
Remembering William Anastasi (1933 - 2023)

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of William Anastasi, who passed away on the 26th of November at the age of 90. Our thoughts are with his loved ones, his family and with his wife Dove Bradshaw.

From the early 1960s, Anastasi engaged in an analytical and self-reflexive practice using a variety of media: sculpture, photography, video, drawing, painting, installation, and performance. A pioneer of the New York conceptual art scene, he had four highly acclaimed solo exhibitions at Virginia Dawn Gallery including one in 1967, in which he reproduced images of the gallery walls and installed them on the gallery's walls, demonstrating a radical tautological logic. Born in Philadelphia, he discovered the work of Marcel Duchamp at an early age, which would remain a lasting passion that he eruditely interpreted in his essay *Duchamp on the Jarry Road* (*Artforum*, 1991). From early on, Anastasi's work was imbued with the literature of James Joyce - cited in his series of *Bababad* paintings, originating in 1984 - and Alfred Jarry. An insatiable draughtsman, he developed a performative practice of drawing, carried out in motion or blind - most notable are his *Subway Drawings* produced whilst sitting in the subway, eyes closed. Sharing his taste for chance, the unintended and for chess, he had a long friendship with John Cage, with whom he collaborated on his performance *You are* in 1978.

William Anastasi's work has been included in major American collections including the Museum of Modern Art, the Guggenheim Museum and the Whitney Museum of American Art, as well as various European museum collections. In the 1980s, several galleries represented his work, including the Bess Cutler Gallery (New York), the Stalke Galleri (Copenhagen) and the Scott Hanson Gallery (New York). Galerie Jocelyn Wolff (Romainville), Thomas Rehbein Galerie (Cologne), Galerie Hubert Winter (Vienna), Stalke Galleri (Copenhagen), Mazzoli Gallery (Modena), currently represent his work. A major monograph edited by Erik Verhagen, and co-published by Galerie Jocelyn Wolff and Mousse Publishing will be published in early 2024.