



The Rules of the Game: Rye Dag Holmboe and Joschi Herczeg (JocJonJosch)

A discussion at the Torre Bonomo, Vicolo della Basilica, 13 September 2016

The Mahler & LeWitt Studios are pleased to present an 'open studio' event relating to our first major project with the Torre Bonomo.

The Torre Bonomo, a medieval tower in Spoleto, was used by Marilena Bonomo, an important gallerist in Bari, for a series of exhibitions starting in 1976. Richard Nonas, Sol LeWitt, Giulio Paolini, Richard Tuttle, Jannis Kounellis, Nicola De Maria, Tullio De Gennaro and Osvaldo Licini all participated. It was Marilena Bonomo who introduced Sol LeWitt to Spoleto where, close to the Torre Bonomo, he subsequently lived and worked for many years. When he first started visiting Spoleto he used the Torre Bonomo as a studio. Looking forward to a new chapter of creativity, Valentina Bonomo has generously made the Torre Bonomo available for specific projects in collaboration with visiting artists, curators and writers and the Mahler & LeWitt Studios.

The Sol LeWitt wall drawings in the Torre Bonomo, made in the 1970s, include an important example of the artist's inventive and playful pairing of written instructions with their equivalent geometric constructions, known as 'location drawings'. This pairing of the written word with the visual image, thought of in relation to the work of the Oulipo group - from which the project title 'The Rules of the Game' takes its inspiration, is the starting point for a new text by Rye Dag Holmboe.

Joschi Herczeg, meanwhile, has been documenting the wall drawings in the Torre Bonomo, starting to explore different ways of representing them in print, with a publication planned for the future. As a continuation of the project Joschi Herczeg and Rye Dag Holmboe will return to Spoleto in 2017 along with Joschi's collective JocJonJosch to develop a new body of work responding to the Torre Bonomo. Recent works by the collective JocJonJosch also engage with themes of the game or gaming. Most notable are their collaborative drawings. These act as starting point for their new

Rye Dag Holmboe is a writer; In 2015 he became a Teaching Fellow in the History of Art department at University College, London, working on Modernism and Contemporary Art. He has co-authored and co-edited the book 'JocJonJosch: Hand in Foot', published by the Sion Art Museum, Switzerland (2013). He is co-founder of Matchstick Books, an imprint which facilitates collaborations between writers and visual artists. The first book is *Jolene*, which brings together the work of poet Rachael Allen and photographer Guy Gormley. He curated a project for the Copeland Book Market titled *IMAGE & TEXT* at the Site Festival, Stroud, 2015. Holmboe's writings have appeared in *The White Review*, *Art Licks*, *Apollo Magazine* and in academic journals.

Joschi Herczeg is one part of the collective, with Jonathan Brantschen and Joc Marchington. As a collective of three artists JocJonJosch are interested in issues of identity relating to the individual and the group both on a universal as well as a more self-reflective level. The individual and the community, success and failure, efficiency and waste, purposiveness and pointlessness, are features of the collective's work that at different times become tangled and ambiguous. These oppositions represent a reference point in the process of making new work and what interests the artists is how that journey can evolve through a symbiotic relationship of conversation and creation. The collective has exhibited and performed across Europe since 2008. In London they have worked at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), The Photographers Gallery, and at the Saatchi Gallery.

The *Mahler & LeWitt Studios* is established around the former studios of Anna Mahler and Sol LeWitt in Spoleto, Italy. The residency program provides a focussed and stimulating environment for artists, curators and writers to develop new ways of working in dialogue with peers and the unique cultural heritage of the region.

The Rules of the Game is generously supported by Valentina Bonomo and the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation.