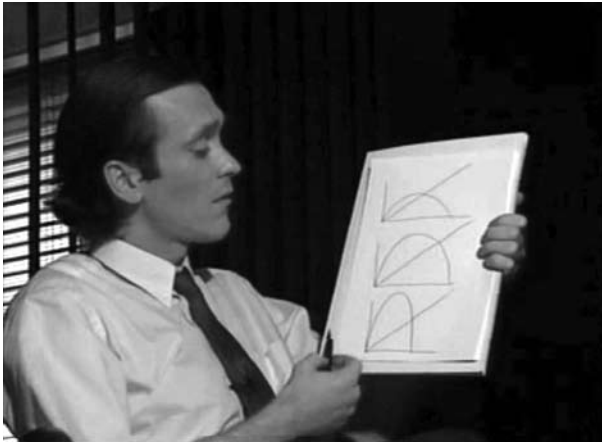


in the dark room...

ERIC DUYCKAERTS



Artists such as Marcel Duchamp or Bruce Nauman are well-known students of mathematics, and Eric Duyckaerts might be among the best-trained students of logic. In his performative lectures—made for video or for a live audience—he puts on a professorial air and uses colored markers to offer explanations of complex problems in logic, math, and philosophy. In this selection of videos, the artist explains a series of ideas in arguments that hold together logically, yet still seem impossibly absurd. His is an art of telling true fictions, giving us proofs that remain at the limits of the plausible. What begins as a helpful introduction to the Sheffer's stroke, a paradoxical conjunction in Boolean algebra, ends up as a flowery praise for the bold and pure simplicity of the long straight line ("I") used to notate it. A presentation on the phenomenology of perception concludes that the world is always perceived with a slight sideways bias, since right-handed people encounter it differently than left-handed people. The etymological analysis of the word "analogy" results in a useless plea to correct a misnamed historical event. He charts the "territory of art" on an X/Y axis. He reasons that copyright laws exist partly to protect buyers of an artwork from also owning the moral responsibility of the art. Duyckaerts' didactic monologues are thought-experiments of useless knowledge, short face-offs between reason and fancy; intellect and humor; art and play; and both sides always win.

(Sept. 11, 2009 –Jan. 3, 2010)

Eric Duyckaerts was born in 1953 in Liège, Belgium, and he lives and works in Nice, France. He has performed and presented solo and group exhibitions worldwide, at institutions including Drawing Center, New York; Musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Liège, Belgium; École du Louvre, Paris, France; École Nationale des Beaux Arts, Lyon; Tate Modern, London; Barbican Museum, London; Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Strasbourg; and Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville, Paris. Duyckaerts also presented work in the Belgian Pavilion at the 2007 *Venice Biennale*.

Image:

*Analogy, 2007*

Video, 5 minutes 50 seconds

Courtesy of the artist and Galerie

Emmanuel Perrotin, Paris