



SHUFFLE

**Photographs and text by
Christian Marclay**

Christian Marclay uses a range of media—video, sculpture, installation, and performance—to address the ways that music and sound impact our experience of the world. While he frequently uses photograms and found images in his work, what is not widely known is the extent to which photography has become a tool of choice. In *Shuffle* (Aperture, June 2007), he has extensively photographed the appearance of musical notation in the world: on shop awnings, chocolate tins, T-shirts, underwear, and other unexpected places. The work reveals Marclay, a prominent figure in contemporary art, to be an obsessive photographic note-taker with a witty flair for uncovering clue-like music hidden in the landscape and adorning our world. All around us, it seems, are musical notes just waiting to be discovered and played. Each of these images is presented on an individual card, and the entire deck is enclosed in a distinctive package. Part Fluxus box, part John Cage–ian “chance operation” or Eames House of Cards, the deck offers a compelling, serendipity-driven visual experience, but is also intended to be used as a spontaneous musical score. *Shuffle* includes an explanation and instructions by Marclay.

Christian Marclay was born in 1955 in San Rafael, California, and grew up in Geneva, where he studied at the Ecole Supérieure d’Art Visuel prior to attending the Massachusetts College of Art, Boston. His work has been exhibited at the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C.; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Venice Biennale; and Kunsthaus, Zürich. Marclay lives and works in New York City.



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Aperture—a not-for-profit foundation dedicated to advancing photography in all its forms—was founded in 1952 by six gifted individuals: photographers Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Barbara Morgan, and Minor White; historian Beaumont Newhall; and writer/curator Nancy Newhall. With scant resources, these visionary artists created a new periodical, *Aperture* magazine, to serve photographers and photography enthusiasts worldwide. As the medium flourished, so too did Aperture Foundation, expanding to include the subsequent publication of books (over four hundred to date); limited-edition photographs and portfolios; artist lectures and symposia; and a traveling exhibitions program that since its inception has presented over one hundred exhibitions at major museums and cultural institutions throughout the United States and abroad.

Contact: Andrea Smith, Director of Communications, Aperture Foundation, (212) 946-7111;
asmith@aperture.org