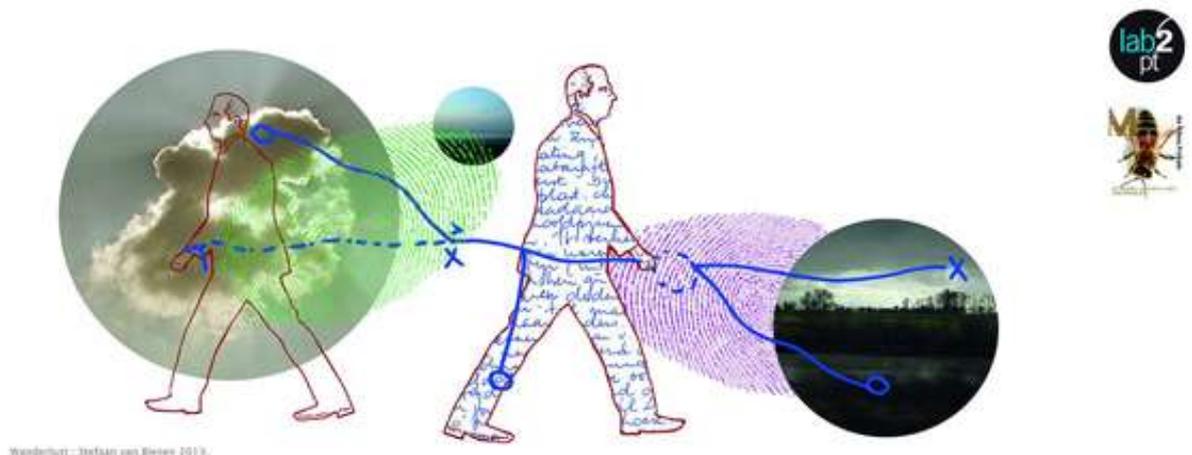


School projects the Milena principle

2018

The Walking Body. School of Architecture [Minho University] Guimaraes Portugal 15.10. > 19.10.2018.



www.mns.uminho.pt/thewalkingbody

THE WALKING BODY

GEERT VERMEIRE STEFAAN VAN BIESEN ANNEMIE MESTDAGH

walking arts today: new media - workshops - lectures - performances - artist talk



15-19 OCTOBER 2018

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE /UM
GUIMARÃES

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The walking body A week of conferences, workshops and performances about walking and arts, open to the students and the public are planned in Guimarães and prepare an international gathering Made of Walking in the Minho landscape of North Portugal later in 2019. The project is hosted by Lab2PT and EAUM Licenciatura em Artes Visuais (School of Architecture – Visual Arts) of the University of Minho and in partnership with the art collective The Space Transcribers and the Museum Nogueira da Silva.

It prepares collaborations between University of Western Macedonia – School of Fine Arts, the University of Wales – Arts and Performance Dept and the School of Architecture – Visual Arts of the University of Minho in a contemporary translation of the rural and natural landscapes through the body and site specific arts, within the emotions and nomadic movements that define our actual anthropocene world, through questions that artists may rise and answers that they may have.

[Meander III] performance/walk with the students, Minho University. Concept by Stefaan van Biesen & Annemie Mestdagh.



The meeting in Guimaraes anticipates the fifth international gathering Made of Walking which will have as a topic "The walking body" and will be held in Prespes National Park and in the village of Prespes, West Macedonia – Greece, on the border of Greece, Macedonia and Albania, beginning July 2019, as part of an international conference on arts and walking organized by the University of Western Macedonia – School of Fine Arts.

The event will be related to the interaction of the Body to Landscape (and vice versa); the artist or the cultural nomad interprets the Landscape as an open field where he/she obtains experiences and, through them, develops ideas, concepts and his/her artwork.

A particular set of emotions is created during the experience of walking in the landscape and that shapes a characteristic venue of art expression.

Lectures / conferences in Guimaraes

Silent walking / augmented walking. Geert Vermeire talks about his practice in silent walks and sound walks, which he created in the last decade. Specifically, it elaborates on new approaches and new technologies, relating to the movement of the body, in particular with sound devices and mobile phones. Since last years, also extended to mobile video and augmented reality. In Portuguese.

Made of Walking / The Art of Walking in the Landscape. Geert Vermeire reviews the previous editions, which took place in Greece, Cyprus and France, defined by a participative approach by participants and inhabitants, collaboratively curated in a dialogue between h the coordinator / curator Geert Vermeire and invited international artists and conceptually framed by Dr. Simona Vermeire and referring to a recent scientific and aesthetic discipline, Spaziergangwissenschaft or Promenadology (Science of Walking), created in the 90s by the urbanist Lucius Burckhardt (Germany). In Portuguese.

