

**CHRISTIAN NICCOLI**



***ZWEI*, 2021**

**Video Performance, color, sound, 5:09 minutes**

In a never-ending loop of mutual interdependence, Christian Niccoli's *ZWEI* is a perfect visual metaphor for the social construct of Trust. Precariously hanging off of either end of a rope on opposite sides of a high wall, these two men could be climbing their way to the top, or perhaps they are just barely hanging on – but in any case, they existentially rely upon one another.

**ARTIST STATEMENT**

The video installation *ZWEI* (Two) tells the story of two men bound together in a relationship of dependence but it can also be read as a social metaphor as individuals, communities and societies have always been linked to each other by a relationship of mutual dependence, where, in a conscious or unconscious way, one person's choices and actions have an impact on the other, even if this is not always evident. The work consists of a vertically mounted wall monitor and shows a very high wall. From the upper edge of the wall hangs a rope that falls along both sides of the wall. A man hangs from each end of the rope. The two men do not seem to know each other's presence, because each in his own way is busy fighting not to fall. Several meters separate them both from the ground and from the top. From time to time the two frightened men look downwards and upwards, then try to climb up, without success. If one pulls the rope towards himself, the other is pulled slightly upwards.

– Christian Niccoli

## **BIO**

Christian Niccoli (b. 1976 in Südtirol, Italy. Lives and works in Berlin, Germany.)

Christian Niccoli's videos and video installations have been presented internationally in museums and institutions, among others at: Kunsthaus Graz, Graz, Austria (2006); Phönix Art – Harald Falckenberg Collection, Hamburg, Germany (2002); Cinémathèque québécoise, Montreal, Canada (2015); Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Germany (2012); Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany (2009, 2004); 8th Baltic Biennial of Contemporary Art, Szczecin, Poland (2009); 4th Biennial del Fin del Mundo Valparaíso, Chile (2015); Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art, Yerevan, Armenia (2010); Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature, Paris, France (2015); Museion – Museum für Moderne und Zeitgenössische Kunst, Bolzano, Italy (2020); Museum Kunst der Westküste, Alkersum, Germany (2020); Alfred Ehrhard Stiftung, Berlin (2021). Christian Niccoli's works are in several public collections, including: the Museum of Contemporary Art in Szczecin, Poland; Kunstsammlung der Autonomen Provinz Südtirol, Italy; Collezione Farnesina – Ministero degli Affari Esteri, Rome, Italy; and Museion – Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Bolzano, Italy. Niccoli's works have been presented at several festivals, including: Transmediale, Berlin, Germany (2009); Hamburg Short Film Festival, Hamburg, Germany (2008); Oblíqua – International Exhibition of Video Art & Experimental Cinema, Lisbon, Portugal (2016); 16th WRO Media Art Biennale, Wrocław, Poland (2015); Stuttgarter Filmwinter, Stuttgart, Germany (2015); Athens Digital Arts Festival, Athens, Greece (2015); Facade Video Festival Plovdiv, Bulgaria (2014); and Video Art Festival Miden, Kalamata, Greece (2014). In 2006 Christian Niccoli was an artist in residence at Cittadellarte – Fondazione Pistoletto in Biella, Italy, and in 2008-09 he participated in the International Studio Program at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, Germany.