



British artist Jonathan Monk replays, recasts and re-examines seminal works of Conceptual and Minimal art by variously witty, ingenious and irreverent means. Speaking in 2009, he said, “Appropriation is something I have used or worked with in my art since starting art school in 1987. At this time (and still now) I realised that being original was almost impossible, so I tried using what was already available as source material for my own work.” Through wall paintings, monochromes, ephemeral sculpture and photography he reflects on the tendency of contemporary art to devour references, simultaneously paying homage to figures such as Sol LeWitt, Ed Ruscha, Bruce Nauman and Lawrence Weiner, while demystifying the creative process. Monk is constantly asking ‘what next?’ His stainless steel series entitled *Deflated Sculpture* (2009) refigures Jeff Koon’s iconic balloon rabbit in various stages of collapse; letting the air out isn’t an act of iconoclasm so much as giving the original idea new life. So too Monk documented the period he lived in Los Angeles with a series of photographs titled *None of the Buildings on Sunset Strip* (1997–99), showing only the roads between buildings – a follow-up to Ed Ruscha’s artist book from 30 years before, *All of the Buildings on Sunset Strip*. But his conceptual configurations are also grounded in the personal: ‘what next?’ takes on a poignancy in the slide projection *In Search of Gregory Peck* (1997), where Monk brought together a collection of photographs taken by his late father in the 1950s, preceding him as a tourist in the US.

Jonathan Monk was born in Leicester in 1969 and lives and works in Berlin, Germany. He has a BFA from Leicester Polytechnic, UK (1988) and an MFA from Glasgow School of Art, UK (1991). Solo exhibitions include Kunsthau Baselland, Muttentz, Switzerland (2016), Museo d’Arte Contemporanea di Roma, Rome, Italy (2015), Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Dublin, Ireland (2014), Centro De Arte Contemporáneo (CAC) Málaga, Spain (2013), Kunstraum Dornbirn, Austria (2013), Palais de Tokyo and Musée d’Art Moderne, Paris, France (2008), Kunstverein Hannover, Hannover, Germany (2006), Institute of Contemporary Art, London, UK (2005) and Museum Kunst Palest, Dusseldorf, Germany (2003). His work has been included in many group exhibitions, including the Whitney Biennial, New York, NY, USA (2006), the 50th and 53rd Venice Biennales, Italy (2003, 2009), Berlin Biennale, Germany (2001) and Taipei Biennial, Taiwan (2000). He was awarded the Prix du Quartier Des Bains, Geneva, Switzerland in 2012.