

JUAN ARATA CURATE SSMIDD

SSMIDD and I have been friends for two years now. I met him during my first months after moving to Berlin. He is one of those people who resists easy description. SSMIDD defines himself as a "Multipurpose Artist" and, indeed, versatility is the hallmark of his efforts, including and beyond his artistic output. He told me once that he was a weight lifter although one would hardly know it judging by his looks. SSMIDD is always like this: you never know what you can expect from him apart from his eagerness to collaborate and his interest in the betterment of all.

I know many artists that will do anything to succeed in the arts, but it appears to me that all of SSMIDD's aims are so strikingly beyond art that it makes me question the real motivations and aims of my own work. He always tries to offer something to the people: not only momentary pleasure but also the possibility of making people conscious. What about? Sometimes only he knows, but this is not even important if we are able to take five minutes to experience what he offers us. SSMIDD says he is interested in the thoughts that arrive in the moment of direct experience, something that you will realize if you chat with him for a while.

The man breaks everything he can break. His output includes a film without images, a visual diary spanning the last ten years in which he invents a practice that mixes karate, meditation, construction, dancing and whatever is in his head at the moment, and the creation of music after two years without listening any music at all. For SSMIDD, there is no limit; everything is infinite. Site, time and context are used to create fascinating moments to be experienced with our minds and bodies alike.

I am sure SSMIDD has many answers to your many questions and that he will make sure we all have an understanding of these answers. In the meantime, I suggest you should start opening yourself up to the experiences he offers and to try to follow his works despite the difficulty posed by his multiple identities.

Only one hint: try not to watch, try to experience.