

LOS ANGELES

I'M YOURS

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We don't know a lot about **LG Williams** but he (We believe he?) is a local artist who is all about poking fun at the art world and how it works. He has done various Los Angeles projects and always flawlessly dupes you into believing these ironic, fun pokes at the art world by making it seem like what he is doing is coming from the art world. He's put advertisements in art papers that claims **a classic, \$14 million building is available for shows** and puts on shows that **demand you you how to get yourself into it**. They're all performances on paper and beyond that make you question the reality of art and, for some, get you to engage with him in a way that makes him have to perform, playing along or denying the ruse launched onto art world.

LG's latest show is in Milan's **Gloria Maria Gallery** and it sees the artist putting on a show that is less of a show and more of an anti-happening: he's closed the gallery. The gallery isn't open. The

gallery practically doesn't exist for his showing. Want to buy a piece of LG's work? Sorry: the gallery is closed. He shut it down and it is only open "by appointment only." Why? Because the gallery's closed.

We heard about this from LG himself by email which included a video (above) that serves as a thesis for the show. The show isn't open and the gallery is closed and there won't be a reception and there won't be any photo opportunities and you won't be able to see it and, again, the gallery is closed. It's a brilliant conceptual jab that is both fun, funny, smart, and an evolution for the artist. (Well, what we know of his work. We're late adopters!)

Obviously the gallery isn't "closed" and there are works in the show that include the media here. What does that mean? A very public Certificate of Closure (below) and those adorable, beautiful, moving "The Gallery Is Closed" logos (at top). Instead of painting a mural or pulling a Barbara Kruger and making it into an advertisement, he's shut down a space. He's made a gallery not being open ("a gallery not being open") the point of the show: the show isn't a show. It's a constant performance of non-existence. Like **Yasmina Reza's playArt**, it only exists if you allow it to exist. Many will see that, yes, it is an elaborate, brilliant, post-post-post modern intellectual play while others will stand outside of the space, scratching the chin and wondering how they can buy what is happening. That's the whole point.

Thumbing through LG's previous work, this has to be the case with the *CLOSED*. It's a laugh out loud, deadly serious something that we wish we could see in person. Is it real? Is it fake? What is it? You have to see it for yourself. LG's work is contemporary surrealism and causes you to question what art is. Is it anything? That's his point.