

Biography

# Peter Fischli

## Istituto Svizzero

Peter Fischli was born in 1952 and studied at the Accademia di belle arti di Urbino (1975–76) and the Accademia di belle arti di Bologna (1976–77), both in Italy. He began to collaborate with Dacid Weiss (1946-2012) in 1979 and had their first solo exhibition in 1981 at the Galerie Balkon in Geneva. Resisting any specific style, medium, or material, their work explores the poetics of banality—the sublimity of the objects and events constituting everyday life. Indebted to Dada, Surrealism, Pop art, and Conceptual art, their photographs, videos, slide projections, films, books, sculptures, and multimedia installations rely on keen observation and uncanny wit.

Solo exhibitions of Fischli and Weiss's work have been organised by the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (1992); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (1996); Museu d'art contemporani de Barcelona (2000); Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands (2003–04); Museo Tamayo arte contemporáneo, Mexico City (2005); and Tate Modern, London (2006–07). In 1995 and 2003, they represented Switzerland in the Venice Biennale, receiving the Leone d'Oro award for their 2003 submission. Their work also appeared in Documenta, Kassel, West Germany (1987, 1997), and in Moving Pictures at the Guggenheim Museum (2002–03) and Guggenheim Museum Bilbao (2003–04). Weiss died in 2012 in Zurich, where Fischli continues to live and work.