



*roman signer*

born 1938

#### **About the artist**

Roman Signer (born in 1938, Switzerland) is an internationally acclaimed artist who works in sculpture, photography and video. He is most famous for his captivating 'Aktionen' or 'time sculptures', which involve building, executing and recording the results of arbitrary experiments.

Starting with meticulous planning, he sets up and records a wide variety of acts that include explosions, collisions, and the physical projection of an assortment of different objects.

His performances throw art and science together to capture the transformation of materials over a fixed period of time. They focus the viewer's attention on the experience of the event, the physical changes to the objects concerned and the forces involved.

Traditionally, sculptors have always focused on crafting physical material in three dimensions. Roman Signer's work explores a further dimension: that of time. As the artist puts it, his time sculptures investigate: "...something that is going to happen, is happening or has happened. Or could happen."

Roman Signer's work is distinguished by its ingenuity. In 'Cap with Rocket', for example, a firework attached to a knitted hat over the artist's face is ignited and shoots off, whisking it away. In 'Old Shatterhand' he stands on a violently vibrating belt machine and shoots at a target.

Despite the apparent simplicity of the artist's installations – which, ironically, are often the result of very detailed planning that includes a lot of experimentation – they defy simple explanation. Each one has its own character - ranging from irresistibly silly to melancholic – and, therefore, provokes a variety of different responses. As a result, attempts to pigeonhole the artist and his work are inevitably doomed to failure.

#### **Kvadrat art projects**

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#### **For further information and images, please contact**

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