

MUDAM

Jason Dodge. Tomorrow, I walked to a dark black star

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A Model: Epilogue

04.05 — 08.09.2024

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Jason Dodge. *Tomorrow, I walked to a dark black star*

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Curators

Bettina Steinbrügge, with Sarah Beaumont, Clément Minighetti
and Joel Valabrega

Production

David Celli, Paula Fernandes, Richard Goedert, Clara Kremer,
Lourindo Soares

Jason Dodge's *Tomorrow, I walked to a dark black star* is presented across
all exhibition spaces dedicated to the exhibition *A Model* on levels 0 and 1.





Introduction

A Model is an exhibition that puts forward a reflection on the role of the museum at the beginning of the twenty-first century. It affirms the need to think of the institution as a living place, sensitive and receptive to contemporary debates and reaching beyond its status as simply a space for display. *A Model* contemplates the possibilities that arise when museum collections are re-imagined as active and performative environments, rather than timeless repositories of objects.

A Model is also about the potential of art having critical impact on the world and how artists exert their commitment to this potential through their work. Even as an artist's vision is subjective and personal, art objects or manifestations are vital forms of communication. The idea of the museum as a static archive – a conception inherited from the Enlightenment – is upended in today's cultural context in which durational, event-based and experimental artworks, exhibitions and experiences are part of the institutional language.

The museum has to take into account changes and rethink beliefs that have been taken for granted. Today, the landscape is changing, from a renewed approach to diversity within institutions, to rethinking existing and deeply anchored narratives and in turn rewriting history to re-establish cultures or practices hitherto overlooked or ignored. The recent pandemic also changed behaviours: the social media feedback loops and the constantly improving visual technologies are amplifying our relation to information and the realities of the world we live in.

This drive to rethink and reinvent itself is nothing new in the development of the modern and contemporary art museum. This exhibition was in part inspired by

the project of the artist and activist Palle Nielsen, entitled *The Model – A Model for a Qualitative Society*. It was presented in 1968 at the Moderna Museet in Stockholm, then led by Pontus Hultén, who contributed considerably to redefine the museum in his time. Nielsen's project consisted in the installation of an adventure playground inside the museum, freely accessible to all children to a wide range of play functions and activities. It was open for three weeks and attracted more than 33,500 visitors, 20,000 of whom were children (adults paid a normal entrance fee).

A Model echoes this regenerating spirit in its desire to renew the museum's commitment to contemporary art. It marks the beginning of new ways of thinking about how art is displayed and thought of, by placing the Mudam Collection as the point of departure of a temporary exhibition. The latter brings together international artists whose practice critically reflects on museum institutions; some through new commissions and some inspired by and in dialogue with works from the collection. *A Model* is a testament to the role artists have in shaping collective awareness and their influence on the shaping of the contemporary art museum.

This exhibition is the third and final chapter of *A Model*, a three-part project that unfolds from 1 December 2023 to 8 September 2024. It follows *A Model: Prelude – Rayyane Tabet. Trilogy* and *A Model*, on view since 9 February.





The exhibition

In the context of the group exhibition *A Model*, Jason Dodge (b. 1969, Newtown, Pennsylvania) has been invited to conceive an epilogue. *Tomorrow, I walked to a dark black star* materialises as a solo show within a group exhibition.

An epilogue is understood as a speech or piece of text added at the end of a play or book, often making a brief statement about what happens to the characters after the play or book is finished. The exhibition, as epilogue, becomes at once medium–object–subject, working together to tap into how we perceive things, and subsequently transform them. This reverse way of mounting an exhibition of an artist's work in an existing exhibition, consisting in the addition of a layer to something already existing, gives way to an exploration of the potentials of both a group show and a solo show, disturbing and expanding their respective frames and temporalities.

Jason Dodge is interested in the landscape that we see and the landscape of our lives, what we have and what we think, who we connect to and who we distance ourselves from – the things that comprise this work come directly from the landscape we have made together. Think of a pocket emptied out on any day, the traces of a part of us can be seen in bits of paper, some coins, a ticket for something, some dust, proof you were here, proof you were living.

The things and traces that comprise Dodge's work remind us that bodies and minds are not displaced from each other. Just as our bodies are part of other systems and organisms and connected to other bodies. Dodge enacts a shared experience in which cause and effect, touching and letting go, are a circular

event. These familiar, at times marginal, remains become strange to us through the artist's gestures. This exhibition *Tomorrow, I walked to a dark black star* takes on the language contained in existing things and how we transform them over and over.

