



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

**Collection of Prints and Drawings ETH Zürich
ETH Library**

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Matt Mullican – Prints and drawings Edition Cestio

4 February to 29 March 2015
Opening: Tuesday, 3 February 2015, 6 p.m.

The Department of Prints and Drawings at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) has been collecting works by American artist Matt Mullican (born 1951 in Santa Monica, California; lives and works in Berlin and New York) for more than twenty years. Now, for the first time, all of his works from our collection are to be presented together. A particular highlight of the exhibition is undoubtedly the wooden box with 16 cassettes containing 554 oilstick rubbings. Acquired in 1993, this edition issued by Brooke Alexander, New York, in 1991 is based on illustrations from the Edinburgh Encyclopædia (published between 1808 and 1830). Mullican uses the genre of the encyclopædia to demonstrate the system of order that he has developed.

He has described his five categories of order as follows: Physical Elements, the lowest category in the hierarchy, comprises everything that we find in the world but do not actually design or craft; World Unframed stands for the world that we fashion for ourselves; Framed represents the arts and creative activities in all their forms; Language stands for our verbal, visual and written signs of communication; Subjective Meaning, the highest category in his ordering system, denotes human intellectual activity such as philosophy. Mullican allocates each excerpt from the the encyclopædia to one or more of his hierarchical categories: a certain botanical representation, a plant, can be either found (Physical Elements) or cultivated and used for a certain purpose (World Unframed).

A small group of drawings and individual prints in the exhibition contribute towards a broader understanding of his system.

For the Edition Cestio – an exclusive publisher issuing only one print edition each year – Mullican has recently created his 2014 Untitled (Cosmology, Subject, Model), which is a linoprint with oilstick frottage. This has been taken as an opportunity to mount a display in the corridor showcasing the prints issued by Edition Cestio over the last years.

For further information and visual material, please contact Patrizia Solombrino, Tel. 044 632 40 46 or patrizia.solombrino@gs.ethz.ch