

the Milena principle © [About Melancholy]

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Travelling 24 hours [exhibitions on location]

The Campagne Drongen Belgium 2004

One of the first projects to arise, was 'Omtrent melancholie' (= About melancholy) in the Campagne in Drongen. Curator of this project was Filip Van de Velde, who invited Geert Vermeire and Stefaan van Biesen to help realize a 24 hour exhibition in dialogue with Marie Snauwaert and Virginie Agemans, two younger artists. This concept shows an exhibition as an event, a process in a short time span both showing the works of art and letting performances take place which are inspired by location or the event itself.

During the exhibition a philosophical path was created, this path is at the centre in the works of the three artists and is always followed by them. In this exhibition a nocturnal walking performance is realized with visitors proceeding along this imaginary path through the castle park. Visitors are invited to participate in the event; they complete the exhibition with their presence. Composition also forms a fundamental part of the event: here dialogues arise between the artists, the searching and finding of the right spot is already a part of the exhibition and an atmosphere is created by the talks where the public becomes part of the event. So it is not only about exhibiting but also about performance, which comes about through the interaction of the public and the artists. The artists are present during the whole exhibition from morning until late evening.

Time signature [nightperformance Stefaan van Biesen].

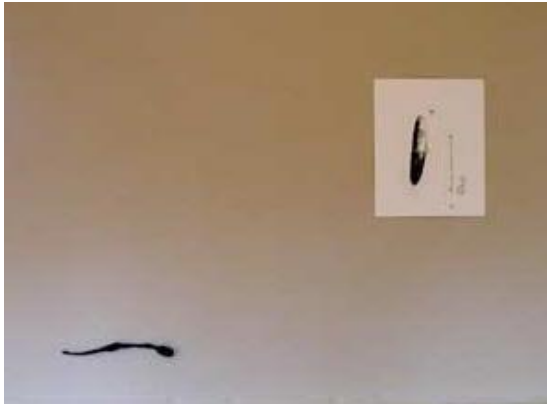


It is through this interaction the success of this artistic undertaking arises. Here the idea of a travelling exhibition has its origin, in the temporary nature of the event, in an exhibition as a living process of interactions in a specific place at a specific point in time. The further development of these projects is also based on a nomadic aspect, which is typical of the former renaissance artists, who did not only travel with their work through Europe but also made connections with all the places they visited..

Nightly write-performance [Geert Vermeire]



Dürer for instance visited the printer Plantijn in Antwerp, these great renaissance persons found each other via their common interest for the new Hermetic and humanistic thinking. Through their travels they moved boundaries, they made inner journeys, travelled with and via ideas. Through exchanges of ideas with artist friends, whom they visited during these long journeys, they created a network of solidarity and affinity



Score for Buzzer (I) ['Buzz performance Geert Vermeire].





The concept of a 24 hour art project is an interesting premise. The temporary nature and intensity of such events do not work as a mirror of the contemporary informative transience. But by creating a field of timelessness within a measured time in which concepts like 'silence', 'slowness', 'the body as unit measure' among others get a place, these 'instant projects' answer some of the questions it poses, those which live within the Milena.

Whisper performance [Stefaan van Biesen]





Boat Trip to the island to retrieve the text that was written the night before in a writer's cabin by Geert Vermeire.



Geert Vermeire is reading the text to the audience.