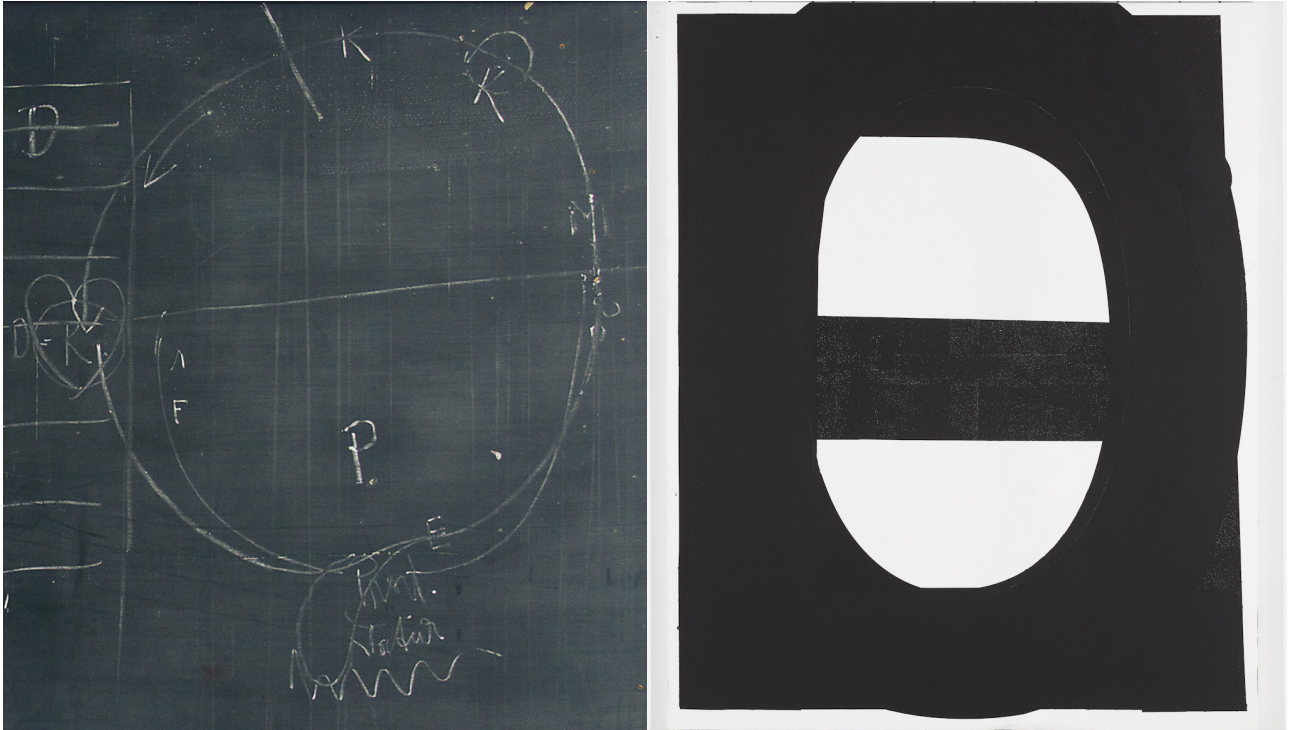


LUXEMBOURG & DAYAN



Joseph Beuys, *Double Blackboard*, 1978 (detail) - left  
Will Boone, *Load*, 2015 - right

# WORD BY WORD

curated by Francesco Bonami

30th June - 5th September 2015

Luxembourg & Dayan announces *Word by Word*, a survey exhibition of artworks from the '60s to today that feature text as image and present language as an artistic medium. Curated by Francesco Bonami, the exhibition draws together works by Carl Andre, John Baldesarri, Nanni Balestrini, Joseph Beuys, Alighiero Boetti, Will Boone, Mark Flood, Marine Hugonnier, Joseph Kosuth, Barbara Kruger, Glenn Ligon, On Kawara, Richard Prince, Tim Rollins & K.O.S., Ed Ruscha, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Betty Tomkins, Ben Vautier, Lawrence Weiner and Christopher Wool to present a short history of pictorial language.

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## LUXEMBOURG & DAYAN

Text has played a crucial part in the developments of twentieth century art; from the collaged inclusions of newspapers in Cubist paintings to René Magritte's lessons in the opacity of language, Marcel Duchamp's anti-retinal explorations of art's frontiers and Pop Art's appropriation of advertisement slogans and comic strip. The history of words in art is also in part the history of Conceptualism, reaching an apogee in the dematerialised work of the late '60s when language supplanted images; yet the role of words in art has always been ambiguous, oscillating between making the viewer into a reader and vice versa. The rub of semantics and aesthetics has given rise to a visual poetics that thrives in the space between meaning and making that the exhibition seeks to celebrate in its diversity, involving the viewer in a conversation across time conducted through the silent cacophony of reverberating words.



