



## FACTSHEET

Fré Ilgen (1956.), artist/theorist, born in the Netherlands, lives and works in Berlin, Germany; exhibits regularly in various countries in Europe, USA, East Asia, Australia, sometimes Middle East and South America; travels extensively and frequently lectures;

*ARTIST? The Hypothesis of Bodiness*, english, hardcover, full color, 23 x 28 cm, apr 300 pages, apr 150 pictures of artworks, print run 2000, all text in English only, world wide distribution. The production of the book is supported by private and corporate main sponsors from Korea, and in various ways by private persons, museums and galleries, artists and photographers in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the USA.

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# ARTIST?

## *The Hypothesis of Bodiness*

### **a new approach to understanding the artist and art**

Many clichéd simplifications exist, but what is an artist and what causes the experience we qualify as experience of art? Fré Ilgen explores history and various fields of science to find out why humans need art.

In his previous book 'ART? No Thing! Analogies between art, science and philosophy' artist and art theorist Fré Ilgen dealt with the interest of artists exploring human reality, emphasizing the actual experience of art evolving in between the viewer and the artifact. Renown art critic Donald Kuspit wrote about this book: '*Fré Ilgen's Art? No Thing! is the most important publication by an artist since Kandinsky's On The Spiritual in Art (1912).*'

'ARTIST?' offers familiar, surprising and revolutionary insights in the complex self of the artist and the experience offered by works of art, arguing that the biological processes involved in creating and in encountering the artwork play a more important role than till now has been acknowledged. Ilgen questions innovation and unidirectional progress in art, and discusses the various struggles in art, including insecurity and mediocrity, emphasizing the natural importance of imperfection. He makes a strong point criticizing the cliché about the experience of art being only a cerebral, or only a retinal perception, and promotes the concept of whole mind/body perception. Discussing a large selection of artists across times and cultures, Fré Ilgen demonstrates the naturalness of artists proceeding from a virtuoso phase to maturation.

The hypothesis of *BODINESS* is a new philosophy of the creation and experience of art, arguing we do not only and merely consciously decide what we wish to create or look at, because the human organism, the mind/body, sets perimeters for the creation of and experience offered by artworks. **Bodiness does not have the body as subject but the involvement of the (mind/)body in everything we do, think or experience.**

'ARTIST?' does not offer final answers but asks many profound questions, encouraging each reader to think for him/herself. Well researched and an approach much needed to stimulate the multi-disciplinary discourse on the naturalness of the human need for art. **An approach that should stir all art students, artists, other art professionals, as well as encourage art lovers, medical doctors, scientists, maybe even politicians, to reconsider their interest in art as natural phenomenon of human being, necessary in everyday life, and as essential part of well-being that reaches beyond mere cultural expression or commodity.**