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WILLIAM HUNT (b.1977, UK)

William Hunt's practice is primarily performance-based. In recent years, he has presented a number of elaborate scenarios for galleries in which he performs music in physically restrictive conditions; often the residue of these actions might be left as a sculptural installation. He additionally stages work outside the gallery context, which is performed to be documented and later exhibited as video installations and photographs. At a basic level Hunt investigates the communication of human emotion and its relationship to the creative act. Although in extreme contrast to John Baldessari's 1971 work *I Am Making Art* – where the artist makes precise and studied gestures while intoning these words with deadpan repetition – Hunt's performances through very different means and process deliver the same message.

With his work, Hunt deliberately creates a tension with the viewer. Presenting himself both as heroic protagonist and foolish prankster, Hunt's performances can engender an empathetic awkwardness among his audience. Through these actions, which are at times almost unbearable to witness, Hunt sets out to test universal truths about what it is to feel joy, pain, love, anger, frustration, isolation, fear, excitement – yet he knows that these emotional states are not absolutes, their definitions can fuse and confuse, especially when realised through the languages of making art. Hunt's actions are finely balanced on the edge of success and failure, between the absurd and the rational; or, as he has described it, "practicing being something else just in case you're not what you think you are."

William Hunt was born in London in 1977, where he lives and works. He has participated in group shows including *God is a Gallery*, Galuzin Gallery, Oslo, NO; *Judith*, Perry Rubenstein Gallery, New York, US; *Still-Film*, Tate Britain, London, UK; *Mind the Gap*, Kunsthhaus Glarus, Glarus, CH; and *Adam, Eve & the Devil*, Marres, House for Contemporary Culture, Maastricht, NL. Recent solo exhibitions include *I Forgot Myself*, *Looking At You*, Galerie Jan Wentrup, Berlin, DE; *Tempting Fate*, *Swimming Alone*, Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, NL; *BRA-VO, OH BRA – VO!*, Rotwand, Zurich, CH; and *You're Gonna Pay For It Now. Now You're Gonna Pay For It*, Gallery Lejuene, London, UK.