

Archetypes / 'Everyone's hidden agenda'



oh yes, I'm sure my life was well within its usual frame

the day before you came

the day before you came

Abba

An artistic research project

A study and presentation of art works about people and their unspoken emotional desires. An observation of a diversity of people and giving them (back) an emotional quality that they seem to want to deny. A project about the beauty within every passer-by.

The project is interested in what people are not willing to show about their personality, their longings and what keeps them going on in everyday life.

Photographs, videos, drawings, multimedia, web contents, interviews, texts, installations, interventions in public space, performances, workshops.

Stefaan van Biesen

Geert Vermeire



An artistic research about connections, empathy and vulnerability. Its concerns the beauty of everyday life, the beauty of the ordinary that is aroused by the incidental passer-by.

In our project you find concepts and guidelines which are connected with silence, intimacy, enchantment, inspiration to realize breathing spaces for creativity.

The project refers as well to our concept of 'the body as measure unit' : using the senses and the body as instruments of knowledge, experience and creativity, connecting us as well with and actualizing renaissance ideas about art, philosophy and society.

The project departs from the body and unfolding all your senses connected with our view of aesthetics as a science of perception.

These themes are explored in a multi- and transdisciplinary attitude by artists, ecologists, philosophers, scientists and other experts from a diverse background in projects with art as the binding agent.

The project has a high laboratory value, open and accessible, involving participation of the public and young artists/students.

The project refers as well to the nomadic aspect of the renaissance artists, who did not only travel with their work through Europe but also made connections with the places they visited and the people they met. Renaissance artists, philosophers and scientists found each other via their common interest for a new way of thinking. Through their travels they moved boundaries, they made inner journeys, travelled with and via ideas. Through exchanges of ideas with artists and friends, whom they visited during these long journeys, they created a network of solidarity and affinity.

The relation between art, silence, body, emotions and space are explored via workshops, leading to exhibitions of intimate and small works, for the greater part realized on location and in cooperation processes with young people. Essential part of the event are as well interactions and workshops of the artists with the public and community.

An important instrument to accomplish our artistic research is based on an up-dating of of psychogeography and an integration of promenadology as scientific instrument.

We refer to the German scholar Lucius Burckhardt (1925 - 2003), professor at the University of Kassel, where he created the Promenadologie or the Spaziergangwissenschaft (the science of taking a walk in the urban landscape). Since the beginning of his career Burckhardt engaged himself to obtain participation of inhabitants in town planning issues. He was as well against major changes in town planning, he defended the smallest possible interventions. This referred in the first place to traffic planning. He didn't make a difference between city and nature, for him a city was a landscape. Hence his concept of walking as an (urban) science. Promenadology deals with the view of city in dependence on to go on foot. Walking leads to more understanding, perceiving on a richer way, slower and with more details. Promenadology occupies itself as well with how technology changes the way people perceive the world, but progress need not blind people to the world around them. It is as well an aesthetics and a way of perception. In this sense aesthetics is the science of perception.

The promenadology interpretes public space as a surface of the imagination upon which the wishes, interests, traditions and yearnings of a society are manifested. In the

tradition of psychogeography the urban landscape is explored on an intuitive way, open for meetings and experiences. Walkers are urban nomads, they follow and describe the feelings reflected by the urban areas. The psychogeographic walkers or urban explorators reshape/redefine urban environments via the discovered emotional atmospheres in certain areas through the creation of emotional city maps.

Walking is the easiest and most natural kind to explore a town. Our mobility has changed not only our surroundings, but also our look at the world. Walking is an instrument to knowledge, to attribute the landscape in our head, not on an intellectual way but through the moving body. This opens richer ways of understanding and comprehending which are not accessible through "pure scientific description".

Our project strives for, next to being an artistic research to desires, hopes, wishes, dreams and emotions of the inhabitants of the city, being as well a stimulation of alternative ways of moving on through the everyday area and everyday life. Walking is as well perceived in this project as a work of art of which the visitor/public becomes a part and in our project there is a direct link between knowledge, science and art in which technology is integrated as a medium.

Next to image and portrait also sound is an important part of our project. Interviews, soundscapes, audio recordings are as important as our sketches, drawings, photographs, and videos within this project. De human voice is indissolubly connected with the human image.

As instrument of research we develop a walk as a work of art and connect this walk with visions, meetings with inhabitants, reflections, notes, diary entries, (spoken) texts, photographs and sound and video registrations, ...

Workshops

The workshops are composed out of a trajectory which leads to image- and sound materials. Photographs, video's, spoken texts/stories, soundscapes and sound recordings are made by students/young artists and are connected with locations, areas where they live.

We want to invite to the integration of word, image and sound in a permanent interaction with the experience of the city and living environment.

Some of the themes are hiding thoughts and emotions, the discovery of places and layers in the memory of a city/ living environment, the search for hidden dimensions in the ordinariness, the flight from reality by selective perception, the connection between memory, identity, sound/image and locations, mapping, parallell worlds/lives, collective memories/forgetting, getting lost, the unknown, vulnerability and misunderstandings, the poetry of the city, the temporary and passers-by.

We offer a series of workshops over a period of several days exploring these themes with students and young artists. Results will be the integration of :

- Creation of photographic material and video-recordings
- Creation of texts about living and the living environment , personal stories
- Interviews

- Soundscapes and sound-recordings of people and the city

Contact :

Stefaan van Biesen en Geert Vermeire : geert.vermeire@themilena.com

www.themilena.com