

# SUYAMA SPACE

2324 Second Avenue Seattle WA 98121

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Veit Stratmann's schematic image of *THE SEATTLE FLOOR* installation, Suyama Space

*THE SEATTLE FLOOR: Installation by Veit Stratmann* opens to the public on Monday, August 31 and continues through December 11, 2015. The artist's opening reception is scheduled Friday, August 28 from 5 - 7 pm. His gallery talk will be delivered in the gallery on Saturday, August 29 at 12 pm. The project will be documented with a full color catalogue, accompanied by a scholarly essay written by Pierre Tillet, an art critic, author of numerous texts, and professor at the Superior National School of Architecture, Lyon, France.

*The Seattle Floor*, created by Paris based artist Veit Stratmann is based entirely upon the artist's notion there are "rules of the game" implicitly present in any artistic project. Visitors are confronted with a floor application that has defined limits as well as a range of

choices and possibilities defined by the material structure of the installation. The game rules form the floor upon which the visitor may walk. As in any game, the rules are set, but the choices made by the visitors who become players are not dictated.

The material structure of the floor solicits the visitor's individuality, as a person capable of choice-making, assuming a stance, and of defending a point of view. Not only does the visitor need to decide whether to walk on the floor at all but needs to decide *how* to walk on the floor, necessitating a conscious and deliberate choice of how to traverse the space. To make this choice, the visitor must have access to all necessary information that might influence the decision. The installation is structured so that the visitor can picture himself in the space and decide what choices to make when faced with the entirety of the piece. It is of utmost significance that choice-making may be considered the key element of political action. Thus, walking on the floor fluctuates between making a gesture that creates an art form and taking action, which echoes a form of political involvement.

Likewise, the visitor must determine if his choices of movement are compatible with those of other visitors. This analysis, made from observing one's own movements and those of the other visitors, generates an "awareness zone" through a network of exchanged glances. This visual awareness creates a relationship between each movement across the floor. And by adjusting one's movements in relation to others, the visitor creates a choreography in which he is the center; however visitors surrounding him are also participants, willingly or unwillingly. Each visitor becomes the epicenter of his own shared choreography. Parameters of the individual choreographies are blurred. Are they unique and independent? Superposed or intertwined? Other questions arise: does the person walking across the floor remain a visitor or does he become a part of the exhibit? If the visitor is part of the exhibit, who is the spectator? As the visitor traverses the floor, he is confronted with constantly blurring and alternating positions. He must therefore relentlessly observe, reinvent his role, and redefine his stance and place in relation to the architecture.

This exhibit is made possible through funding from 4Culture/King County Lodging Tax Fund and Suyama Space Friends. Artist transportation is provided by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States. Suyama Space is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is in compliance with the 504/ADA Assurance for people with disabilities. Regular gallery hours are Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is free to the public for all events.

For more information:

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