



## **Not Vital (B.1948)**

### **Tongue**

stainless steel

307 x 67 x 59 in.

3/3

2008

34046

### **PROVENANCE:**

Griet Dupont Gallery, Belgium, 2009

Private Collection, California

"Tongue" (2008) is a contemporary take on biomorphic abstraction, which was first popularized in the first quarter of the 20th century by artists including Jean Arp and Joan Miro. The work measures an astounding 26 feet tall and utilizes Not Vital's signature highly finished and highly polished aesthetic sense to great effect. The sculpture seems to absorb its surroundings with its mirror-like surface, an apparent contradiction because it is a modern material.

The cow tongue is a particular subject of interest for the artist, as he was licked by one once, an experience he describes as alien and shocking. Tongues are tools for tasting, a sensory experience, much like the experience of seeing a sculpture.

"Tongue" has remained in the same private collection since the creation of the work. Another example of "Tongue" (which was created in an edition of 3) was shown to great acclaim at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in the United Kingdom, 21 May 2016 - 1 January 2017. Non Vital is represented in numerous museum collections including, the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France, The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA.

Not Vital is a Swiss multit talented multidisciplinary artist, painter, sculptor, and architect. His nomadic spirit led him to many adventures in life, which inspired a lot of his artwork. Travel and wanderlust brought an anthropological note to his creations. While wandering the world, he has been to China, Patagonia, Brazil, Africa and most of the Europe. In Switzerland, he has his main estate and foundation. On his adventures, he searches for unique natural treasures and makes art about it. For example, he was so fascinated with African sunset, that he built The House to Watch the Sunset in Niger. The house has three flights of stairs on the outside, which are surrounded by palm trees.

(Widewalls)

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