

Big Questions Small Questions

three films by

Peter Fischli & David Weiss

Swiss artists Peter Fischli & David Weiss began collaborating in 1979. Using several media — photography, film, sculpture, installation — they uncover the hidden meaning of everydayness and two equally important sides to life: sincerity and irony. The two artists often identify themselves with the duos that appear in the novels of Flaubert and Dostoyevsky exploring through their work with humour and philosophical curiosity the importance of chance and the poetics of everyday objects.

Der Lauf der Dinge (*The Way Things Go*, 1986–7) one of the most celebrated films of our time since its first appearance in Documenta 8 in Kassel, follows the precarious life of objects in a sequence of compelling, dramatic and hilarious events orchestrated by the artists in their studio.

Duration: 30 minutes

In Der geringste Widerstand (*The Point of Least Resistance*, 1980–1) and *Der Rechte Weg* (*The Right Way*, 1982–3) Fischli and Weiss star as the Rat and the Bear wandering in the Swiss Alps and in the freeways and art galleries of Los Angeles. Reflecting on issues small and large the two artists in costume talk about life, nature, art, money, truth, the good and the beautiful.

Duration: 55 minutes and 29 minutes

The work of Fischli and Weiss has been exhibited at major museums and biennials around the world. The artists represented Switzerland at the Venice Biennale in 1995 and 2003. They also took part in Documenta 8 (1987) and 10 (1997). In 2006 Tate Modern presented a comprehensive career retrospective, *Flowers and Questions*, which traveled to the Kunsthaus Zürich and the Deichtorhallen Hamburg. More recently, they have had exhibitions at the Art Institute of Chicago (2011) and the Serpentine Galleries, London (2013). David Weiss died in 2012. Peter Fischli lives and works in Zurich.