

# the Milena principle © <http://www.themilena.com>

How long is now?

Report and the impression of the project in Braga and Porto Portugal 2010.



Sense in the city: about art in urban space, a conference about Braga and Guimarães European Capitals of Youth and Culture in 2012. By Filip Van de Velde (Staff Member S.M.A.K. Museum of Contemporary Art Ghent, Belgium), Stefaan van Biesen (artist), Geert Vermeire (free lance curator, residing in Braga) The speakers give an overview of the art in the city projects in which they were involved in Belgium including the 3 large scale projects. Filip Van de Velde talks about *Chambre d'amis* (1986), *Over the Edges* (2000) and a project in development *TRACK* (in 2012) and a small scale project: *Unforgettable neighborhood*. They will talk as well about the different urban projects 'promenadology', 'living landscapes', 'unlocking the city' and 'urban rituals' (projects involving young people in artistic projects in urban space in Madrid, London, Bucharest and Istanbul) by the artists Stefaan van Biesen and Stephanie Brandt, who both participate this summer to the project "Luggage Carrier - how long is now" at the Nogueira da Silva Museum in Braga and present their work at the Serralves Museum in Porto. This will lead to a conversation and reflections about art and urban space in Braga and Guimarães 2012.



## Musuem Nogueira da Silva in Braga



During the time of the project 'How long is now?' the Milena principle stayed in the Nogueira da Silva Museum in Braga. The museum consists of the legacy bequeathed by the entrepreneur Nogueira da Silva to the University of Minho. In his philanthropic activity and enthusiasm for antiques and works of art, he accumulated an invaluable collection which included many rare pieces of furniture, paintings, and sculptures from various periods and styles. The museum comprises significant renaissance pieces, Portuguese painting, 17th furniture, ceramics and creations in ivory, silver and religious art. In addition to the art collection, the legacy included the magnificent building, in the centre of Braga with beautiful gardens of French inspiration.



the Milena principle: artists in residents



## Biscainhos museum in Braga



Our start of the project. wednesday July 7, 2010. Stefaan van Biesen and Geert Vermeire are having a very interesting conversation with **José Costa Reis**, the director of the Biscainhos Museum in Braga. Geert Vermeire is writing a thought in the water of the fountain in the courtyard of the museum. This performance: 'I wish we were like water' was registered on video a few days later.



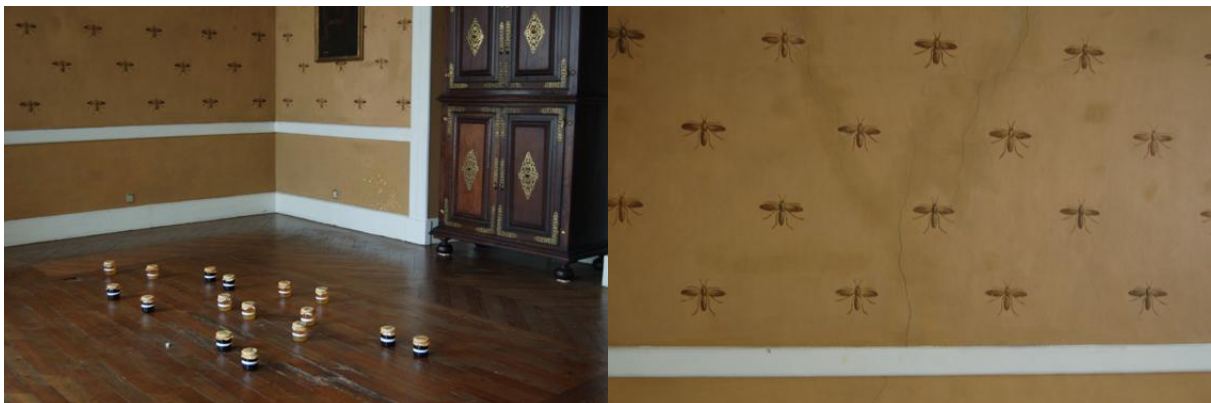
## Filho e Herdeiro – Son and Heir

This inspiring conversation with José Costa Reis the day earlier, about the museum and the history of Portugal, results in an installation in situ by Stefaan van Biesen 'Son and Heir' inside the Biscainhos Museum. In the historical dinning room he placed paper dishes with a paper word on each dish. It refers to those who lived here, masters and servants.



### The secret of the beehive

In an other room of the Biscainhos museum, that is decorated with a wallpaper with a bee motif, Stefaan van Biesen made an installation 'the secret of the beehive'. 16 light and dark coloured honeypots with a white label. On each label a word like: 'Comfort', 'Waiting'...



the Milena principle in Braga and Porto: Geert and Simona Vermeire, Bregt Smeets and Shaomin Mhin, Annemie Mestdagh and Stefaan van Biesen, Filip Van de Velde and Julie Snauwaert.

Joining us: Stephanie Brandt (Spacepilots London, UK) and Juan Gil Rodriguez, Horatio Gonzales (Escoitar, Spain).



## Installation 'Appendix' (large version) Stefaan van Biesen

A tree-library in the garden of the Biscainhos Museum in Braga 2010





'Time, registrated' Stefaan van Biesen. Location: Nogueira da Silva Museum, China room.



Performance 'Sleeper' by Julie Snauwaert (Belgium), during the inauguration.

Location: Nogueira da Silva Museum.



## Performance 'the Go-between'

during the inauguration of 'How long is now?' of Stefaan van Biesen in the garden of the museum Nogueira da Silva. Pictures taken by Shaomin Mhin.





## Buzz Performance by Geert Vermeire

[Score for Buzzer]

During the inauguration of 'How long is now?' in the garden of the museum Nogueira da Silva.



