pursued a parallel interest in the relationship between the real and the fictional by creating art while hypnotized in a project titled "That Person's Work."

Mullican presents these two sides of his artistic approach in 12 rooms of the Contemporary Art Institute personally arranged by him — hence the title, "12 by 2." Simultaneously exploring the fields of performance, installation, digital tools, and sculpture, he invites the viewer to wander through the twists and turns of his mind.

This unusual artist's work can be hard to understand — even inaccessible, according to some critics — but his presentation of his work is an artistic achievement in itself. Mullican transforms the space into a remarkable laboratory where objects and documents abound, from floor to ceiling, for a total of 1,300 items. It makes for a stunning trip through the real and the imaginary.



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