



Ullens Center for
Contemporary Art
尤伦斯当代艺术中心

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Exhibition Dates:

September 27 – November 17 2013

Exhibition Venue:

Great Hall

Press material also available for
download from the UCCA website

Tino Sehgal

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The Berlin-based artist's largest presentation in Asia to date questions fundamental assumptions about material value, social convention, and the aesthetics of daily life

Tino Sehgal (b. 1976, London) creates artworks out of the interactions and exchanges that constitute daily social life. With its game-like quality, Sehgal's work invites visitors into unfamiliar situations that shift the parameters of the traditional exhibition. Through these encounters, the Berlin-based artist asks the museum visitor to reflect upon their participation in the landscape of value and meaning that comprises their everyday. These questions take on a particular resonance in China, a nation that has only recently shifted from an economy of scarcity to one of affluence. Once a society reaches a certain level of material comfort, what more do its members desire? Using the art museum as a space to inspire dialogue and reflection, Sehgal's open-ended artworks provide the scaffolding by which visitors might engage these questions. Their interaction with the piece becomes a central component of its meaning, with no two people having the same experience. The result is a series of exchanges, both mass-produced and personalized, that touch upon philosophical, political, and economic issues—variously questioning the social conventions that underpin our daily existence.

Tino Sehgal's exhibition at UCCA will be his largest and most comprehensive in Asia to date, presenting works that span the continuum of his artistic practice—from the choreographic to the discursive. Issuing from Sehgal's dramaturgical framing and relying only on movement, language, and social interaction, his artworks are entirely immaterial, divorced even from the convention that they be photographically or filmically documented. With a background in political economy as well as in dance, Sehgal is ultimately interested in the possibility of creating something of value without introducing more objects into a world already flooded with them. Constructed of movement and conversation, Sehgal's work can, nonetheless, exist and circulate as a commodity that can be bought, sold, and exhibited, and is, by virtue of its reliance on traditional forms of remembrance, remarkably durable.



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About the Artist

Tino Sehgal was born in London in 1976 and now resides in Berlin. His artwork takes the form of “constructed situations,” in which one or more people stage live works within the exhibition space according to the artist’s directions. He is the youngest person ever to represent Germany in the Venice Biennale in 2005 as well as the youngest person to be given a solo show in the rotunda of the Guggenheim Museum, New York (2010). Other solo exhibitions include Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven (2004); Fundacao Serralves, Porto (2005); ICA London (2005, 2006, 2007); Kunsthaus Bregenz (2006); Kunstverein Hamburg (2006); MMK Frankfurt (2007); Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco (2007); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2007); Villa Reale, Milan (2008); Magasin 3, Stockholm (2008); Kunsthaus Zürich and Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich (2009); Kunsternes Hus, Oslo (2011); Musée d’Art Contemporain de Montreal, Montreal (2013); and Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2013). His work was also included in the Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art (2005); the Tate Triennial, London (2006); the Lyon Biennale, France (2007); and Documenta 13, Kassel (2012). In 2012, he was commissioned by the Tate Modern for its annual Unilever Series exhibition, the first live work since the series began in 2000. Sehgal won the Golden Lion award at the 2013 Venice Biennale. In the same year, he was selected as one of four finalists for the Turner Prize, the winner to be announced in December.

About the Curators

The exhibition is co-curated by Paula Tsai and Biljana Ciric. Paula Tsai is Curator at UCCA, where she has worked on over 40 exhibitions. Biljana Ciric is a Shanghai-based independent curator who has previously presented Tino Sehgal’s work in China. The exhibition is produced by Louise Höjer and Descha Daemgen, who are longstanding collaborators of Tino Sehgal’s.

Related Programs

Talks & Forums

- Tino Sehgal: Situational Encounters
2013.9.27 (Fri.) 19:30-21:30 UCCA Auditorium
Tino Sehgal discusses his practice with Tsinghua University professor of art theory and aesthetics Chen Anying.
In Chinese and English with Chinese interpretation



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Exhibition Support

“Tino Sehgal” is supported by JNBY Finery Co., Ltd and is presented in partnership with the Goethe-Institut China.

About JNBY Finery Co., Ltd

JNBY Finery Co., Ltd was established in 1994. It is one of China’s first businesses to develop design brands. Under the banner of its brands “JNBY,” “jnby by JNBY,” “Croquis,” and “Less,” the company now has over 200 dealers and 600 retailers in large and medium-size cities across every province, autonomous region, and municipality in China. Its products are sold in over 30 countries and regions, including Russia, France, Japan, Singapore, Canada, Thailand, Georgia, South Korea, and Brazil. In 2007, the company reestablished its brand concept based on the idea of cultural diplomacy, kicking off a new round of brand innovation and expansion. JNBY organized an exhibition at the Shanghai World Expo, strengthening the company’s influence and its integration of enterprise, brand, and culture.

About the Goethe-Institut China

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institution of the Federal Republic of Germany, operating worldwide. When the Goethe-Institut China was established on November 1, 1988, it was the first foreign cultural center in the PRC. From the beginning, it devoted itself to the promotion of the use of the German language, to provide access to knowledge and information about Germany, and to cooperate with Chinese partners in various cultural fields such as music, dance, theatre, film, visual arts, and architecture.

About UCCA

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) is an independent, not-for-profit art center serving a global Beijing public. Located at the heart of Beijing's 798 Art District, it was founded by the Belgian collectors Guy and Myriam Ullens and opened in November 2007. Through a diverse array of exhibitions with artists Chinese and international, established and emerging, as well as a wide range of public programs, UCCA aims to promote the continued development of the Chinese art scene, foster international exchange, and showcase the latest in art and culture to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

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