*Installation view: Joseph Kosuth, One and Three Lamps, 1965 (left);  
John Baldessari, Word Chain: Faucet (Ilene's Story), 1975 (right)*

The exhibition speaks through a diversity of media, from Beuys' iconic chalked blackboards to Ligon's recent coal dusted interrogations of language, encompassing newspaper, book pages, vinyl lettering, paint, ink and graphite. Its graphics range from print to écriture, taking in cursive script, upper-case communication, hand- and spray-painted lettering, collaged newspapers depicted magazines. From the text landscapes of Andre, in which words become modular units carrying both pattern and poem; to Kosuth's manifestations of art as "itself philosophy made concrete"; Boetti's exquisitely drawn magazine covers; Kruger's commanding conjunction of cut up phrases and images; the collaged poetry of Balestrini; Prince's verbal jokes and visual puns; and the fine line trod between legibility and abstraction in Will Boone's compressed and fraying words, Word by Word will explore painting converged into poetry and poetry converged into painting, and the myriad complexions that lie in between.

## LUXEMBOURG & DAYAN

### FRANCESCO BONAMI

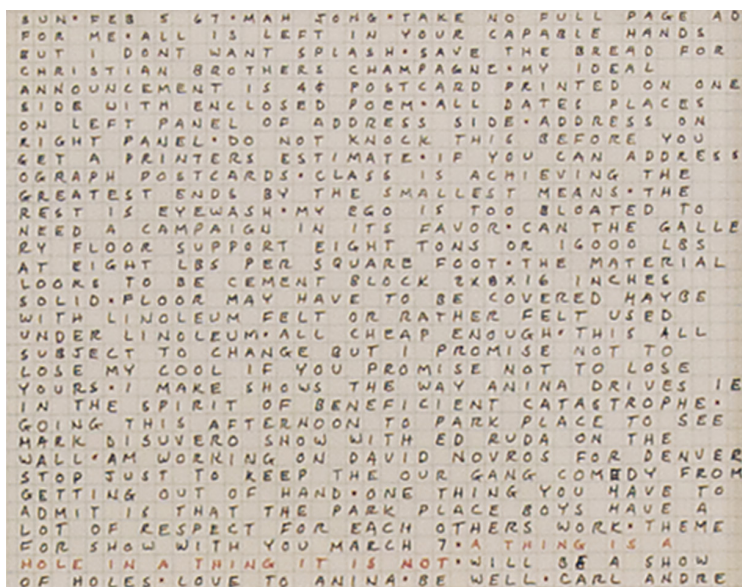
Francesco Bonami was born in Florence in 1955, moving to New York in 1986 where he has lived since. A writer, critic and former painter, he is most celebrated for his role as a curator. From 1995 to 2014, Bonami was the Artistic Director of the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Turin; from 2004 to 2008, he was the artistic director of Centro di Arte Contemporanea Villa Manin; and from 1999 to 2009 he was the Manilow Senior Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. His many major exhibitions include the 75th Whitney Biennial of American Art (2010), the 50th edition of the Biennale di Venezia for Visual Arts, *Dreams and Conflicts — The Dictatorship of the Viewer* (2003) and *Manifesta 3, Borderline Syndrome* in Ljubljana (2000).



Tim Rollins & K.O.S., *THE TIME MACHINE VIII* (after H.G. Wells), 2013

### LUXEMBOURG & DAYAN

Launched in 2009, Luxembourg & Dayan presents curated, museum-quality exhibitions of works by modern and contemporary artists across gallery spaces in New York and in London. The gallery has held a number of critically-acclaimed exhibitions, including historical presentations of artists, such as Mario Schifano, Alberto Burri and Domenico Gnoli. *Word by Word* continues Luxembourg & Dayan's series of thematic survey exhibitions, which since 2011 has included *Grisaille*, *Unpainted Paintings*, *That Obscure Object of Desire*, *Thick Paint* and *The Shaped Canvas, Revisited*.



Carl Andre, *SUN FEB 5 67 MAH JONG TAKE NO FULL PAGE AD*, 1967

### NOTES TO EDITORS

Luxembourg & Dayan is open: Tuesday to Friday 1am-5pm; Saturday 12pm-4pm; or by appointment. Press enquiries & images: Gair Burton ([gair@picklespr.com](mailto:gair@picklespr.com)) or Cristina Giusti ([cristina@picklespr.com](mailto:cristina@picklespr.com)).