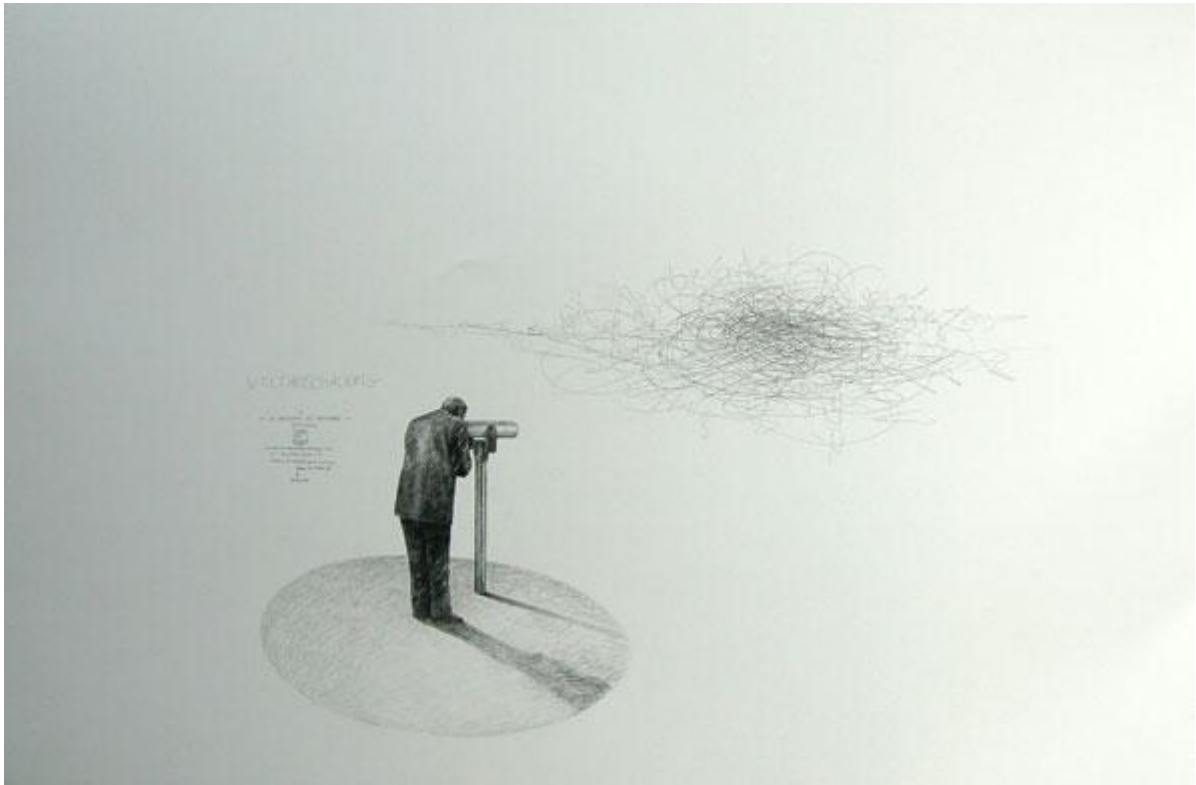
## Biscainhos museum in Braga

Video registration of performance of Geert Vermeire who is writing a thought in the water of the fountain in the courtyard of the Biscainhos museum: 'I wish we were like water'.

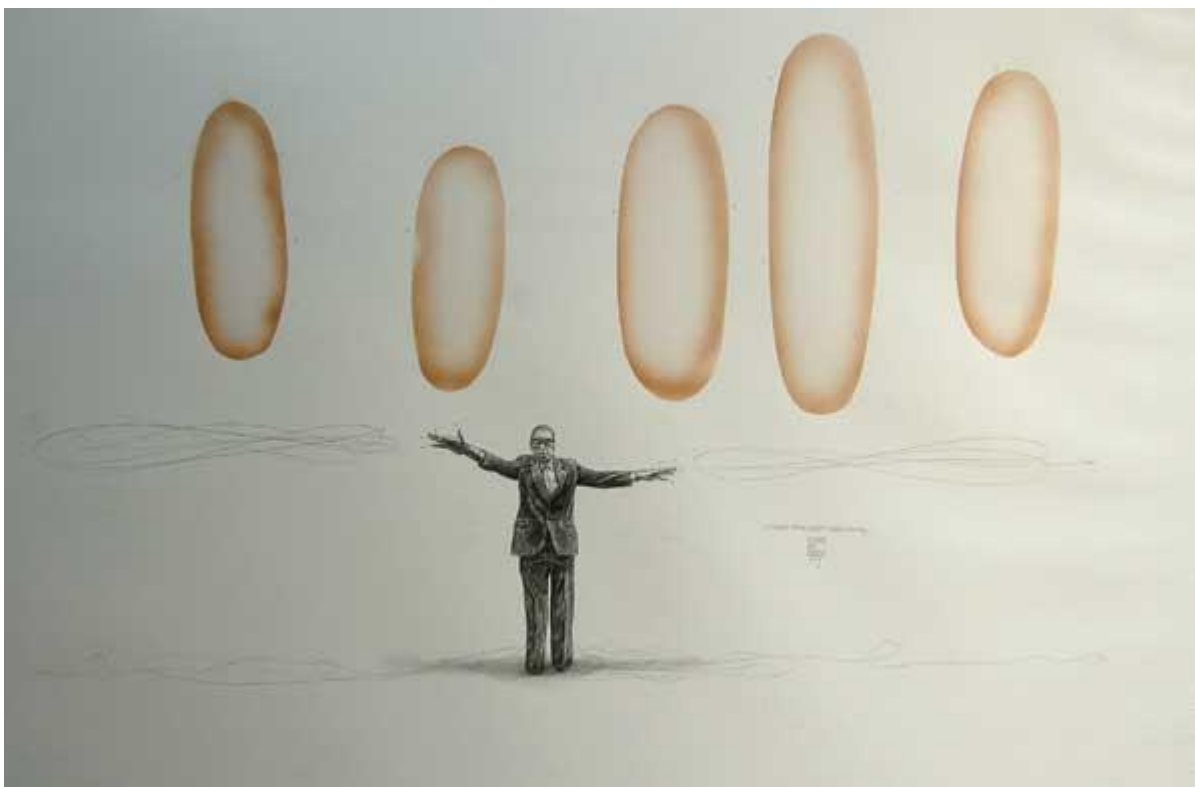




'Spaziergangwissenschaft' Drawings by Stefaan van Biesen Nogueira da Silva Museum.



