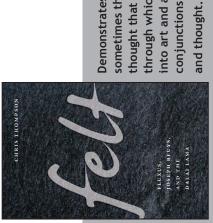
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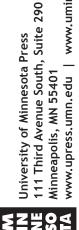
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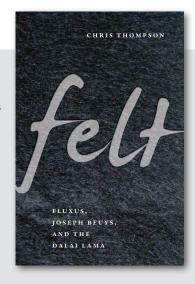
# What happens when nothing happens?

## Felt

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Centered on a highly publicized yet famously inconclusive 1982 meeting between German artist Joseph Beuys and the Dalai Lama, arranged by the Dutch artist Louwrien Wijers, Chris Thompson explores the interconnections among Beuys, the Fluxus movement, and Eastern philosophy and spiritual practice. Building from the resonance of felt, the fabric, in both Tibetan culture and in Beuys's art, Thompson takes as his point of



departure Deleuze and Guattari's discussion in *A Thousand Plateaus* of felt as smooth space that is "in principle infinite, open, and unlimited in every direction," its structure determined by chance as opposed to the planned, woven nature of most fabrics.

Thompson explores both the well-known engagement of Fluxus artists with Eastern spirituality and the more elusive nature of Beuys's own late interest in Tibetan culture, arriving at a sense of how such noncausal interactions—interhuman intrigue—create culture and shape contemporary art history.

"In the end, *Felt* is a letter lovingly recounting the often fragile moments in which artists have put themselves on the line to try to bring about a transformation in the human spirit. Thompson's answer to his own question—'what happens when nothing happens?'—seems to be, quite a lot." —**Andrew Murphie**, co-author of *Culture and Technology* 

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