

Kris Martin

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With Kris Martin (*1972, Kortrijk, Belgium), time is the main motive in his art practice. “Everything is time and time is everything, but you cannot grasp what it is. Time is fluid; it constantly escapes.” According to him time becomes frozen in his work and he considers it a challenge to give an object a notion of time.

Kris Martin considers himself as an observer. With “small gestures” he tries to influence his audience brains: he attempts to show something in a way you have never seen it before. He tries to unlock little details.

Open to many interpretations, Martin's work causes an emptiness, a space where you can think about the complexity of life. Attending complexity makes her real: open yourself up to this complexity and not only focus on your own opinion. His work can be an open end or a new beginning; Martin provides a frame. The viewer is able to complete the work by himself; the viewer's imagination, his time and effort to reflect, is required.

Kris Martin uses well-known or daily objects in a strange way. His work is frequently the result of daily fortune – breaking a champagne glass or going to the flea market and finding a cannonball from the Napoleonic war. Spontaneity is an important factor of his work.

Aware of the relativity of his own life, the artist shows “this is who I am” or “I was here”. By means to his work he tries to change the viewer in order to make a difference. His thoughts about time are reflected in a definition by St. Augustine which Martin considers as the most interesting he has come across: “if you ask me what time is I do not know, but if you do not ask me I know exactly what it is.”

Kris Martin lives and works in Ghent, Belgium.

By Karlyn De Jongh

All quotes from an interview with Karlyn De Jongh, as published in *Personal Structures: Time Space Existence*, DuMont, Cologne, 2009, p. 248-251