110 cm x 74 cm







'Traveling spaces' Exhibition of drawings and prints of past performances in Europe of the Milena principle: of Stefaan van Biesen in Pedroremy gallery in Braga.



Serralves Foundation Porto.

A conversation with **Gilberto Zorio** at the Serralves Foundation. The Milena principle had a conversation with Zorio during their lunch between their lectures.





### 3 Lectures at the Serralves Foundation in Porto Portugal.

**Geert Vermeire** and **Filip van de Velde** about the public service of the Museum of contemporary art in Ghent Belgium (SMAK), **Stephanie Brandt** (UK), about her projects in London with Spacepilots and **Stefaan van Biesen** about the Milena principle in Europe.



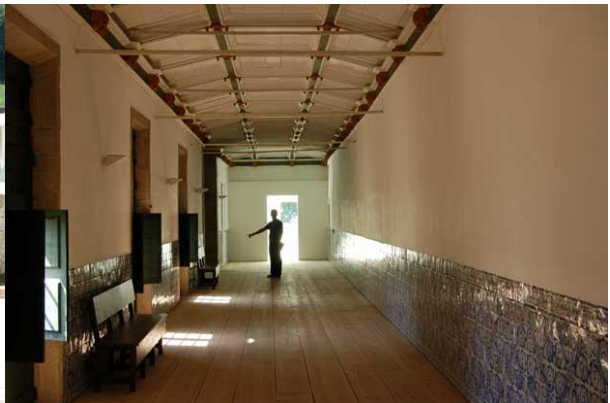
### Spacepilots and Escoitar

**Escoitar** is a group of artists and sonorous activists working in Spain. Escoitar is composed by anthropologists, musicologists, engineers and multimedia artists. Its main objective is the promotion of the sonorous phenomenon as new way of knowledge of the society (they are promoters in Spain of the current Aural Studies). Its activities center on the conservation of the sonorous memory, the putting on value of the immaterial cultural heritage, the fomentation of the participation of the listeners on the configuration of the sonorous patrimony and the field works and recording the ambient sound of the country. For **Escoitar** see: <http://www.escoitar.org/>

**Spacepilots** is a collaborative, cross-disciplinary practice of architecture and art dedicated to understanding and enriching the complex relationship between you and the things that surround you. Spacepilots are spatial and conceptual interventions with an intended emotional affect. Spacepilots: research and design pieces responsive to a series of urban and architectural sites. Founded by Stephanie Brandt. SPACEPILOTS set out to explore and develop an experience-driven design approach for the shaping of places. Questioning our relationship with the spaces we use and inhabit, we are challenging design as a medium to provoke new or different ways of interaction with our environments. For **Stephanie Brandt** see: <http://www.spacepilots.net/>

## The convent of Tibaes

Visiting the convent of Tibaes for upcoming art projects and the Milena principle Summerschool in 2011.





A meeting at MARCO, the museum of contemporary art in Vigo Spain.

A presentation of the Milena principle and a proposal of our 'Hikikomori-project' for 2012. Curator **Agar Ledo Arias** is listening to our proposal while **Juan Gil Rodrigues** and **Horatio Gonzales** from Escoitar are joining us. We will cooperate with Escoitar for our upcoming artprojects.



Escoitar, a matter of sound



The members of Escoitar gave a lecture at MARCO in Vigo Spain

## Workshops 1 'We are traveling spaces'

for children by the Milena principle – Location: Nogueira da Silva Museum





## Workshops 2 'we are moving colours'

for children— Location: Nogueira da Silva Museum





Performance of Maria Helena Trindade, staffmember of Museu Nogueira da Silva



'Passage, obstacle, passage' Installation garden of Biscainhos museum by Stefaan van Biesen

