

RICHARD SALTOUN

Robert FILLIOU

5 December, 2014 – 30 January, 2015 (PV Thursday 4 December 6-8pm)

Richard Saltoun Gallery announce the first solo exhibition in London of artist Robert Filliou in Winter 2014.

Robert FILLIOU

One of the most innovative and radical French artists of the second half of the twentieth century, the implications of Robert Filliou's work are yet to be fully understood, though he has opened up endless possibilities for the medium of sculpture today. Whilst Filliou has had exhibitions on the continent this will be his first solo exhibition in London.

Robert Filliou challenged the role of art in everyday life and its status as a final product through conceptual strategies and innovative techniques, based on performance, chance, wit and play. The process-based approach of Filliou, united with his pursuit for an anti-individualistic art that could happen at any time and place, brought him close to George Maciunas and the other members of Fluxus; George Brecht (with whom he funded the non-gallery *La Cedille Qui Sourit* in Villefranche-sur-Mer, FR), Dieter Roth, Daniel Spoerri, and Emmett Williams.

Utilising 'poor' art mediums (everyday objects and drawings) and those that were easy to distribute (poetry, performance and video), Filliou called for the participation of the public in order to complete the works, thus manifesting a positive political interest over the world and society. Since the beginning of the '60s, Filliou's joyful and radical approach led to the creation of projects and events such as the *Legitimate Gallery* (a miniature art gallery that was contained inside the artist's hat), the *Art's Birthday* (a day dedicated to the birth of Art), the *Permanent Creation* (uniting reflection and action to creativity), the *Constant Festival* (an imaginary art network) and the *Republic of Genius* (where one's talent is not considered as a relevant factor to those who practice art).

Key-works that will be exhibited at Richard Saltoun Gallery will be two works from the series *Portrait non fait* (1970): *Portrait de Toi* and *Portrait de George* (Brecht). Additionally, a selection of his best-known editions and multiples, including *Frozen Exhibition*, which commemorates *The Festival of Misfits* exhibition held at Gallery One, London, in 1962.

Robert FILLIOU (Sauve, FR, 1926 – Les Eyzies, FR, 1987)

Before becoming an artist, Filliou was part of the French Communist party during WWII. He later travelled all over the world, working for Coca Cola in Los Angeles and gaining his Masters in economics there; he also lived in Korea for 3 years (1951-54), working as a United Nations adviser during the Korean war, and later also lived in Egypt, Spain, and Denmark. In 1977 Filliou moved to Canada, where he continued his works in video. That same year he moved to France, spending 3 years, 3 months and 3 days in the Buddhist monastery of Les Eyzies with his wife.

The work of Robert Filliou can be found in many major international collections, including MoMA (New York), MuHKA (Antwerp), Kunstmuseum Luzern (Lucerne), Centre Pompidou and Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain (Paris). Selected museum solo exhibitions include Auditorium Parco della Musica (Rome, 2011); Musée Départemental d'Art Contemporain de Rochechouart (Rochechouart, 2010); MACBA, (Barcelona, 2003), Mueum Kunst palest, Dusseldorf, (2003), Lille Métropole Musée d'Art Moderne, d'Art Contemporain et d'Art Brut (Villeneuve d'Ascq, 2004); Centre Pompidou (Paris, 1991).

Robert FILLIOU Film Evening to be announced closer to the date.

Exhibition and sales inquiries - email niamh@richardsaltoun.com

Press Information - email cristina@picklespr.com or info@richardsaltoun.com.

Visitor Information:

Richard Saltoun Gallery

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Gallery Hours: Monday to Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm or by appointment

Nearest tube: Oxford Circus and Great Portland Street.