Tim Youd: The Tunnel Retyped
May 1-31, 2020

livestreamed daily, 12:00 to 5:00 pm EDT
via tunnelretyped.com

The Contemporary Art Museum
St. Louis (CAM) and Cristin Tierney Gallery announce a livestream, remote durational performance by artist Tim Youd. Beginning on May 1st, Youd will retype William Gass’s novel The Tunnel every day for a month from his garage in Los Angeles. This performance will mark a reunion for Youd and CAM, which hosted the artist’s exhibition and performance cycle St. Louis Retyped in 2018.

Youd’s performance will be streamed live on YouTube from 12:00 to 5:00 pm EDT daily, and videos and images from past days will be archived on a dedicated website, tunnelretyped.com. Every Friday in May, the artist will livestream his performance and answer questions on Instagram at 2:00 pm EDT.

This performance is the 67th project in Youd’s 100 Novels series, in which he retypes books on the same model typewriter the author used, in a location with some connection to the novel or author. The Tunnel is a dense, postmodern text of 650 pages. Gass took 26 years to write it, and the book is widely recognized in the literary world as a complex, challenging read. Set in an unnamed midwestern university (most likely based on Washington University in St. Louis, where Gass taught), the protagonist is a professor working on a book about World War II. In the process of writing the introduction, the professor makes some startling discoveries about himself, leading him to undertake a strange series of furtive actions that pull him farther and farther away from his family.

Although The Tunnel is not about quarantine, it is a novel about becoming increasingly trapped in one’s circumstances, and particularly one’s mind. The story is a poignant symbol of our present circumstances; it echoes our struggle to adjust to the new normal created by the pandemic. Fittingly, Gass was renowned as a master of metaphor. In homage to his work, Youd has chosen to retype his masterpiece as a way of tunneling out of the quarantine.

Tim Youd (b. 1967, Worcester, MA) is a performance and visual artist working in painting, sculpture, and video. To date, he has retyped 66 novels at various locations in the United States and Europe. Residencies at historic writer’s homes have included William Faulkner’s Rowan Oak with the University of Mississippi Art Museum (Oxford, MS), Flannery O’Connor’s Andalusia with SCAD (Milledgeville and Savannah, GA), and Virginia Woolf’s Monk’s House (Rodmell, Sussex). His work has been the subject of numerous museum exhibitions, including CAMSTL, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar College, Hanes Art Gallery at Wake Forest University, The New Orleans Museum of Art, Monterey Museum of Art, Hemingway-Pfeffer Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, University of Mississippi Art Museum at Rowan Oak, and the Lancaster Museum of Art and History. He has presented and
performed his 100 Novels project at the Ackland Art Museum, Weatherspoon Art Museum, Art Omi, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), and LAXART, and retyped Joe Orton’s Collected Plays at The Queen’s Theatre with MOCA London. He lives and works in Los Angeles.

Daily Performance Schedule, May 1-31
9:00 am to 2:00 pm PDT or 12:00 to 5:00pm EDT

tunnelretyped.com
plus occasional appearances on IG @timyoud, @camstl, and @cristintierneygallery

For more information please contact Candace Moeller at candace@cristintierney.com.