



# Stephen Willats

## Languages of Dissent

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- A new approach to the pioneering conceptual art of Stephen Willats, for the first time in the context of cybernetics, subculture and architecture
- Presents previously unpublished works by Stephen Willats

Born in London in 1943, Stephen Willats is a pioneer of conceptual art and has, over the course of more than five decades, created a multi-faceted body of work. This new book, published in conjunction with Migros Museum of Contemporary Art in Zurich, focuses on two key aspects of Willats' art. Cybernetics, the control of dynamic systems, in which he has taken a keen interest, serves him as method, aesthetic vocabulary, as well as a formal model. Subcultures that promote non-conformism and self-determination constitute another focal point in his wide-ranging work.

The book offers a new approach to Willats' art from multiple perspectives. A comprehensive selection of both earlier and more recent works, some of them published here for the first time, is complemented by essays. The authors investigate that particular creative sphere in between cybernetics, architecture, and subculture within which Willats questions normative, regulating power structures and aims to discover personal freedom and alternative thought patterns.

Published to coincide with the exhibition: 'Stephen Willats: Languages of Dissent' at the Migros Museum für gegenwartskunst, Zurich between 25 May and 8 August 2019.

**Heike Munder** is a curator and has been Director of Migros Museum of Contemporary Art in Zurich since 2001.