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The 30th Biennial of Graphic Arts Ljubljana

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## Teo Spiller

Born 1965, Ljubljana, Slovenia

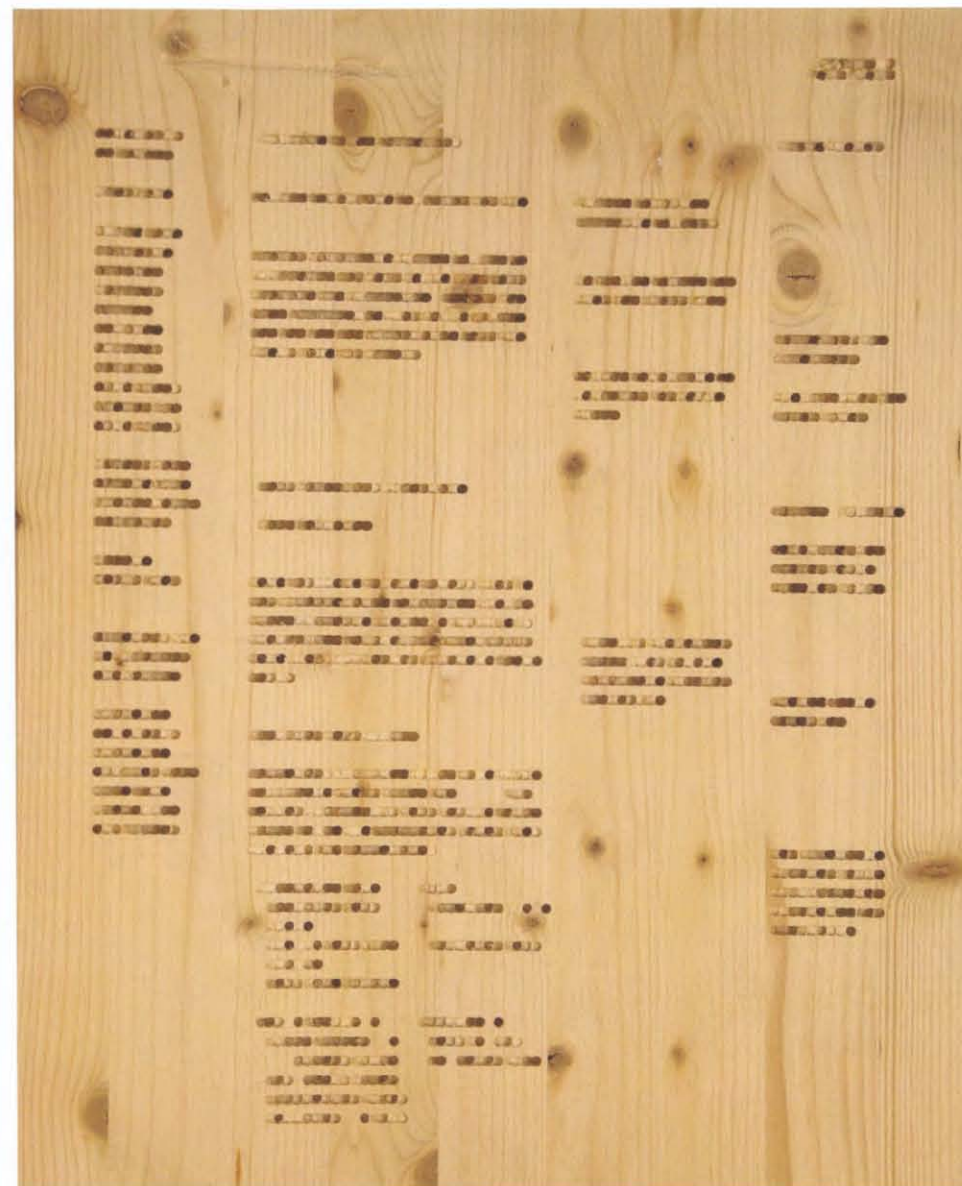
Lives and works in Ljubljana

Spiller, internationally recognised in the area of net.art, has produced a graphic oeuvre of machine-generated images. His *Laboro* device (Latin for 'work'), made on the principle of the CNC machines used in serial production, employs a repetitive, rhythmic motion to leave grooves, holes, dots, and lines that create images.

