RE: WRITING vs. The internet

10 NOVEMBER SATURDAY 3PM 11月10日 星期六 下午3时

MATIAS VIEGENER LAARTISTWRITERCRITIC READING FROM 2500 RANDOM THINGS ABOUT ME TOO "a text-cloud raining art, dogs, sex, death and fruit"





RENÉE REYNOLDS SHANGHAIPOSTPATPOET poetry + video "History of a future" screening





JAMES COHAN GALLERY

Yueyang Road 170, Building 1, Lane 1 near Yongjia Road | jamescohan.com

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ABOUT 2500 RANDOM THINGS ABOUT ME TOO

"On February 6 2009, Matias Viegener logged into Facebook and wrote a short list of random things about himself. He had been tagged in a friend's meme, '25 Random Things About Me,' and though it irked him, he decided to respond. The meme's premise was simple: Write 25 unrelated facts about yourself, then ask 25 friends to compose their own list. The next day, Matias composed a second list, despite remarking in the first, 'I don't want to tell people things they don't know about me.' Two days later, he wrote a third. Then a fourth. The question became: Is it possible, given our love of stories and human proclivity toward habit, to make a long and truly random list from one's life? The 100 lists assembled in *2500 Random Things About Me Too* set out to do just that, exploring along the way the relationships between family, memory, sexuality, social networks, and randomness—on and offline."

-Les Figues Press, lesfigues.com

ABOUT MATIAS VIEGENER

A Los Angeles based writer, artist and critic who works alone and collaboratively in the fields of writing, video, installation and performance art, Viegener is also a co-founder of Fallen Fruit, a participatory art practice focusing on fruit, urban ecology and public space, which has shown work internationally in museums and galleries. Viegener is the author of *2500 Random Things About Me Too* and has co-edited two books, *The noulipian Analects* and *Séance in Experimental Writing* with Christine Wertheim. He is the editor and co-translator of Georges Batailles' *The Trial of Gilles de Rais*.

-Les Figues Press, lesfigues.com

ABOUT RENÉE REYNOLDS

Renée Reynolds is an American artist and writer who has been living in Shanghai since 2007. Her poem "History of a Future" was composed over the course of five years' worth of Shanghai Metro trips and, in collaboration with Shanghai-based French designer Olivier Wyart, adapted to a video that won first prize in the 2011 Shanghai Tunnels Project competition and showed at Beijing TEDx 2012. Renée is also an active member of HALiterature (haliterature.com), a "postpat" writing collective and publisher.

PRAISE FOR 2500 RANDOM THINGS

...2500 Random Things is an extraordinary capture of a life and a consciousness in middle age, when mortality and the grid of associations laid by one's personal history cannot be denied ... Viegener creates a selfportrait—of the whole world!—that encompasses everything from Descartes to the grooming habits of parrots, with plenty of sex, beauty and boredom. Like Basho's Narrow Road to the Deep North, Viegener's journey leads nowhere except to an emptying out. Compulsively readable, the book is a brilliant achievement....

— Chris Kraus

Boris Vian called it "the froth of the days," an honorific that miraculously anticipated the textures of social networking by a halfcentury. And now Matias Viegener gives this to us with such grace and ease we can only take it in and read it as the background hum of our lives, somehow turned into literature ... utterly contemporary, intelligent, and wry—a double-edged sword.....

Matthew Stadler

3 THINGS FROM 2500 THINGS:

- 1 The meme: me me.
- 2 At some point, if you keep listing random things about yourself, people will start to have ideas about you.
- 3 I've been trying to distract you by telling you either racy sex stories or melancholic family stories.
- 4 All the stuff people crave.

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