

Gordon Matta-Clark



Background

- June 22, 1943 – August 27, 1978
- Studied architecture (“anarchitecture”) at Cornell University
 - Influenced by deconstructionist philosophers
- Famous American artist
- Best known for: “building cuts”
- Parents: Anne Clark and Roberto Matta

Background



Background

- In 1971, cofounded Food, in SoHo, New York
 - A restaurant that turned dining into an event with an open kitchen and exotic ingredients that celebrated cooking

Background



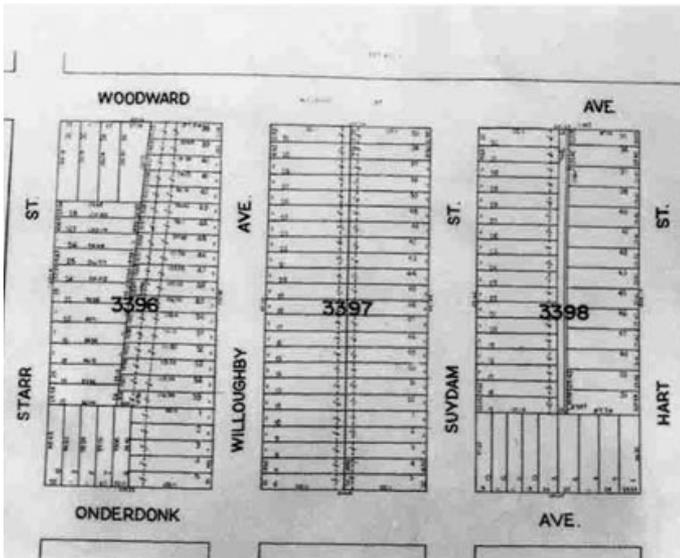
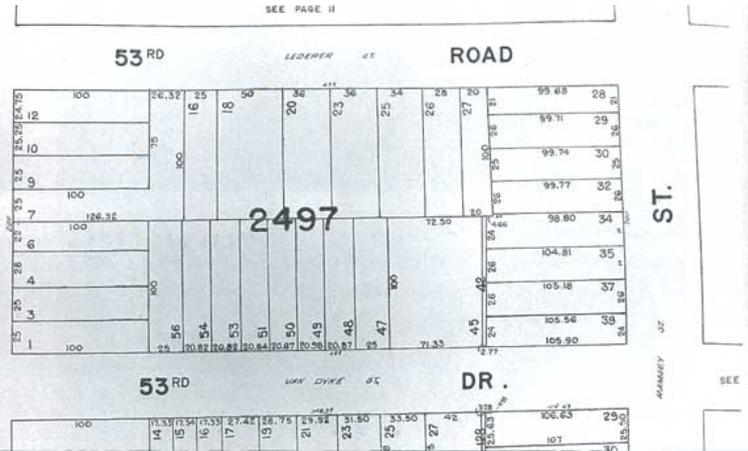
Works

- Includes: performance and recycling pieces, space and texture works, and his “building cuts”
- Also uses puns and word games as a way to re-conceptualize preconditioned roles and relationships
- Demonstrates that the theory of entropy applies to language as well as to the physical world
- Documented his work with film, video, and photography

Works

- *Fake Estates* (~1970)
 - A project engaged with the issue of land ownership and the myth of the American dream (that everyone could become “landed gentry” by owning property)
 - Matta-Clark “buys” into this dream by purchasing 15 leftover and unwanted properties in Manhattan
 - Note: these estates were unusable/inaccessible for development and, thus, his ownership of them existed only virtually on paper

Works



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- *Conical Intersect* (1975)
 - A piece made by cutting a large cone-shaped hole through two townhouses dating from the 17th century in the market district known as Les Halles which were to be knocked down in order to construct the then-controversial Centre Georges Pompidou
- *Circus of the Caribbean Orange* (1978)
 - A piece made by butting into walls and floors of a townhouse next-door to the first Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, thus latering the space entirely

Works