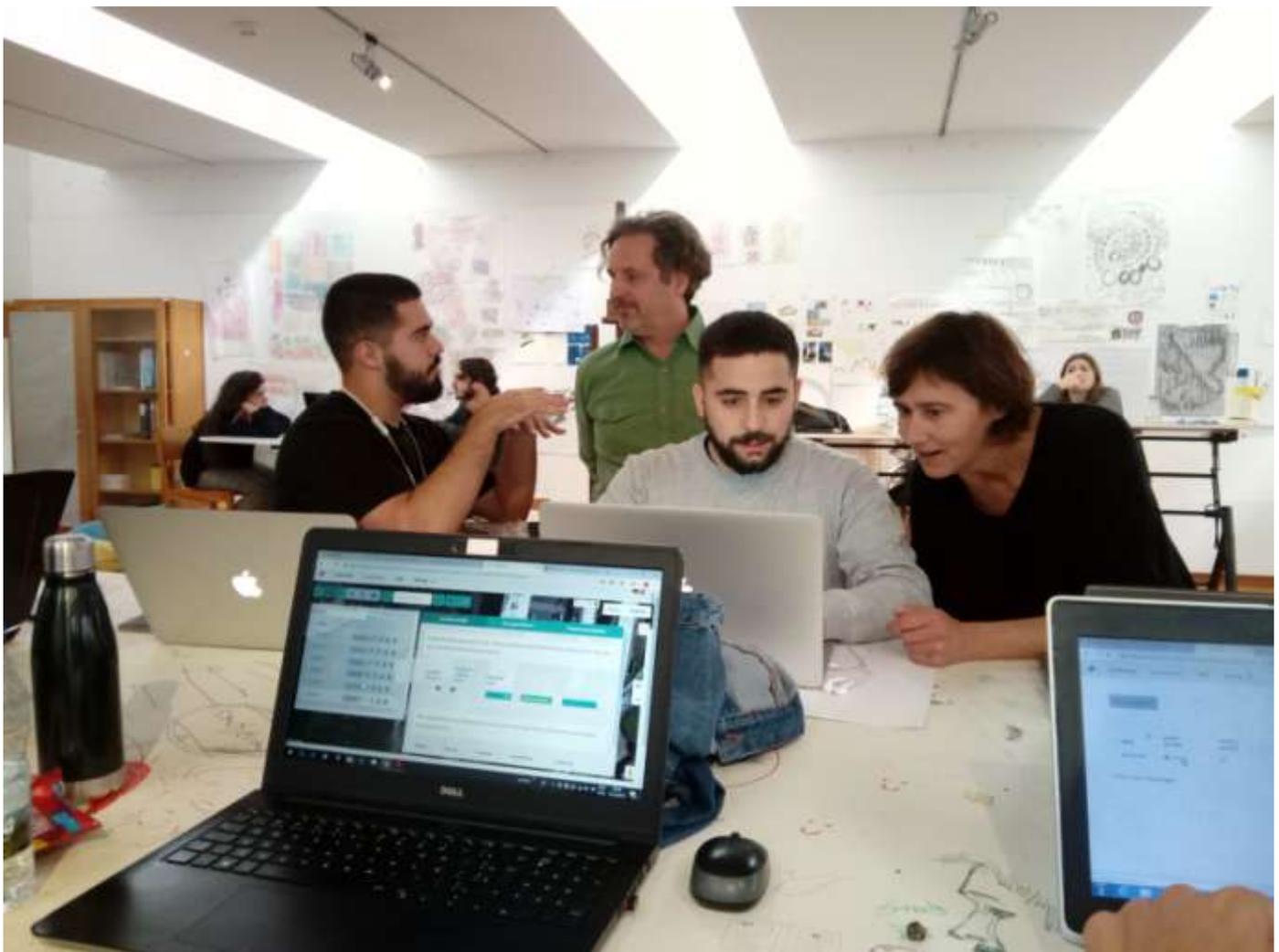
Artist talk by Stefaan van Biesen. About his walking practice and how this relates to digital media, sound, drawings & performances.

The oeuvre of Stefaan van Biesen departs from an associative solidity between thinking, acting, environment: 'how do thoughts manifest themselves via acts in our environment, what extent do they contribute to our well-being?'. Stefaan van Biesen exhibited in Belgium, Holland, France, Germany, UK, Poland, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Portugal, Brazil and China. Conference in English.



