

christian boltanski

2006, Sculpture

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Boltanski is a self-taught artist who started painting large figurative works when he was 13. He went on to produce installations and films that were shown in 1968 in his first exhibition entitled "La Vie Impossible." 1969 marked a turning point with his nine-page booklet « recherche et présentation de tout ce qui reste de mon enfance » concluding that childhood is the first thing that dies in us.

Through the use of documents that did not pertain to him, his work became an autobiography of individual collective memory based on the observation that every instant of our lives is immediately transformed into a past that is as definitive as death.

In the 1980's he broadened the scope of his work, moving to collective destinies in the context of the 20th century, highlighting concepts of guilt ("Reserve: Detective" series) and destiny ("The Missing House"), and classical themes("Archive Dead Swiss").

Boltanski says that he has attempted through a wide range of media, including joint productions in musical theater and opera, and ephemeral installations of more than 20 years, to raise existential issues with his viewers.



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At his studio in Paris
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