



Xing  
presenta

**saturday 16 december 2017**

**TOM JOHNSON (USA/I)**  
***And where are all the people?***  
performance

**Raum**  
Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d Bologna

**Saturday 16 december** at 10pm Xing presents at Raum ***And where are all the people?***, performance by the American artist **Tom Johnson**.

*And the people?* With this question, Tom Johnson, an enigmatic artist, introduces us into his new performance by interrogating the difficulty of locating the subject. In the presence of a strange object, evoking metaphysical memories, in between sculpture, installation and performance, ***And Where are all the People?*** presents "a structure built almost entirely of my position and the stature of that man over there". Who is he? Who are those other people?, Who are we? What unites and separates us in the figurative and peopled terrain of language?

**"He** was generous. He wanted me to be really just as I was. He didn't try to change things. Yes, he was very powerful and rich, but so humble. He accepted things as they were: his position, his limits, mine. To accept can be a sign of enormous generosity, of a going beyond the usual confines to see things as they really are in themselves, not conditioned by some idea or structure.

**They**, in theory, asked me to participate in the idea. But then I couldn't find them (the place was impossible to see from where I was standing). Later, for other reasons, I did get together with them, but it wasn't the same thing. With them, my favorite truth was that I HAD to be able to know everyone. However, I must say that I ate better there, with them, than anywhere else.

This **Structure** will be physically present during the performance.

*And where are all the people?*  
a project by Tom Johnson  
with Tom Johnson, Peter Judd, and the people  
sculpture realization Diego Scropo, Maurizio Rabino  
video and editing services Sandro Carnino  
with the support from Xing and Guido Costa Projects

**Tom Johnson** is an American artist living in Turin, who creates drawings, sculptures, video monologues and live performances. Johnson works with many different materials, but whatever the specific material used, the medium is always the same: he always works with himself. Based on the twin premises that self-regard is perpetually his first activity and, secondly, that he himself is not all that unique, the artworks reveal his self-regard as, paradoxically, a common ground for communication, a shared public space. Not surprisingly given this process the work often has a strong social component. As Johnson mines his self-perception what comes up are the more general complexities of human relationships. The complexities of sexual attraction, racial perception and verbal and visual communication, self-perception, social constructs and paradoxes are ongoing subjects of his work. The final outcome can vary from the painfully explicit, as in some of his monologue work, to the more private allegorical character of his recent large drawings. He is represented by Guido Costa Projects, Turin. He has exhibited his work widely, participating in exhibitions at MIT Center for Advanced Visual Studies, Cambridge; MoMA P.S.1, New York; the Renaissance Society, Chicago; Castello di Rivoli Museo per l'Arte Contemporanea, Turin; Fondazione Merz, Turin; the Museum of Contemporary Art, St Louis; and the Sculpture Center, New York.

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