Workshops / performances in Guimaraes

Augmented walking [Geert Vermeire]. Participants are introduced into methods of sound walking, recording and editing sound, with free software. Each participant creates a personal sound walk that can be immediately downloaded to their smartphone with the Locosonic application. The workshop includes recording environmental sounds during an introductory walk and incorporating sounds through the built-in editor interface, allowing you to search, navigate and use more than 100,000 existing sounds / recordings. The workshop will also include the design of a custom interface for the application, with text, a map and photographs and the immediate creation of a page with a description, a map, photographs and an online audio sample of the walk. <https://www.locosonic.com/>



Meander. (Stefaan van Biesen, Annemie Mestdagh)

Walking is an instrument of knowledge and experience in the artistic work of Stefaan van Biesen. Concepts such as silence / time / body / mind, influenced by Eastern approaches, are situated in a Western way of thinking.



Stefaan van Biesen invites you to a silent walk / performance: 'Meander' where concepts like 'turn on / let go / lead / trust / care' are the underlying ideas. In this constellation of influences (of feeling and being involved), the participant becomes, like the co-walker, the work of art!

Concept and prop: Stefaan van Biesen and Annemie Mestdagh / the Milena principle. Outdoors. Duration: 45 minutes



Wander Weed. [Stefaan van Biesen, Annemie Mestdagh].

A performative walk with Stefaan van Biesen, where participants explore a nomad work of art on a shared walk with 5 people at a time, along the readings of poetic letters by Stefaan van Biesen (Letters to a Tree).

Production: Annemie Mestdagh. Concept: Stefaan van Biesen / the Milena principle. Outdoors. <http://www.mns.uminho.pt/thewalkingbody/>

[Letters to a Tree / Library of Walks] De Toren School Melsele Beveren Belgium ✕
19.03 > 11.06.2018.



An educational art project in school. A workshop for youngsters [the age of 10] at De Toren school Melsele Beveren Belgium.

The artistic theme's of: 'Letters to a tree', 'the Library of Walks' and 'Our Little Museums' are an inspiration for a project where nature, ecology, introspection, books, reading, writing, drawing, walking, is used as an instrument of knowledge and reflection.



Letters to a Tree / Handwritings / Utopia ?

OLVG School Melsele Beveren Belgium ✕ 19.03 > 23.03.2017.



An educational art project / workshops for youngsters [the age of 11] by Stefaan van Biesen & Annemie Mestdagh at Onze Lieve Vrouw van Gaverland school Melsele Beveren Belgium. The artistic theme's of: 'Letters to a tree', 'the Library of Walks', 'Handwritings' and 'Utopia, just around the corner?' are an inspiration for a project where nature, ecology, books, reading, writing, drawing, walking, is used as an instrument of knowledge and reflection. With Katrien Van Stappen, teachers: Kemi Smith, Valerie Verdoodt and Christine Ostyn.



Writing hall with the tables in a 'lanniscaat' arrangement. Sint-Maarten Comprehensive school Beveren Belgium

Maps for On the road – letters from On the road – traveling inside your head.

The St. Maartenday started with a ‘sound’ performance in the refectory, all children participated in and an ‘atmosphere maker’ in the classroom, a small intervention in the classroom, changed it for a while. A soundscape was played and placed the children in a travelling mood.

In the classes or academy visual work was performed. In the writing hall a travel letter was written. A conversation held about the walks they had made in preparation, the installation in the entrance hall or writing hall, art, journeys or the theme ‘onderweg’ (= ‘on the road’) all helped to get the children working.

Being on the road means travelling, one can travel in many ways. Sometimes you do not even have to move; one may make an inner journey, imaginary journey, sometimes a day can be so surprising that it seems as if one has made a journey.

Travelling means on the one hand arriving somewhere where one can find oneself, but on the other hand also leaving or letting go, which means that one experiences something one does not immediately expect.

Travelling means breathing out, taking a breath at a location or at a point in time where time could stand still for a while.

Travelling is also inhaling: a movement, a coming and going. Travelling is a transformation, a dynamic experience. Experiencing something, which comes, which passes by (automatically). This is the journey round which we want to realize a project.



writing moment for the students.

