

Liam Gillick
Deutscher Pavillon
53. Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte
La Biennale di Venezia 2009

Press Release February 2009

Lecture Liam Gillick | Hamburger Bahnhof Berlin | 12th February 2009

On February 12th 2009, **Liam Gillick** will be giving a lecture at the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin. The lecture has been organised within the framework of his upcoming exhibition in Venice. Gillick was chosen to conceptualise the German Pavilion of the 53rd Venice Biennial by Nicolaus Schafhausen, curator of the German contribution to the Biennial and director of Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam. The lecture will develop the themes first elaborated by Gillick in the Hermes Lecture, Den Bosch (Netherlands) in November 2008.

Visitors will be welcomed by **Udo Kittelmann**, director of the National Gallery, and **Elke aus dem Moore**, director of the Visual Arts Department at the Institute of Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa), with introductions by **Nicolaus Schafhausen**. Schafhausen will moderate the follow-up discussion between **Liam Gillick** and cultural critic **Diedrich Diederichsen**, who will be commenting on the lecture. The discussion will be held in English and German and will be translated simultaneously. That same evening Schafhausen and Gillick will present a limited edition model, which forms part of Gillick's work process for the exhibition in Venice.

In his lecture **Liam Gillick** (born 1964) will speak about a discursive model of art practice that he has developed over the past two decades. It is a model characterised by an open yet critical orientation towards the social context of art. Interdisciplinarity, collaboration and a focus on production process are some of its other notable qualities. Gillick will examine this model against the background of the post-war welfare state with its soft organisational frameworks and collaborative structures. He will also relate it to developments in Scandinavian car manufacturing in the 1970's, when teamwork and self-organisation were introduced and monotonous forms of assembly line work were abolished. His lecture may be regarded as a search for the cultural DNA that these artistic and socio-economic phenomena possibly share. It takes a look at an interesting perspective surrounding his previous work, which can be expected for Venice.

"In the Volvo factory you can see trees while you are making cars. But you are still making cars, never taking a walk in the woods. Where are the models for contemporary art production in the recent past?"

Since the 1990's Liam Gillick has addressed emergent post-socialist systems and new social models in Europe. The theme of his work is the varied phenomena of social utopias that he stages via hypothetical social models, both visual and literary.

The exhibition at the German Pavilion is commissioned by the Federal Foreign Office and will be realised together with the Institute of Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa).

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