*In/Form/ations* transforms well-known web pages into reliefs. Spiller explores subtle but complex shortcomings created by digitisation with its matrix approach. Because every hole represents a letter from the web page, as defined by its depth, a material artefact emerges from the non-material flow of digital data. Different shadows produced by different depths create a dynamic flickering as in the world of screens. Semantically, the word "information" suggests data hidden 'in form'. The structure of wood provides an excellent example: it is a chronography of the climatic and biological conditions in which the tree developed. Plywood is an industrial composite glued together in a rhythmic collage.

When the *Laboro* draws lines across surfaces with a felt-tip marker, this flickering is even more pronounced. Intentionally uneven, the impressions are organic and resemble bar codes; only by zooming out can we recognise the images. The installation *President Obama Watches the Execution of Osama bin Laden* is composed of fragments of the famous media image hanging as separate, loosely connected symbols. These reveal the principles of new media (copy/paste, icons and drop-down menus, windows, montage and postproduction, web page composition, tweeting, texting, clicking between TV channels with a remote), where wholes are composed of fragments. Users choose among prepared pieces of information, creating their own image of reality. Because we use the same technologies and interfaces to communicate, our interactions also become increasingly less linear, with images occupying a central place.

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From the series *Wooden In/Form/ations*, 2011

Milled wood

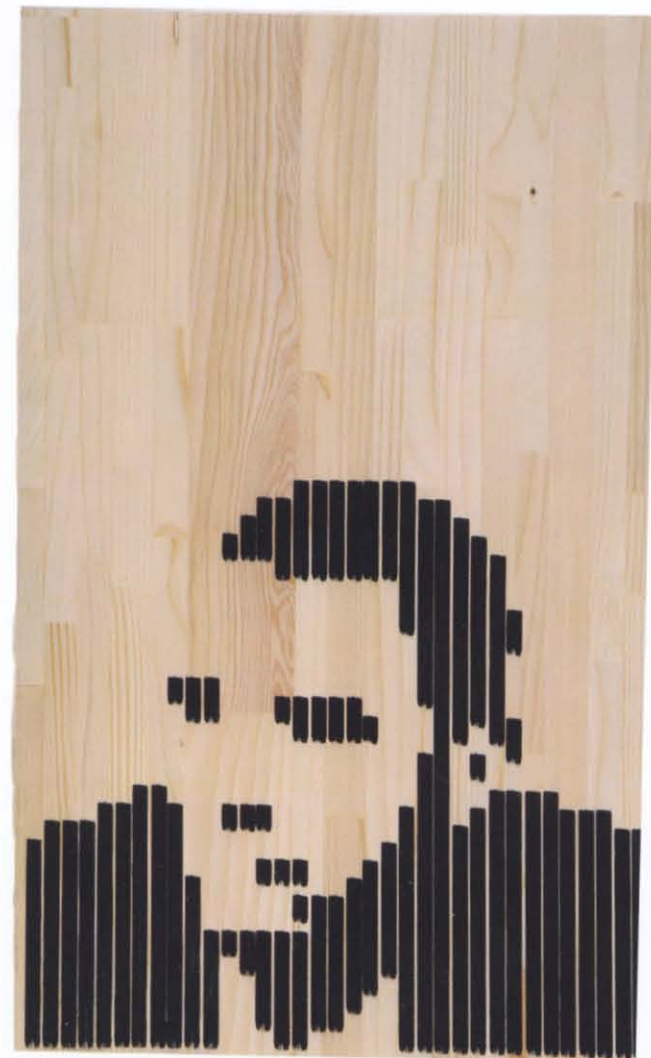
40 x 50 cm each

Courtesy the artist



**President Obama Watches the Execution of Osama bin Laden, 2013**

Felt-tip marker on wood  
300 x 200 cm overall  
Courtesy the artist



**Barack Obama, detail from the installation:**

*President Obama Watches the Execution of Osama bin Laden, 2013*  
Felt-tip marker on wood  
300 x 200 cm overall  
Courtesy the artist