

For the past 25 years Carsten Höller has been making work that adventurously expands our ideas of what art can be and the types of experiences it can offer. Aimed at undermining our unquestioning faith in conventional ways of seeing the world, Höller's art engages us in alternative modes of perception that excite doubt and wonder, and that defy the hold of the familiar and predictable. While it can take forms that are unapologetically entertaining, it is also deeply thoughtful, often disorientating or disturbing, and deceptively subtle. Höller's approach to art-making is also remarkably generous in its address: frequently involving some element of direct participation by gallery visitors, it also acknowledges their presence as a key element of the exhibition. As the artist himself has said, 'The real material I am working with is other people's experience.'

Organised for the Hayward Gallery in close collaboration with the artist, *Carsten Höller: Decision* brings together many of the salient themes and motifs that have defined his artistic evolution over the past two decades. As the title suggests, the exhibition explores the ways in which we make decisions – or fail to. Beginning with the choice offered by two different entrances into the Hayward, visitors are repeatedly confronted with decision-making opportunities. At the same time, many works in the exhibition engineer unsettling moments of uncertainty in which we may find it impossible to make decisions of any kind. Ultimately, it is this space in between decisions – when we remain open to varied perspectives and possibilities – that the artist invites us to embrace.

This adventurous exhibition, which includes several major new commissions, could not have been realised without the support and assistance of many individuals and institutions. For their generous support of *Carsten Höller: Decision*, we wish to thank: LUMA Foundation, The Henry Moore Foundation, Gagosian Gallery, Galerie Micheline Szwajcer and Mondrian London. In addition I wish to acknowledge the valued contributions made by our commissioning partners Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, HangarBicocca, Milano, and Fundación Botín. We are also very grateful to the lenders to the exhibition (a full list of lenders appears on p. 107), and to the invaluable assistance of the artist and his wonderfully capable studio manager Stefanie Hessler.

On the Hayward curatorial team, Assistant Curator Dina Ibrahim confidently took on a daunting range of tasks and delivered all with precision and aplomb; Assistant Curator Rahila Haque did an excellent job organising a number of the outdoor projects in the exhibition as well as the talks programme; and Curatorial Assistant Charlotte Baker ably provided indispensable support on many fronts.

For their incisive and utterly original stories about decisions that feature in this catalogue, our thanks go to a brilliant group of authors: Naomi Alderman, Jenni Fagan, Jonathan Lethem, Deborah Levy, Helen Oyeyemi and Ali Smith. Hayward Publisher Ben Fergusson did a remarkable job overseeing all aspects of this publication. Wayne Daly earned our gratitude with his cannily conceived catalogue design.

I also wish to thank Hayward Operations Manager Thomas Malcherczyk and Senior Technician James Coney for their work in leading on the exhibition's complex installation; Hayward Registrar Imogen Winter and Assistant Registrar Charlotte Booth for skilfully overseeing the transport of works; Lucy Biddle for her innovative exhibition guide and website texts; and Hayward General Manager Sarah O'Reilly for expertly weighing in on multifarious organisational and budgeting issues. In addition, architect Nikolai Delvendahl deserves our thanks for his excellent work on several aspects of the exhibition, including the production and design of *Decision Corridors*.

As always, I am extremely grateful for the support and enthusiasm of Southbank Centre CEO Alan Bishop and Artistic Director Jude Kelly as well as Southbank Centre's Board of Trustees and Arts Council England.

Finally, our most profound thanks go to Carsten Höller for all his brilliant work as an artist over the past 25 years, for his generosity, and for his ceaseless desire, evident in all stages of our planning, to make this exhibition as engaging, thought-provoking and memorable as possible.

Ralph Rugoff
Director, Hayward Gallery



Decision Corridors, 2015. Photo: EB



Decision Corridors, 2015. Photo: AM



Isomeric Slides, 2015. Photo: AM