

## BRAD DOWNEY SUBVERSIVE INTERVENTIONS

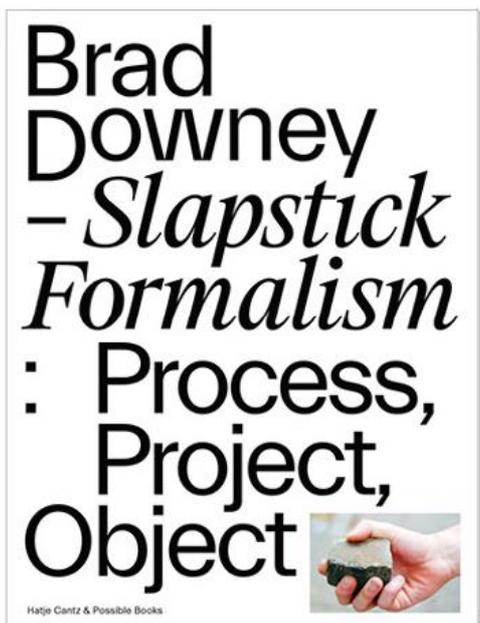
**American artist Brad Downey examines our everyday life with humor, sensitivity, and precise interventions. The newly released volume *Slapstick – Formalism* brings together the fullness of his oeuvre, providing insight into the conceptual as well as the performative sides of his diverse art, which cannot be categorized into any one genre. He finds inspiration in objects and activities of everyday life, which are reflected in sculptures, architecture, performances, installations, films, drawings, collages, and guerrilla actions.**

Berlin, July 16, 2020 – Brad Downey received international attention in the summer of 2019 when he commissioned a Slovenian artist to use chainsaws to erect a wooden sculpture of the United States' First Lady, Melania Trump, in her birthplace of Sevnica in southeastern Slovenia. It was only last Thursday that the media worldwide reported that the sculpture was set on fire by "unknown vandals." Downey's work is remembered in Berlin for the time that he sprayed the KaDeWe green in 2008.

The Berlin-based conceptual artist is not limited to one medium. All of his works have a penchant for anarchy, physical engagement, improvisation, and social criticism. For example, he had a dog walk on a treadmill for the work *Treading*, had acrobats wearing French police uniforms interact by pretending to be in control, or suggested through *The Use of Books* that books are also wonderful guides.

Downey turns our viewing and reading habits upside down like slapstick comedy, using situational comedy and seeming randomness. With his high level of formal precision, he reveals the familiar and unquestioned madness surrounding us. He subliminally suggests new ways of seeing and behaving, which can, not least, lead to an encounter with one's own deep malaise: "Slapstick exaggerates and exceeds the limits of the norm. The formalism adheres excessively to the prescribed form. This deliberate ambiguity and the contradiction of this creative juxtaposition corresponds to Downey's art," says author and editor Lukas Feireiss.

Brad Downey lives in Berlin (\* 1980, Louisville, Kentucky). He studied at the Pratt Institute, New York, and the Slade School of Art, London.



**BRAD DOWNEY**  
**SLAPSTICK FORMALISM**  
**PROCESS, PROJECT, OBJECT**

Texte von Alain Bieber, Jimmie Durham, Lukas Feireiss, Matthew Murphy, Rafael Schacter, Angelique Spaninks, Jennifer Thatcher, Hrag Vartanian, Marc Wellmann, Ed Zipco, Gestaltung von Matthias Hübner

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