

**EXHIBITION
Vittorio Santoro**

**3 July 1913: Unexpectedly Arrested
By Two Unidentified Agents
From An Unspecified Agency
On Unnamed Charges**

22 March – 3 May 2014

**Opening: Friday, March 21, 2014, 6pm
Press Conference: March 21, 2014, 2pm**

COUNTER SPACE is pleased to announce its exhibition by Paris-based artist Vittorio Santoro. The new site-specific works comprise of sculptural settings, drawn in one sense or another from displacement diagrams and references from literary sources, from cultural memory as well as allusions to the work of Pier Paolo Pasolini.

The installation *In/Voluntary Movement Diagram (Josef K.)*, (2014), is made up of two elements: on the one hand an architectural intervention; and on the other hand a sculptural situation, in which visitors can both physically and mentally set foot. A second sculpture, *Untitled (P.P.P.)*, (2013/2014), will be presented. Vittorio Santoro will also perform a five-days real-time activity during the exhibition. An artist book, related to the new sculptural series, will be published during the exhibition.

The installation *In/Voluntary Movement Diagram (Josef K.)* occupies one corner of a room. The work consists of a suspended light string fixed at a specific height, and four engraved plywood plates with a black-line track. The plates are positioned on the floor implying a kind of low podium onto which one might step. The continuous and labyrinthine black line relates to a movement diagram of a person's steps through three rooms (incidentally, Josef K.'s physical displacements as described in the first chapter of *The Trial* by Franz Kafka). The manner, in which the electric wire is positioned onto the two walls, corresponds to a spatially closed loop. One of the four bulbs is purposely not lit. Reduced to four disks, one can physically and mentally follow the trail and step on the boards. The walk-in corner situation evokes a feeling of protection, while at the same time subjection. Physical on the one hand, Vittorio Santoro's installation can also be experienced more intellectually, like the reading of a formula that gradually leads to more rarefied results.

Throughout the various media he employs, Santoro's work very often includes some kind of time-based considerations. The real-time activity *In/Voluntary Movement Diagram (Josef K.)*, II, (2014), engages with parts of the exhibition space as a stage to activate and make visible the sculptural reflections pertaining to the space.

Works like *In/Voluntary Movement Diagram (Josef K.)* tend to strive for opening up spaces, for the spectator, marked by thinking, experimentation, speculation and risk. They even might seem erratic and contradictory by posing obstacles or challenges to the spectator. Their modus operandi consciously challenges the viewer's participation, but without pre-determining their reaction or behavior. Vittorio Santoro states: "The relationship between the work and the spectator can sometimes be marked by irritation and even fear. The environment prompts the viewer to attach meaning to what they see, to categorize, to classify and to subsequently consume. The fact that somebody resists a particular interpretation of the work, but still has the desire and willingness to participate, is in itself

a subversive act." This challenge to the viewer is an active element, putting forward the question: How do I deal with resistance and confrontation?

Real-Time Activity: 21 /22 /27 /28 /29 March 2014 from 4 – 5pm
In/Voluntary Movement Diagram (Josef K.), II, (2014)

Artist book:

The artist book will feature source material related to the new sculptural works, which will include sketches by the artist, extracts from his notebooks, newspaper clippings, manuscript pages, and more visual references pertaining to the various stages in developing the work. The source material supplements the exhibition with a deconstructive narrative both clarifying and multiplying the semantic of the works.

Events:

Screening: Wednesday, 16 April 2014, 8pm, *Vittorio Santoro Filmic Works*
 Introduction: **Andrea Thal**, *Les Complices**

Artist, Vittorio Santoro (*1962):

Lives and works between Paris and Zurich. Recent solo or group exhibitions include: *Pourquoi Écrire?*, Sobering Galerie, Paris, 2014, *Archaeologies of the Future 2*, Galerie Campagne Première, Berlin, 2013; *Quadrilogy 2: I Think It Rains*, 1a space and Burger Collection, Hong Kong, 2013; *Correspondances*, Espace culturel Louis Vuitton, Paris, 2013; *C'était le contraire d'un voyage /It Was The Opposite of a Voyage*, Galerie Jérôme Poggi, Paris, 2012; *Vittorio Santoro Filmic Works (screening)*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2012; *Owls Move Their Entire Head to Change Views*, Fondation Ricard, Paris, 2012; *Le Nouveau Festival*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2012; *Ever/Until*, Oonagh Young Gallery, Dublin, 2012; *Visionaries & Voyeurs*, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, 2011; *Que tout le monde vive comme si personne « ne savait »*, Rosascape, Paris, 2011; *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, Yvon Lambert, New York, 2011; *Man Leaving Harbour on a Ship (in a Room)*, La BF15, Lyon, 2010; *Annette and Peter Nobel Collection*, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen / Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, 2010; *Conflicting Tales*, Burger Collection, Berlin, 2009; *La chambre de Marlow*, Galerie Xippas, Paris, 2009; *Shifting Identity*, CAC, Vilnius / Kunsthau Zurich, 2008; *Three Attempts to Avoid the Inevitable*, Les Complices, Zurich, 2008; *The Truth About Your Own Tolerance for Cruelty*, Cortex Athletico, Bordeaux, 2007; *Learn to Read*, Tate Modern, London, 2006; *Berlin / New York*, Kunstmuseum Thun, 2006; *It's All In Your Mind / C'est tout dans ma tête*, Yvon Lambert, Project Room, Paris, 2003. www.vittoriosantoro.info

COUNTER SPACE is an exhibition and project space in Zürich, which aims to present the use of temporary and process-like methods in artistic work. COUNTER SPACE strives to ask a range of questions: How do we imagine an art space that is close to artistic practice? How can we reduce the pressure to produce that characterizes the entertainment society? Hence: how to create new cultural and artistic connections and fields for experimentation? Our objective is to find criteria for the definition of an art space that is close to practice and to put them in to a current discourse. COUNTER SPACE provides artists with an experimental platform for tentative forms, sketchy actions and ambiguous statements.

Curators: Angelo Romano und Tashi Brauen
 Administration: Vicenta Rodrigo-Jimenez

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