



Photo by Marc Piscotty. Courtesy of the Denver Art Museum.

Rupprecht Matthies

Germany

Rupprecht Matthies' work focuses on communication and discussion. Considering himself a mediator, he concentrates on words that express life, signify something important or are simply favorite words of his subjects. Using the power of each remark, he creates an installation that ultimately distills the desires of humankind.

Artist Profile:

Born in Hamburg in 1959, Matthies studied at the Hamburg Art Academy from 1980 to 1986. Beginning his career as a painter, he changed course when working on a project to describe a family with a portrait of words. Matthies realized the power a single word can hold and now uses language to confront, persuade or demand. Whether creating webs of words based upon phrases or mobiles with text, the work is always deeply personal. They reflect not only the artist's personality but also the personality of the people he encounters in his research and everyday life. In 1988, he began producing public art works and in 2000 a shift to socially committed art was cemented with his participation in ongoing community improvement programs in the German city of Neuruppin. He has participated in exhibitions throughout Germany and Western Europe including at the Hamburg Kunsthalle in Hamburg and the Neues Museum Nürnberg in Nürnberg. He is represented by Produzentengalerie in Hamburg.

Patron:

Nancy Benson

Installation Location:

For *Embrace!*, Matthies continues his discussion of the dialogue of people. He is collaborating with Denver-area community groups, including the African Community Center and the Emily Griffith Opportunity School, to gather meaningful words. Both organizations strive to help underprivileged or displaced community members. Matthies' installation will utilize cut Plexiglass and other media, and will be installed in the first level of the Hamilton Building.

Previous Work:



L to R: *Leben lachen harmonie* (Life laughter harmony), 2009. Image courtesy of the artist and Produzentengalerie, Hamburg. *Verzichten* (Go Without), 2003. Image courtesy of the artist and Produzentengalerie, Hamburg.