

the Milena principle © past projects

[a living room] Amsterdam 2006

Residents of Cities – an exhibition as a lab.



At the end of July 2006 the Milena was invited to be the guest of the German artist Niki Fröhling in Amsterdam. This 'Tafel der Ontmoetingen' (= Table of Meetings) was the provisional first tailpiece of their collective 'Gepäckträger' (= Luggage carrier) Project (how long is now) that started in Berlin in the beginning of July 2006. The artists of the Milena saw each other again for the first time in Amsterdam after their wanderings in Europe. A 24 hour exhibition was realized starting from interaction and dialogue, taking advantage of place and time. The theme was 'Bewoner van steden' (= Resident of cities). Again this exhibition was realized as a laboratory. In this exhibition new works

of art were realised with minimal means in situ, forming part of an easily transportable and light travelling exhibition. The day before Geert Vermeire had described drawings of Stefaan van Biesen, which they had made during their stay in Berlin. Printed photo material of the 'Watercurtain-performance' in the Bellevuepark and the 'Grunewald Variations' in the Grunewald in Berlin were described and provided with notes and then hung on the walls of the rooms.



On Sunday morning 23rd July Niki Fröhling opened her house for the invitees. Hundreds of strips of paper from the pages of a book were scattered on the parquet floor. Everybody walked on these words. A few hours earlier Geert Vermeire had written one word on several of these strips of paper. These were lying on a table, around which the guests could sit, talk and eat together.



The art and the house merged, the centre of the exhibition was a big table in the living room, where the artists and visitors exchanged ideas. The sensual elements and enjoyment was reflected in a feast, that was shared with the visitors coming and leaving the table of meetings.

Performance 'resident of cities' Geert Vermeire & Stefaan van Biesen



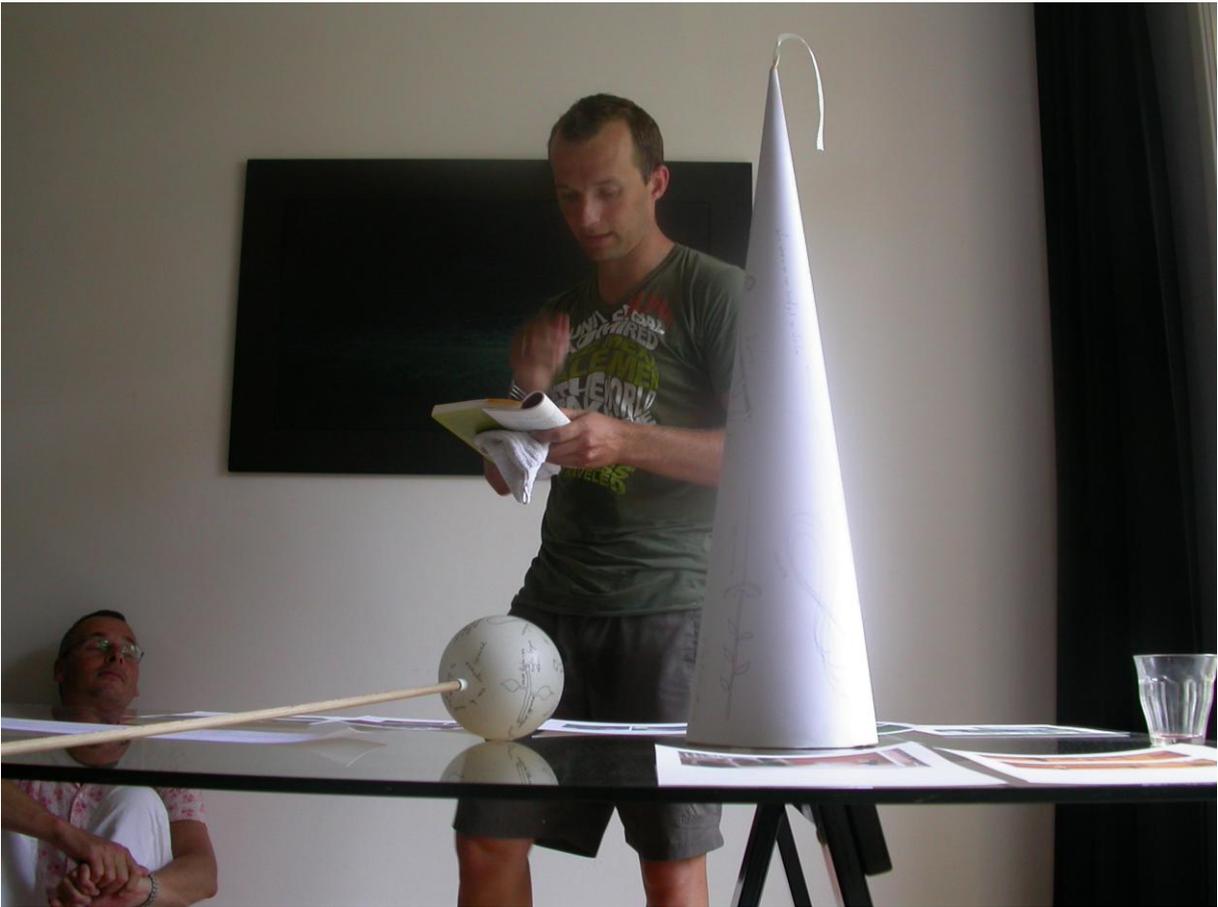
performance 'Unisound'

Geert Vermeire and Stefaan van Biesen staged a (sitting) performance 'Eénklank' (= Harmony). Their silence imposed silence upon the people present. After this long silence the first word was spoken, they then conversed with each other by means of short poetic sentences. They gave literary improvisations, illustrating expressive landscapes and provided a dreamy reflection on their visit to this city and past 'Gepäckträger' (= Luggage carrier) experiences. This was something that was very much appreciated.



A number of fragments from the letter cycle 'Bewoner van steden' (= Resident of cities) was read by Stefaan van Biesen and Geert Vermeire. One of these letters had been written on the spot by Geert Vermeire the day before this occasion.

Lecture on phenomena by Filip Van de Velde



Filip Van de Velde gave an explanation of his $E=Mc^2$ performance as well as a lecture on phenomena with the cloister of Le Corbusier in Evreux in France as the central idea.



After the art happening, the past Milena-projects were explained and discussed. The account of the simultaneous double project 'wij dragen onze paden' (= We carry our paths) of Jan De Wachter in Portugal and Geert Vermeire in Berlin was recounted after which this Sunday ended with a pleasant chat with those present and with a deeper elaboration of some of the ideas. Apart from that everybody enjoyed the summer heat and the city full of sounds.

