

Biography

Matt Mullican was born in Santa Monica, California, in 1951. From 1972–1974 he studied at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, California, under John Baldessari.

Mullican's first solo exhibition was in 1973 at Project Inc. in Cambridge, Mass. In 1980 he began working with the Mary Boone Gallery, New York, and then from 1986 to 1988 with Michael Klein, New York. He has been represented by the Mai 36 gallery in Zurich since 1988 and also by Peter Freeman, Inc., New York, since 2005. Many art galleries and museums have hosted exhibitions of his work. These include the Centre d'art contemporain, Geneva, in 1984, the Dallas Museum of Art in 1987, the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C., in 1989, and the List Visual Arts Center at MIT, Cambridge, Mass., in 1990. His first touring exhibition, in 1990, was shown in Grenoble, Frankfurt am Main., Otterlo and Amsterdam. In 1993, he had an exhibition at Kunstmuseum Luzern, and in 1995 at the Nationalgalerie Berlin. A further touring exhibition in 2000 brought his work to Porto, Oxford, Barcelona, St. Gallen, Krefeld and Bolzano. In 2005, he had exhibitions at the Museum Ludwig in Cologne and the Lentos Kunstmuseum in Linz, followed by exhibitions in 2016 at Kunstmuseum Winterthur and in 2019 at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. In 2008–2009 the Drawing Center, New York, presented a retrospective show of Mullican's drawings. Major exhibitions of his work were held in 2011 at Haus der Kunst, Munich and in 2018 at Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan.

Mullican has participated in numerous group exhibitions, including the international Documenta in Kassel in 1982, 1992 and 1997 as well as the 1987 Skulptur Projekte, Münster, the 2009 Pictures Generation show at the Metropolitan Museum, New York, and the 2013 Venice Biennale.

Ever since his student days, Mullican has also presented performances, often under hypnosis, some of which have been documented on video.

From 2008–2018 Mullican taught at the Hochschule für bildende Künste in Hamburg. Since the late 1980s he has created many works in the public space in Europe, the USA and Japan. Mullican lives and works in Berlin and New York.