

TEHCHING HSIEH

[Biography](#)

[Artworks](#)

[Publications](#)

[Contact](#)





**Tehching Hsieh** was born on December 31st 1950 in Nan-Chou, Taiwan. His father, Ching Hsieh, was an atheist, and his mother, Su-Choung Hong, a devoted Christian. Hsieh dropped out from high school in 1967 and took up painting. After finishing his army service (1970-1973) Hsieh had his first solo show at the gallery of the American News Bureau in Taiwan. Shortly after this show, Hsieh stopped painting. He made a performance action "Jump Piece" in which he broke both of his ankles. He trained as a sailor, which he then used as a means to enter the United States. In July of 1974, Hsieh finally arrived at the port of a small town in Philadelphia. He was an illegal immigrant for fourteen years until he was granted amnesty in the US in 1988.



Starting from the late 1970s, Hsieh made five One Year Performances and a thirteen-year plan, inside and outside his studio in New York City. Using long durations, making art and life simultaneous, Hsieh achieved one of the most radical approaches in contemporary art. The first four One Year Performances made Hsieh a regular name in the art scene in New York; the last two pieces, intentionally retreating from the art world, set a tone of sustained invisibility. Since the Millennium, released from the restriction of not showing his works during a thirteen-year period, Hsieh has exhibited his work in North and South America, Asia and Europe. Hsieh and his wife, Qinqin Li, now live in Brooklyn.



Book

DVD-ROM

DVD



Adrian Heathfield and  
Tehching Hsieh  
2009  
384 pages  
\$49.95 / £29.95

- ▶ MIT Press
- ▶ Live Art Development Agency

## Out of Now The Lifeworks of Tehching Hsieh

*Out of Now* is the first major publication on the extraordinary and influential Taiwanese-American artist Tehching Hsieh.

In the vibrant downtown Manhattan art scene of the late 1970s and early 1980s, Tehching Hsieh made an exceptional series of artworks: five separate one-year-long performances that were unprecedented in their use of physical difficulty over extreme durations and in their absolute conception of art and life as simultaneous processes.

In these performance works Hsieh moved from a year of solitary confinement without any communication, to a year in which he punched a worker's time clock in his studio on the hour every hour, to a year spent living without any shelter on the streets, to a year in which he was tied closely to the artist Linda Montano without ever touching and, lastly, to a year of total abstention

Book

DVD-ROM

DVD



Adrian Heathfield and  
Tehching Hsieh  
2009  
384 pages  
\$49.95 / £29.95

- ▶ MIT Press
- ▶ Live Art Development Agency

## Out of Now The Lifeworks of Tehching Hsieh

from art activities and influences. In 1986 Hsieh announced that he would spend the next thirteen years making art but not showing it publicly. This final lifework—an immense act of self-affirmation and self-erasure—came to a close at the turn of the millennium.

For many Tehching Hsieh is a cult figure. The rigor and dedication of his art inspires passion, while the elusive and epic nature of his performances generates speculation and mythology. After years of near-invisibility Hsieh has now collaborated with the writer and curator Adrian Heathfield to create this meticulous and visually arresting record of the complete body of his artworks from 1978-1999.

*Out of Now* is the first extensive critical account of these remarkable works. Heathfield's astute meditation is complemented by an intensive exchange

Book

DVD-ROM

DVD



Adrian Heathfield and  
Tehching Hsieh  
2009  
384 pages  
\$49.95 / £29.95

- ▶ MIT Press
- ▶ Live Art Development Agency

## Out of Now The Lifeworks of Tehching Hsieh

with the artist and a set of letters from leading art theorists Peggy Phelan and Carol Becker, and the internationally acclaimed artists Marina Abramovic, Santiago Sierra, and Tim Etchells.

This exquisitely composed volume is essential reading for all those interested in art history, conceptual art, visual culture, and the practice of performance.

Adrian Heathfield is a writer and curator of performance and visual art. He is Professor of Performance and Visual Culture at Roehampton University, London.

***Out of Now* traces the practice of one of the great artists of our time. With immense courage, Tehching Hsieh revolutionized performance art: while many were sprinting, he did marathons. Hsieh anticipated**

[Book](#)[DVD-ROM](#)[DVD](#)

Adrian Heathfield and  
Tehching Hsieh  
2009  
384 pages  
\$49.95 / £29.95

- ▶ MIT Press
- ▶ Live Art Development Agency

## Out of Now The Lifeworks of Tehching Hsieh

...our times, in that he made time his medium.

This impressive and beautifully written book offers the first comprehensive study of an outstanding body of work. An extraordinary performance!

**Hans Ulrich Obrist, Co-director of Exhibitions and Programmes and Director of International Projects, Serpentine Gallery**

Tehching Hsieh has created a profound body of "lifeworks" that integrate the live with the aesthetic, producing hybrid experiences that question the very nature of what we call "art." This brilliant book, which includes documentation and smart, poetic, and historically inflected writing by Heathfield is an invaluable record of Hsieh's work.

A unique commentary on the writing of the histories of art and

Book

DVD-ROM

DVD



Adrian Heathfield and  
Tehching Hsieh  
2009  
384 pages  
\$49.95 / £29.95

- ▶ MIT Press
- ▶ Live Art Development Agency

## Out of Now The Lifeworks of Tehching Hsieh

**Hans Ulrich Obrist, Co-director of Exhibitions and Programmes and Director of International Projects, Serpentine Gallery**

Tehching Hsieh has created a profound body of "lifeworks" that integrate the live with the aesthetic, producing hybrid experiences that question the very nature of what we call "art." This brilliant book, which includes documentation and smart, poetic, and historically inflected writing by Heathfield is an invaluable record of Hsieh's work.

A unique commentary on the writing of the histories of art and performance.

**Amelia Jones, Professor and Pilkington Chair,  
Art History and Visual Studies, University of Manchester**