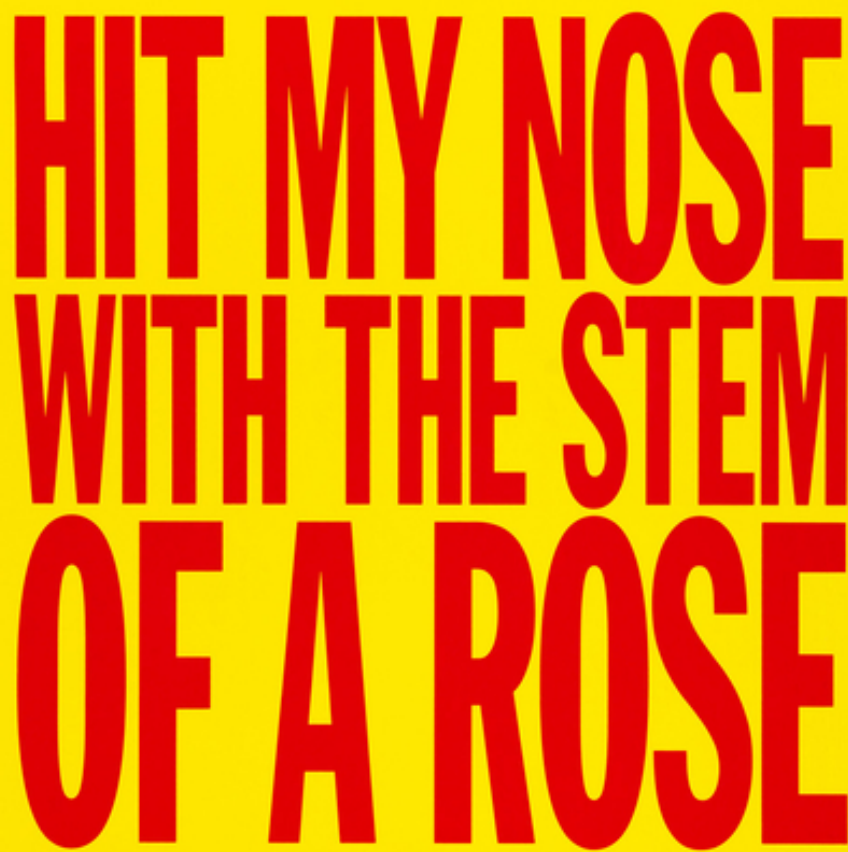


ALMINE RECH

FINANCIAL TIMES
how to
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OPENING SHOT

September 25, 2021



HIT MY NOSE
WITH THE STEM
OF A ROSE

POP GOES THE EASEL

The artist John Giorno's first posthumous solo show in the UK brings poetry to London's art scene

"In 1965, the only venues for poetry were the book and the magazine," the late American artist John Giorno told curator Hans Ulrich Obrist in 2002, explaining how his performance poetry was inspired by friends including Merce Cunningham, Andy Warhol, and John Cage. "Multimedia and performance didn't exist. I said to myself, 'If these artists can do it, why can't I do it for poetry?'"

Giorno was to become a defining figure in the creative scene of 1960s New York, known also for his art, activism, bold typographic paintings – and his social life. He described his home at 222 Bowery, where he lived from 1962 to his death in 2019, as "an Italian-inspired palazzo for the beggars"; here, Mark Rothko painted the famous "Seagram" murals, Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg hung out, and William Burroughs lived. It was also where Giorno conducted his love affair with Warhol.

Less is known of the enigmatic figure across the Atlantic, however. Now Almine Rech gallery is hosting the late artist's first posthumous solo show in the UK – 18 paintings, produced in 2017, entitled *Perfect Flowers* and featuring short lines of Giorno's poetry: "daffodil/baptized in butter" reads one. The artist's *Dial-A-Poem*, which he debuted in 1968, will also launch in the UK. Call in and hear a pre-recorded verse recited by writers such as Allen Ginsberg and Patti Smith. **BAYA SIMONS**

*John Giorno is at Almine Rech London
12 October-13 November*

*Hit My Nose with the Stem of
a Rose, 2017, by John Giorno*