

ForYourArt Announces **Artists Read Baldessari**



To celebrate the publication of
More Than You Wanted to Know About John Baldessari, Vol. 1 and 2
Meg Cranston, Hans Ulrich Obrist, editors

Over 50 artists and special guests
will read and perform Baldessari's writings

February 2, 1-3 pm
Democracy Forum at Japanese American National Museum
111 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles

January 28, 2014 (Los Angeles)—Over 50 artists, friends and special guests will gather on Sunday, February 2 to read and perform excerpts from *More Than You Wanted to Know About John Baldessari* (JRP|Ringier), two new volumes of Baldessari's writings.

Presented by ForYourArt with the volumes' editors Meg Cranston and Hans Ulrich Obrist, the recital is a playful nod to Baldessari's 1972 performance, *Baldessari Sings Lewitt*, in which the artist sang Sol LeWitt's text, *Thirty-Five Statements on Conceptual Art*, to the tune of popular songs.

In his introduction to this seminal performance, Baldessari said that his goal was to help these sentences "escape," and reach "a much wider audience." In this spirit, ForYourArt will also share via social media Baldessari's *List of Art Ideas for 1st Class of CalArts, Post Studio (If They Have No Ideas of Their Own from which to Make a Piece)* from 1970, in which he suggests several classroom art-making ideas.

Baldessari invites anyone to use his list of ideas and tag their work
#BackAtchaBaldi.

“Baldessari demystifies artistic production itself as a game in which every move is simply an act, or a set of acts, of selection: *this not that*,” says Hans Ulrich Obrist. #BackAtchaBaldi also reflects what Meg Cranston calls Baldessari’s “democratic and anti-hierarchical way to present ideas, and exploration of how teaching could possibly be a form of art.”

Following the event, as part of the Contemporary Artists’ Book Conference at Printed Matter’s LA Art Book Fair, Baldessari, Cranston, and Obrist will sign copies of the book purchased from Art Catalogues. Thanks to Surface, MOCA TV, and ARTBOOK | D.A.P.

Confirmed readers (list in formation)

Scoli Acosta, Jacinto Astiazarán, Walead Beshty, Andrea Bowers, John Burtle, Brian Butler, Fiona Connor, Kate Costello, Meg Cranston, Travis Diehl, Sam Falls, Ed Fornieles, Simone Forti, Brendan Fowler, Michael Govan, Mark Hagen, Amy Von Harrington, James Hayward, Alex Israel, Vishal Jugdeo, Dawn Kasper, Alice Könitz, Joel Kyack, Suzanne Lacy, Steven Lavine, Thomas Lawson, William Leavitt, Chris Lipomi, Rachel Lord, Shana Lutker, Dashiell Manley, Ian Markell, Daniel Joseph Martinez, T. Kelly Mason, Alex Miller, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Laura Owens, Ana Prvacki, Brian Roettinger, Guru Rugu, Allen Ruppertsberg, Fred Savage, Brian Sharp, Jim Shaw, Lisa Sitko, Jesse Stecklow, Mungo Thomson, Amalia Ulman, Mary Weatherford, Jordan Wolfson, Wendy Yao, Laura Zucker

About John Baldessari

John Baldessari's artwork has been featured in more than 200 solo exhibitions and in over 1000 group exhibitions in the U.S. and Europe. His projects include artist books, videos, films, billboards, and public works. His awards and honors include memberships in the American Academy of Arts and Letters and in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Americans for the Arts Lifetime Achievement Award, the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative, the BACA International 2008, the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement, awarded by La Biennale di Venezia, and the City of Goslar’s “Kaiser Ring” art prize.

He has received honorary degrees from the National University of Ireland, San Diego State University, Otis Art Institute of Parsons School of Design, and California College of the Arts.

About *More Than You Wanted to Know About John Baldessari* Vol. 1 and 2

Published by JRP|Ringier. Edited by Meg Cranston and Hans Ulrich Obrist

More Than You Wanted to Know About John Baldessari Vol. 1 and 2 presents Baldessari as storyteller, moralist, teacher and occasional gadfly, always concerned to accomplish what he describes as the central task of art making: to communicate in a way that people can understand. These writings address everything from matters of color in sculpture, to the dilemmas of art students in need of ideas, to the art world's ever-conflicted relationship with money, while always returning to Baldessari's love of language and his longstanding investigation into the tensions of word and image. With numerous never-before-published texts and facsimiles of original documents, this long-anticipated collection will prove essential reading for anyone involved in contemporary art.

About ForYourArt

In 2010, ForYourArt released John Baldessari's ***In Still Life 2001-2010***, an app that invites the user to create his or her own still life by arranging any or all of the 38 objects onscreen. "When someone completes their own still life using ***In Still Life 2001-2010*** it becomes their own artwork," says artist John Baldessari. "It's not mine. It's theirs. Still-lives are about the fleeting things in life." In 2013, ForYourArt produced John Baldessari's "Learn To Dream," a public art project on buses and billboard for the Los Angeles Fund for Public Education's "Arts Matter" campaign.

ForYourArt is a fluid platform to produce and distribute artists' work. ForYourArt seeks to advance a spirit of patronage and culture of dialogue by perceiving all media, sites and relationships as having potential for artistic transformation. Sign up for the weekly ForYourArt guide at www.foryourart.com.

Image Credit: John Baldessari *Stills from Baldessari Sings LeWitt* 1972, Black-and-white video, sound, 15 min, Courtesy 2014 John Baldessari Studio/New Art Trust, San Francisco © John Baldessari

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