

Facade

Tim Etchells | Let it come, Let it come

12 September 2021 to 9 January 2022

British artist Tim Etchells' work *Let It Come, Let It Come* quotes two lines from the English translation of Arthur Rimbaud's influential 1873 poem *Une Saison en Enfer* (engl. A Season in Hell): *Let it come, Let it come. The time we can love*. Installing the work on the exterior of Kestner Gesellschaft, Etchells positions its intimate invocation as a bold public imperative or demand, calling for a future world that can be loved as well as of a future, long dreamed of, in which love may finally be possible. As is often the case with Etchells' work *Let It Come, Let It Come* sets up a dialogue between the content of the text and its context – bringing Rimbaud's historical and deep personal yearning into an evocative dialogue with the present global situation of pandemic lockdowns and social distancing, political drifts to the right and the ongoing repression of the rights of LGBTQ+ people.

Etchells' neon and LED pieces often draw on his broader fascinations as an artist, writer and performance maker, exploring contradictory aspects of language – the speed, clarity and vividness with which it communicates narrative, image and ideas, and at the same time its amazing propensity to create rich fields of uncertainty and ambiguity. Through simple phrases spelt out in neon, LED and other media. Etchells strives to create miniature narratives, moments of confusion, awkwardness, reflection and intimacy in public and gallery settings. Encountering the neon sign works, in the streets of a city or in the space of a white cube gallery, the viewer becomes implicated in a situation that's not fully revealed.

Tim Etchells (* 1962, UK) is an artist and writer based in the UK whose work shifts between performance, visual art and fiction. Living and working between London and Sheffield, he has produced major commissions for public space internationally and has been presented in museums, galleries, biennales and fairs, including: Tate Modern, Hayward Gallery, London, UK; BALTIC, Gateshead, UK; Plymouth Arts Centre, Plymouth, UK; Kunsthalle Wein, Vienna, AT; Kunstverein Braunschweig, DE; Kunsthalle Mainz, Mainz, DE; Jakopič Gallery, Ljubljana, SI; Bunkier Sztuki, Krakow, PL; Gotenburg International Biennale, SE; Manifesta 7, Frieze Sculpture, London, UK; Perf4m ARTISSIMA, Turin, IT; and FIAC, Palais De Decouverte, Paris, FR. Etchells' work is held in private and public collections internationally.

Etchells has worked in a wide variety of contexts, notably as the leader of the world-renowned Sheffield-based performance group Forced Entertainment and in collaboration with a wide range of musicians, artists and performance makers including Meg Stuart/Damaged Goods, Marino Formenti, Taus Mahakacheva, Vlatka Horvat, Ant Hampton, Aisha Orazbayeva and Elmgreen & Dragset.

Etchells monograph on contemporary performance and Forced Entertainment, *Certain Fragments* (Routledge 1999) is widely acclaimed and his recent publications include *Endland* (And Other Stores in 2019), *Vacuum Days* (Storythings, 2012), *While You Are With Us Here Tonight* (LADA, 2013). He won the Manchester Fiction Prize in 2019. Currently he is Professor of Performance & Writing at Lancaster University.

Curator: Adam Budak

Press contact:
Gudrun Herz
Kommunikation@kestnergesellschaft.de
Tel.: 0511 – 70 120 16

kestner
gesellschaft

goseriede 11 | 30159 hannover
fon +49 511 70120 0 | fax +49 511 70120 20
www.kestnergesellschaft.de