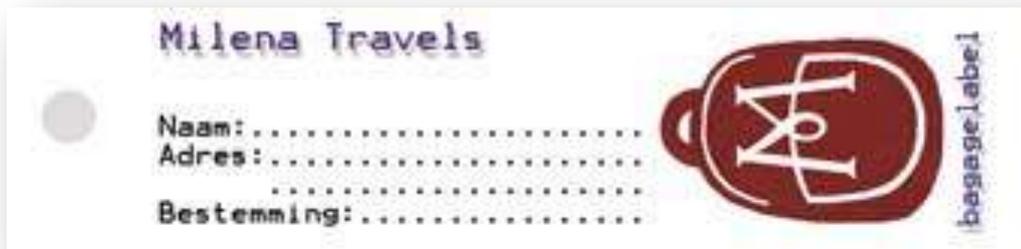
Within the framework of the Heysse price we created a Milena project in the school. A Milena project is an overall event in which everything turns round: reflection – being on the road –

participation – experience – connecting means letting loose. and it happens in a short time span.

In this case it was the St. Maartens celebration on 10th November 2006 in which the teachers and students participated. On that day the school underwent a transformation through creative contribution.



The exhibition merged with the rooms, where the children were engaged in a creative way: the sports hall transformed into a 'writing hall' with the hanging work of art 'Geist' (Spirit) by Stefaan van Biesen that imagines a journey to the inner and with a 'walking library' through the children themselves, in the classrooms a 'soundscape' and small visual interventions created the right tone, in the refectory a sound performance 'Handklap-Sonate' (= Clapping sonate), in which all children participated and which created an opening leading towards connection and spontaneity, in the entrance hall with a 'brievestroom' (= Letter stream), an installation with hundreds of letters and 'strips of paper with a thought on' which the children provided, in several places videos about being 'on the road' from the Milena artists and instantaneous drawings and texts made on big panels during the event.



The Milena principle departs from what is here at a specific moment, the spontaneity, the experience and gives it a place within the 'event-exhibition'. A rigid approach of an exhibition is abandoned and the 'public' become part of the exhibition, participate and contribute to it, seeing movement, being 'on the road'.

The participation consisted of the children being 'on the road' in a creative way, as well realizing their literary or visual work on St. Maartensday, their participation in a sound performance at the beginning of the day, the delivery of 'walking bowls' and 'walking thoughts', that found their destination in the project starting from 'being on the road'.

The 'walking bowls' were a part of the 'walking library'. Participants in the exhibition were asked to make a walk at home or while travelling, and to keep in a bowl, objects lost and found, but also notes or letters. This was exhibited in several projects in Belgium: Geel, Sint-Niklaas, Antwerp, Pittem and Zwijndrecht.



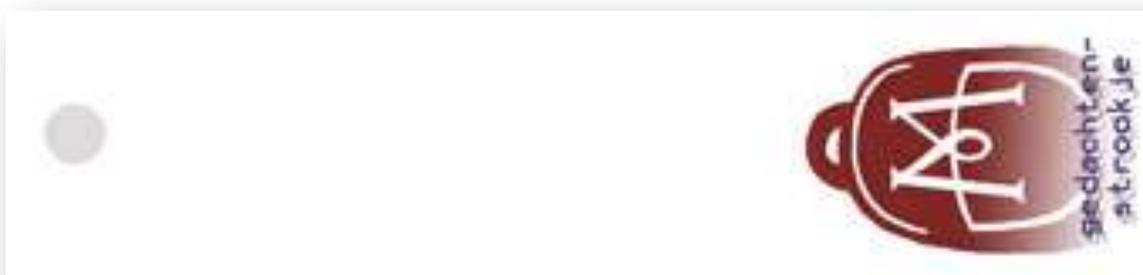


Reisinfo:

land: Milenasia
 bevolking: een bonte mengeling van reizigers
 oppervlakte: grenzeloos
 klimaat: zonnig met chocoladebuien
 munteenheid: de Milena M
 toeristische attractie: het grootste netwerk van paden (groot en klein) ter wereld maar waar je nooit alleen bent.

In Milenasia is het toegelaten om te dromen met je ogen open, maar verboden om snel te gaan en deuren op slot te doen.

Toegestane bagage: alles wat draagbaar is in je rugzak





This was the first task we gave to the children.

They were invited to be very conscious of the surrounding during a walk, for once not to be in a hurry while being on the road, but to look around, to experience, to keep in a bowl what struck them, touched them during their walk.

They could not only place objects in it, but also documents such as pictures or written things. The size and form of the bowl were chosen by themselves, only the original label was removed and replaced by a Milena label, which we had given in the 'travelling file'.



The second task was to write one or a few words (not more than one sentence) on a piece of paper about what came to their mind while being on the road, this could be in the bus, on the tram, in the train, on the bike, in the lift, on the escalator or even on the stairs or in a hallway.

These strips of paper with those thoughts could also contain wishes or dreams. It was the intention that these items formed the basis of expression of spontaneous thoughts of the children in an unprocessed form.

