

Robin Rhode

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Biography

Robin Rhode was born in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1971. He studied at Technikon Witwatersrand and the South African School of Film, Television and Dramatic Art. He now lives in Berlin. Rhode works primarily in low-tech mediums like chalk, charcoal, and paint, but also incorporates performance, photography, and film into his work. His 'canvases' are usually located in urban settings – walls, basketball courts, the street – and this element of his work signals his interest in drawing people into the work that he creates, and also in 'street art' with its incorporation of social concerns as well as its consideration of branding on the lives of ordinary people. Rhode often draws objects onto walls, and then interacts with these objects as they change shape. He creates a kind of animated film in which he is the central character and his imagination supplies the story and the antagonists. Rhode playfully interrogates the relationship between performer and spectator, and brings stories about life in the city into the rarefied space of the gallery.

Rhode had his first solo exhibition in New York in 2005. Since then he has had exhibitions in the US, Spain, Germany, France, Japan, the UK, and South Africa. His work is in many major collections, including the Studio Museum in Harlem, the Smithsonian Institution, the Museum of Modern Art, the Goetz Collection, and the Johannesburg Art Gallery. He has been artist-in-residence at a number of international institutions and won the Illy Prize at Art Brussels.