

Philipp Groth is a German artist working in performance, sculpture, video, and installation. He was born in Saarlouis, a historic town constructed as a hexagonal fortress to safeguard the eastern border of France and later lived in Berlin. His practice alludes to modernism and icons of western postwar era, which he reworks to reveal their underlying ethos and the ideologies that brought them into existence.

His profound interest in human-made structures, objects, and particular materials has been passed down through his family, particularly his grandfather, who worked at the local rubber plant and played a significant role in shaping his artistic identity.

At the core of Groth's practice lies the concept of the index. In accordance with R. Krauss, it encompasses "the marks or traces of a particular cause, and that cause is the thing to which they refer, the object they signify." Groth is prompted by this concept to pose a fundamental question: Is what we perceive only possible because of what we have previously observed? To explore this inquiry, he employs techniques of compression and displacement, building upon Freud's interpretation of dreams. Groth assembles sculptural compositions from a combination of found and crafted items, organizing them within essayistic structures. His aim is to extend the physical references of these objects into temporal and phenomenological dimensions. Minimal in color and shape, his work emulates the dysfunctional, seemingly accidental appearance of an urban wasteland, utilizing rubber as a preloaded material to sustain transient "situations".

Within these fictional arrangements, the concept of time dissolves, leaving behind any stable identity. Groth encourages the viewer to consider their personal readings of those unstable fragments by using their personal experience and to activate the potential of those fragments to merge into a momentary whole.

Groth earned his MA in Documentary Film from the University of the Arts London and his MFA from the School of the Art Institute Chicago, where he received the Dean Graduate Award in 2021 and 2022. Following his graduation, he was named a Leroy Neiman Fellow by the Oxbow School of the Arts. Currently, he holds the position of artist in residence at the A4 Art Museum in Chengdu, China.