

Super Mini Athens

Neil young neil young neil young neil young (In absentia)



Neil Young

Sandaker Trialektek, Sandakerveien 59, August 14th, 7pm

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An exhibition by Super Mini Athens for Sandaker Trialektek

"Canadian music icon Neil Young did not show up on the second night of a tribute concert in his honour, but the sold out crowds at Vancouver's Queen Elizabeth Theatre didn't seem to mind."

- *The Vancouver Observer*, 2010

Autopens are machines programmed with a signature that is reproduced by a motorized mechanical arm. The original form of the device was a wooden contraption that duplicated handwriting as it was being written. The mechanism consisted of two linked pens. One was written with by hand, and the other reproduced its movement on a separate sheet. Later, in the 2000s, fully automated and programmable ones like the Ghostwriter T-200 emerged.

Sinéad O'Connor signed the limited edition of her memoir by autopen, explaining: "I was not in a position to hand write my name 10,000 times.»

A limited edition of 900 personally signed copies of Bob Dylan's *The Philosophy of Modern Song* was issued at 599 US dollars each, including a letter of authenticity. Fans compared their copies and identified at least seventeen distinct variations of the same signature, each repeated across the nine hundred copies. The machine had been programmed to vary. Dylan explained that he had found himself ill with vertigo: «The idea of using an auto-pen was suggested to me, along with the assurance that this kind of thing is done 'all the time' in the art and literary worlds.»

In 1972, living in Phoenix, Arizona, Dylan kept hearing "Heart of Gold" on the radio. He later recalled

"I always liked Neil Young, but it bothered me every time I listened to 'Heart of Gold.' I think it was up at number one for a long time, and I'd say, 'Shit, that's me. If it sounds like me, it should as well be me' I needed to lay back for awhile, forget about things, myself included, and I'd get so far away and turn on the radio and there I am. But it's not me.»

In a rock pub in central Oslo hangs a small acrylic painting. A rounded square form, red with a black outline, and above it the words NEIL YOUNG in handwritten capitals. Next to it hangs a printed poster reading HIP YOUNG GUNSLINGERS WANTED FOR NEW BAND. MUST BE INTO VELVET AND HOLY MODAL ROUNDERS. NO SLACKERS PLEASE. Along the bottom edge run tear-off strips with a telephone number, non of them torn off.

In this exhibition, Super Mini Athens continues, as in their recent exhibition *Los Simpson: What Is, What Was and What Could Be*, presented in Lychener Straße 82, Berlin, to apply the logic of film production casting to the selection of objects for representative roles within the speculative narrative of an exhibition. A hair dryer is cast as Neil Young in absentia. A receipt printer is cast as a Ghostwriter T550 autopen, and signs on his behalf every ten seconds. A harmonica mounted in a harmonica holder leaves both hands free for the guitar and non left for autographs.













AVTALEFRIHET I NORGE



“In absentia”, 2026

Stage element, bar stool, microphone stand,
hair dryer, harmonica holder, harmonica,
projection, spot lights

“Neil young neil young neil young neil young
neil young neil young”, 2026

Receipt printer, paper

“AVTALEFRIHET I NORGE”, 2026

Photo copy