

## Terence Koh

(Beijing, 1977)

In the case of Terence Koh it is truly impossible to distinguish between the artist's life and his work, about which much has been written. Koh, very intentionally, is the latest artist of scandal. A deliberate pop star, he has positioned himself as the heir to an uninhibited approach to the art market, exemplified first by Andy Warhol and Jeff Koons and then by the Young British Artists, who were championed by the same curator, Sir Norman Rosenthal, who organized the notorious exhibition *Sensation*, and by the same millionaire collector, Charles Saatchi. "I like collectors," Koh has said, "thank you Charles."

To those who wonder if his path to success has been too rapid, even for art of these times, and if he fears an equally rapid end, he has replied: "If I fail, I fail spectacularly in front of the whole art world. Either way, the splatter will be beautiful." It is a remark that is not even that hyperbolic, for an artist who has used his own body fluids to paint his works and who has shown a bronze sculpture of his own body with the genitals torn to bits.

Mindful of his youthful passion for Asian funerals, during which he was able to dress in black for 14 days and then in white for the day of cremation, Koh totally whitens the enormous exhibition spaces that galleries and museums put at his disposal, covering them with white powder and filling them with fog. But every now and then he uses total black, an aesthetic he shares with other artists within the Goth music trend, such as Banks Violette. Initially Koh also presented himself as a punk and now performs as a DJ. He incorporates into his language anything that can be turned into spectacle and glamour. Generally reviews have concentrated on his opening parties and on the invitees, usually worthy of tabloid coverage.

The work acquired by the CRT Foundation is part of a series created for the Zurich Kunsthalle in 2007. Next to an enormous empty space covered with white powder, Koh has filled another space with a labyrinth made up of 1,400 modular glass cases, their edges sealed in white and containing objects, also painted white, that the artist found in sex shops and flea markets. (EV)