

Success in Failure, Wolfgang Stoerchle

Curated by Alice Dusapin
13 May — 30 June 2022
Giselle's Books, Marseille
Opening reception 13 May, 5pm

To coincide with the release of the first monograph dedicated to the work of Wolfgang Stoerchle, written by Alice Dusapin*, Giselle's Books presents a selection of his videos accompanied by previously unpublished documents.

Wolfgang Stoerchle (1944–1976) was a particularly significant artistic figure of the early 1970s who left a distinct yet discreet mark on a generation of Californian artists, notably through the production of videos and performances involving his body as raw material. The story of his life, as brief as it was eventful, is steeped in rumors, and his sudden death in 1976 likely further heightened the myth surrounding him. His entire body of work was produced over eleven years, between 1965 and 1976. Forty-five years after his death, his name is still whispered in the West Coast art world, awaiting wider recognition.

“He stood naked in front of us with eyes closed and tried and failed to get an erection. Such a bad idea and so good.” — William Wegman

In the summer of 1970, having just graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), Wolfgang Stoerchle was invited by Allan Kaprow to join the new faculty at CalArts. He taught video and performance there from 1970 to 1972. Among the many tools provided by the school, Stoerchle developed a particular interest in the Portapak, a new, lightweight, and user-friendly camera, with which he independently produced dozens of videos staging himself in his studio.

The camera, mounted on a tripod, was connected to a monitor placed in front of Stoerchle, who observed his movements live and adapted them to the screen format: running in the dark with a flashlight, jumping, crawling while undressing, waiting, rolling, eating, etc. In these works, the body is a tool devoid of psychology, attempting—often unsuccessfully, though that is of little consequence, as the focus is on the process of learning—to perform a rudimentary action.

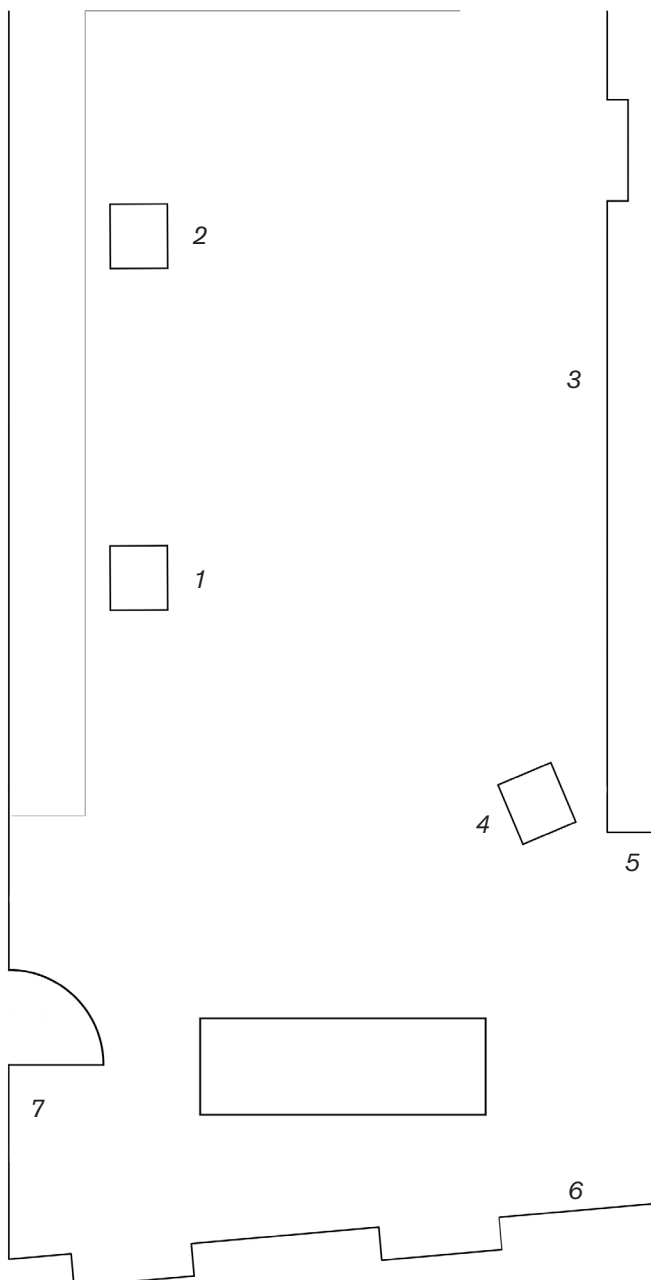


Alice Dusapin has conducted extensive research into his life and work since 2017 and has since organized several exhibitions of his work: Ampersand (Lisbon), Overduin & Co (Los Angeles), Galerie Air de Paris (Paris), MACRO (Rome), and Le Crédac (Ivry-sur-Seine).

The monograph brings together interviews with Daniel Lentz, Paul McCarthy, Matt Mullican, David Salle, and Helene Winer, accompanied by extensive documentation of his videos and performances, as well as rare sculptures, paintings, and installations.

*WOLFGANG STOERCHLE, *SUCCESS IN FAILURE*;
EDITED BY ALICE DUSAPIN.
WITH DAVID SALLE, HELENE WINER, MATT
MULLICAN, PAUL MCCARTHY, AND DANIEL LENTZ.
DESIGN BY COLINE SUNIER & CHARLES MAZÉ,
PUBLISHED BY DAISY AND CHRISTOPHE
DAVIET-THERY IN 2022.

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- 1 *Black and White Roll*, Video, black and white, sound, 1:48 min., c. 1970–72.
Crawling out of cloth, Video, black and white, sound, 2:09 min., c. 1970–72.
Untitled (Tunnel Effect with Sheets and Music), Video, black and white, sound, 4:12 min., c. 1973.
- 2 *Dodging*, Video, black and white, sound, 3:24 min., c. 1972.
Running with Light, Video, black and white, sound, 2:14 min., c. 1971.
Dirt Blowing, Video, black and white, sound, 3:22 min., c. 1971.
- 3 *Untitled* (Fictional News), newspaper print, 43.5 × 56.5 cm, 1970.
- 4 *Shoe Piece*, Video, black and white, sound, 4:32 min., c. 1971.
- 5 Wolfgang Stoerchle (dressed/naked), photo by John F. Waggaman, 1968
- 6 Poster, 43 × 28cm, for *Artists's Performances*, Pomona College Art Gallery, March 2, 6, 13, 20, 1972.
- 7 *Untitled* (Mexico drawing), pen on paper, 28 × 21.5 cm, 1975

