

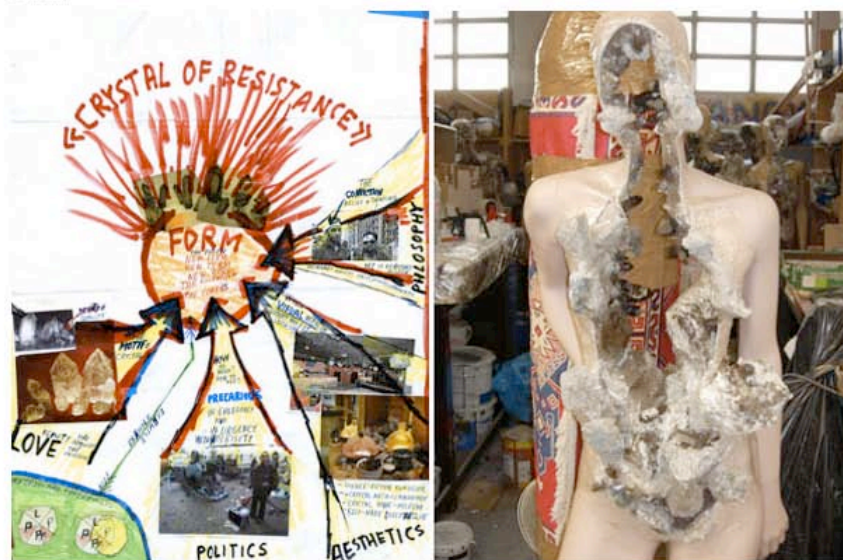
GLADSTONE GALLERY

Butler, Lauren O'Neil, "Thomas Hirschhorn", Artforum, April 24, 2011

ARTFORUM

Thomas Hirschhorn

04.24.11



Left: Thomas Hirschhorn's "schema" for *Crystal of Resistance*. Right: **Thomas Hirschhorn**, *Crystal of Resistance* (work in progress), 2011, mixed media, dimensions variable.

Along with *Andrea Thal*, **Thomas Hirschhorn** will represent Switzerland in this summer's Venice Biennale. To complement *Crystal of Resistance*, his new work for the Swiss pavilion, he has made a website, which he discusses [here](#). A monograph titled *Establishing a Critical Corpus* will be published on the occasion of Hirschhorn's work in Venice.

I DECIDED TO MAKE A WEBSITE to inform about my work *Crystal of Resistance*. I want to offer material about this new work and I want to propose an inside-view—from myself—about my work for the Venice Biennale. My website is not an artwork of mine but stands along side the artwork *Crystal of Resistance*. I want to show how I proceed in working. I want to explain where my inspiration, my website wants to assert my artistic-project in general, my work-position and my ambition as an artist. Furthermore I want to assert my belief in art and why I believe in art. I made this website to express: Where do I stand? What do I want? And also to say that I am the art-worker, that I am the art-soldier, that I am the one who is doing the artwork! I want to speak in my own words—beyond journalism—about my convictions, about my will to give form through my work and only through my work, and I want to insist with my own terms of art. I do not have an artist-homepage or a blog, I do not use "Facebook" or "Twitter." In 2009 I already made a time-limited website for my work *The Bijlmer Spinoza Festival* in Amsterdam. This is my second website.

My work *Crystal of Resistance* will resist—as all artworks do. My site is not the artwork and my website is not part of my artwork. The site is an assertion; it is pure assertion coming from myself—directly—without mediation or commentaries. No "press-texts" are needed. My site is meant as a toolbox, it's a free and open toolbox and I hope it will work as a toolbox. My website is also an information source for someone who cannot travel to Venice and cannot see my work there. My website functions as a complementary fixing-point during the exhibition, beside the catalogue *Establishing a Critical Corpus* which concerns previous works and specific aspects of my work in general and that will come out for the Biennale. I hope this website can create the conditions for a confrontation or a dialogue by establishing a "Critical Corpus" with my work and by including the "non-exclusive audience."

The site is a time-limited website—as announced—I will end it two months after the closing of the biennale. It will be online during ten months altogether. It is good to renew and make space for new works.

— As told to Lauren O'Neill-Butler

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