For the artist, things exist, always in the present tense. While we can trace our relationship to something we can recognise, we can never know its complete story. The title *Tomorrow, I walked to a dark black star*, a line from a poem by Alfred Starr Hamilton (b. 1914 – 2015, Montclair, New Jersey), is also a found element in the epilogue. The gap in syntax between the future and the past tense highlights the artist's ability to trouble fixed entities. What are the boundaries between what the artist has done and what we have done?



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The artist

Jason Dodge (b. 1969, Newtown, Pennsylvania) has presented exhibitions in galleries, museums, biennials, art centres, and artist-run spaces since the late 1990s. His work is held in several public collections. In 2012 Dodge founded and continues to edit the poetry imprint Fivehundred places. Dodge recently presented the solo exhibitions *Cut a Door in the Wolf*, MACRO, Rome (2021) and *They lifted me into the sun and packed my empty skull in cinnamon*, a six-part exhibition held at Akwa Ibom, Athens; Guimaraes, Vienna; MOREpublishers with Gevaert Editions, Brussels; Galleria Franco Noero, Turin and Gern en Regalia, New York (2020); at the height of the pandemic each exhibition was installed by several artists including Eva Barto, SoIL Thornton and Giorgio Griffa. Other solo exhibitions include: *Jason Dodge with Ishion Hutchinson: The Broad Church of Night*, the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, curated by Dieter Roelstraete, Chicago (2018); *Water Paper Cut*, Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin (2017); *Behind this machine anyone with a mind who cares can enter*, IAC – Institut d'Art Contemporain de Villeurbanne (2016). Dodge co-curated *Enemy of the Stars* with Krist Gruijthuijsen at KW Institute, Berlin (2017). His work has recently been included in *The Collection for the 21st Century* at the Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, Berlin (2023) and in group exhibitions at Castello di Rivoli, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin (2020); the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2018); MIT List Visual Arts Centre, Cambridge, USA (2017). He lives on Møn.





Public programme

Poetry Reading

04.05.2024 | 16h30 – 17h15 | EN

With poet Alice Notley

Guided Tour

05.05.2024 | 12h00 – 12h30 | EN

With artist Jason Dodge

Guided Tour

22.05.2024 | 18h00 | EN

With director of Mudam

Bettina Steinbrügge

Guided Tour

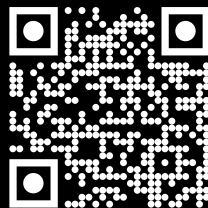
12.06.2024 | 18h00 – 19h00 | FR

With assistant curator Sarah Beaumont

Lucky Findings. Mudamini workshop

16.07.2024 | 14h30 – 16h30 | Age 9-12

18.07.2024 | 14h30 – 16h30 | Age 6-8



Full programme on
mudam.com

Pascal Aubert, Sarah Beaumont,
Joyce Becker, Sandra Biwer,
Geoffroy Braibant, David Celli,
Alice Champion, Michelle Cotton,
Diane Durinck, Zuzana Fabianova,
Clarisse Fahrtmann, Marie-Noëlle Farcy,
Sylvie Fasbinder, Paula Fernandes,
Clara Froumenty, Christophe Gallois,
Jordan Gerber, Richard Goedert,
Thierry Gratien, Matthias Heitbrink,
Christine Henry, Juliette Hesse,
Camille d'Huart, Clara Jeanneau,
Julie Jephos, Germain Kerschen,
Yousra Khalis, Clara Kremer,
Deborah Lambolez, Laurence Le Gal,
Vanessa Lecomte, Nathalie Lesure,
Carine Lilliu, Ioanna Madenoglu,
Frédéric Maraud, Tawfik Matine El Din,
António Mendes, Laura Mescolini,
Mélanie Meyer, Clément Minighetti,
Barbara Neiseler, Carlotta Pierleoni,
Markus Pilgram, Inès Planchenault,
Clémentine Proby, Boris Reiland,
Susana Rodrigues, Alexandre Sequeira,
Elodie Simonian, Lourindo Soares,
Bettina Steinbrügge, Joel Valabrega,
Vere Van Gool, Sam Wirtz, Ana Wiscour.



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Acknowledgements

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