



# JOCHEN DEHN

\*1968

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Jochen Dehn is as much scientist, inventor and explorer as he is an artist. Drawing inspiration from meteoric collisions and ancient rock crystals, he seeks to expand the boundaries of knowledge and consistently succeeds in creating absurd scenarios. Many of his performances take the form of experiments, yet are never conceived with a specific goal in mind, intended rather as open-ended inquiries.

Obstacles and setbacks are an integral part of Dehn's work. Through failure, we may find new ways of relating to our surroundings. One of his performances is tellingly called *Why Stand When You Can Fall*, and shows the participants in the process of falling in love, in slow motion. Dehn's work in performance, film and theatre frequently takes the form of open-ended lessons, demonstrations or workshops, loosely structured around discovery yet without the goal of a specific accomplishment. The aim is not to find solutions to a certain problem, but to enlarge the space of the undetermined and the unresolved. His humorous and engaging practice is often theatrical, and may involve mud wrestling and lessons in how to become invisible. Performances can take the form of participatory games, for instance by evading motion detectors in the Louvre. The employed materials and props are not the high-quality professional tools of the scientist, but the found objects and available materials given meaning by the artist-inventor. Through their reassignment, Dehn explores how use and understanding of these materials may be altered.

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*Dehn (\*1968) lives and works in Paris. He has worked, exhibited and performed in numerous international institutions including the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, the Hayward Gallery, London, the National Museum for Modern Art, Krakow, the Volksbühne, Berlin, the Kammerspiele, München, the Schauspielhaus, Zürich, and Deutsches Schauspielhaus, Hamburg among others. He participated in the 11th Biennial of Contemporary Art Lyon, and the 51st Venice Biennale. Dehn's films were featured at the Berlinale International Film Festival.*