

NKV Press Release

Jimmy Roberts is the second laureate of the Follow Fluxus–After Fluxus grant!

The second Follow Fluxus – After Fluxus grant for young contemporary art called by the State Capital of Wiesbaden and the NKV Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden doted with 10.000 € goes to the object- and performanceartist Jimmy Robert (*1975, Guadeloupe).

Follow Fluxus – After Fluxus supports young international artists whose work suggests ideas inherent to the Fluxus art movement in order to keep the art current alive.

The Jury 2009

/ **Alice Koegel**

Curator of contemporary art at Staatsgalerie Stuttgart
Curator of "STATES OF FLUX" 2007 at the Tate Modern

/ **Kevin Clarke**

Documenta artist and Fluxus familiar

/ **Michael Berger**

Collection Berger, Wiesbaden

/ **Rita Thies / Dr. Isolde Schmidt**

Cultural Department of the city of Wiesbaden

/ **Elke Gruhn**

Nassauischer Kunstverein

Elke Gruhn, Director of the Nassauischer Kunstverein, and Rita Thies, Head of the Cultural Department, announced, that Jimmy Robert was selected from about 46 artists to the second laureate of the Follow Fluxus – After Follow Fluxus grant.

Jimmy Robert (born 1975 in Guadeloupe) creates photographs, collages, objects, performances and films that focus on process and transition. While analyzing the relationship between image and object, he concentrates formally on the issue of the point at which a two-dimensional surface ceases to be an image and begins to expand both within our imagination and in reality into something similar to a three-dimensional object.

Each of his images displays an object that is then developed into a spatial sculpture. Here, Roberts systematically explores its relationship to the human body. In his performance, inspired by Yoko Ono's CUT PIECE, he quite literally translates the action of touch and being touched into action, including both himself and the viewer(s).

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As Jimmy Roberts interprets the action, his upper body is not covered with clothes but gradually surrounded with duct tape. With each piece of tape the audience pulls off him, the artist successively exposes himself while losing pieces that quite literally and figuratively he has been stuck with. At the same time, each stripped-off strip of tape describes sequences of the press reviews of Ono's performance 1966 in London.

Jimmy Roberts' playful and yet profound transgression and progression of genres, the way he overlaps two- and three dimensional structures that permeate the most diverse forms of media, and his critical approach to the performative elements inherent even in the differing look and feel of collages – all these were qualities that prompted the jury to award Jimmy Roberts the 2009 Follow Fluxus scholarship bestowed by the Nassauischen Kunstverein and Wiesbaden as State Capital of Hessen.

Vital for the jury's decision was not that Roberts sees himself the way the Fluxus movement historically viewed itself, but rather that he created artworks in the vital spirit of Fluxus that refuse to be strictly pigeonholed.

The endowment of 10,000 Euro is provided annually for a residency in Wiesbaden from June through August. Living quarters and studio space is provided by NKV during this time. The work stipend concludes with an exhibition of the artist's created work in the following year between September 2009 and May 2010 and includes a publication. The grant holder should reside predominantly in Wiesbaden for the duration of the grant period.

Further information about the Follow Fluxus – After Follow Fluxus grant and images you find at www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de/presse/followfluxus2009.zip

If you have further questions or wanted to have more information, please contact us via mail presse@kunstverein-wiesbaden.de or via call 0611 30 11 36 (press office).

The logo for NKV (Nassauischer Kunstverein) consists of three vertical red bars of varying heights to the left of the letters 'NKV' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.The logo for Follow Fluxus features the words 'FOLLOW' and 'FLUXUS' stacked vertically. Each letter is formed by a stack of three-dimensional, grey, rectangular blocks, giving it a sculptural, architectural appearance.The logo for Wiesbaden Kulturamt features a stylized classical building with a pediment and columns at the top. Below it, the word 'WIESBADEN' is written in a large, black, serif font, and 'Kulturamt' is written in a smaller, black, serif font below that. At the bottom, there are three decorative floral or star-like symbols arranged in a small cluster.