

THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

...will host the Social Contract. If the viewer agrees to sign a legally binding confidentiality agreement they may enter the fourth apartment. After leaving the audience is bound not to discuss what they saw in that apartment.

the authors: I know they secretly drank wine, And publicly preached water.
Peter Sloterdijk quoting Heinrich Heine

The Social Contract is a work that asks for an audience to make some awareness of their production. We are familiar with an art world that bases its confidence on authenticity, signature and spectatorship. Yet the work of the audience is largely about showing how works of art function as distinct from what they depict. The audience must decide how Martin Creed's turning on and off the lights in the Turner Prize is different to what they do at home. Money, science and technology have been directed towards finding out if art works are authentic. Celebrated artworks, including traditional ones, often deceive us and that remains their fascination. Duchamp's urinal, dripping abstract paint, Manzoni's merde, Pop Art, all refer to what we already knew in our ongoing lives. Everybody knows. Yet we are often told to attend to the fact that the wider public will be shocked and won't-understand-about-art. Very often an artist will avow that they don't know why they made a work. or what it means. It's clear that we are already sharing something that has not yet been decided. But how can this be? Maybe it is the audience that is disingenuous too? It is up to each member of the audience to decide and measure their own honesty and authenticity with regard to this event and exhibition. The real work will continue on, often in indecision, and is performed by those who came to look.