

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

Embracing the obstacle / moving image

Sunday 24th September 2006 the enchanted wood – Schuurlo Sint-Maria Aalter Belgium



On Sunday 24th September 2006 Marianne Turck of the vzw 'Het betoverd bos' (a non-profit association 'The enchanted wood') organized an artistic event together with the Milena principle, that mainly consisted of performances. Both organizations found each other in a common project

The artists of the Milena Geert Vermeire, Filip Van de Velde and Stefaan van Biesen repeated a number of previous performances already given in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, presented in a different form however.

The visitors were invited to participate in the event which often lasted only 24 hours; they completed the exhibition through their presence. So it is not only about exhibiting but also about performances which come about in interaction among the public and the artists.

About the concept 'performance':

The body becomes a carrier of thoughts, an image in space. An image which touches you with the eyes. An act that comforts and touches.

Spaces are created with the body, a human field, in which the visitor can move. Performances are moving human fields, in which one participates as a visitor one resonates with and which one is moved by. Becoming a three-dimensional image, where one meets oneself as a visitor.

'Jeden Mensch ist ein Künstler' (= Every human being is an artist) (Joseph Beuys).



## Embracing the obstacle Geert Vermeire and Stefaan van Biesen

In this performance the visitor experiences the protagonists in a near tangible way when entering the house. Just like they are connected to each other, two worlds are thus connected to each other



The obstacle is at the same time an invitation to participate. Some will consider this as a possibility to go from one space to another. Both protagonists stand just outside the house, but at the same time they are standing on the doorstep looking at what is connecting them. They stand inside as well as outside. Their connection is like a cutting line through the house. The performance creates a passage. Physically the visitor has to pass the protagonists, who look like obstacles yet still create an opening.





## We are travelling spaces (II) / drawing and meaning



Inside the Milena great interest is attached to the making of notes. Travelling notes, drawing and writing, are important while being on the road. In the entrance hall of the old house, travelling notes, which were made in Berlin and Amsterdam 2006 during the 'Gepäckträger-project' (= Luggage carrier), were shown. One of the rooms was also completely drawn and described by Geert Vermeire and Stefaan van Biesen. This on the spot creation is also a form of being on the road. Creating the nomadic aspect of art with what is in store. One draws an inner journey starting from being on the road. They are visitors, who leave traces



## Revolving fields – installation in situ Stefaan van Biesen

One who takes the path to the open space beside the house, is invited to follow a new path, a spiral path, that leads you towards its centre, a path to the inside. A thread is like a breakable trace that leads to another natural road. Here the visitor finds a path that is carried by his predecessors. He is hereby invited to connect a special thought to this time line which has become visible. The thoughts on this line stand for crystallized experiences during the journey.



Through the spiral the visitor is invited to an individual search trip for his own centre. The spiral has been an inauguration ritual since old times. In this event the visitor is invited to become part of the work via a walk. He literally steps into the work. He is not only a visitor, but also the maker of the ultimate result. It is a process, in which the visitor finds a connection.



## Buzz Performance by Geert Vermeire

[Score for Buzzer]

The 'zoem' performance (= Buzz performance), a work consisting of buzzing sounds, is performed by the passing public, whom are asked to participate. It is about connection and unity, a bridge is spanned with nature in a language of sounds, it is communication with and based upon feeling, the creation of a wordless and common space of connection. Like an open space where people on the road meet each other. It takes place here and now but can not be grasped, it passes and then disappears irrevocably during creation. Suggesting therefore being on the road, on a path, connected but always in motion.





## Dans-t-U? (Do you dance?) soundscape and m/f with dance talent

Filip Van de Velde (première).

An invitation to participate in *Bewegend beeld* (= Moving image) incited to a movement in thoughts. preferred to make some new sound equipment with living models. The visitor of an exhibition is moving around on the exhibition site. He consumes one image after the other. 'Dans-t-U?' takes advantage of the movement and interferes with the free will of the viewer. Do you dance or not? Are you in or are you out? The visitor can get totally absorbed by the work. This concerns the highest ambition of every artist.

A caress for body and mind.

"The 'Viewer' is he, who enters the unit and lets his subjectivity completely disappear in the object that surrounds him – he completely renounces his own ability to speak and waits till something addresses him in a language that is not his own." (Patricia de Martelaere).

It concerns seeing and not seeing.

Consider visual art within a period of time and the voice of an invisible man. This is multimedia environment that questions the fundamental parameters of art, time and space, that examines and explores them. The exhibition becomes a 'tentoonstemming' (a play of words combining exhibition and sentiment), real movement inside a real space.



## Selected by

Marianne Turck invites the Milena, the Milena invites a new artist with his moving images in their space. A video made by Johan Louncke, an accidental take while touring Sri Lanka, an 'olifantra'.

### **works by the Milena (program):**

'Buzz performance', (Score for Buzzers and audience') by Geert Vermeire .

'Embracing the obstacle' (een Eenklank-performance) by Geert Vermeire and Stefaan van Biesen

in situ installation 'revolving field' Stefaan van Biesen



the performance 'Wir tragen unseren (P)faden' (Grunewald-variationen) by Geert Vermeire, stefaan van Biesen and the audience

Dans-t-U? (Do you dance?) (performance) by Filip Van de Velde.

