Artist as Activist

Documentation of "Artist as Activist" English



Edit by : AA project team 2007

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[Summary of the festival]

INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE ART EVENT 2007

The title: "Artist as Activist"

Period : 7th October – 14th October 2007 Venue : Various location in Tokyo / Plan B (Video screening) Organized by : AA project team Grant : Pro Helvetia, Swiss arts Council Support : The embassy of Germany, The embassy of Poland Recognition : Association for Corporate Support of the Arts Corporation : Arts and Law URL : http://www.artistasactivist.org/



[Participating artists]

Yevgeniy Fiks(USA/Russia), Valerian Maly & Klara Schilliger (Germany/Swiss) Wladyslaw Kazmierczak & Ewa Rybska(Poland), Immo Klink(UK), Steve Hines(UK), Lynn Lu(Singapore), Stefanie Trojan(Germany), Machiko Tagami(Japan), Mai Yamashita+ Naoto Kobayashi (Japan), Yoshinori Niwa (Japan), Takuro Kotaka (Japan)

[Concept]

The aim of international art festival "Artist as Activist" is to create new relation to Tokyo with its History, culture, environment and local citizen. Through physical performance art, live art and city project that concern with society and city of Tokyo discovery how to live with others together. The festival will feature both point of view of inter international and domestic artists ,also this is a challenge that we encourage artist's site-specific works and the figure of Tokyo come to the front by their live activities. We greatly explore a perspective of relate between contemporary art and society .

The festival has three categories

- ■A : City project , Period 8th-14th October ,2007 Venue : Several public space
- ■B : Live performance art , Period 8th-14th October ,2007 Venue : Several public space
- ■C : Video screening night 14th of October,2007 7pm-12pm Venue : Plan B



[Programme]



Pre 7th October (sun) Valerian Maly & Klara Schilliger "Arrival zone" Narita International Air Port Arrival Gate 17:00-17:40



8th October (mon/holi)
 Artist as Activist "Shibuya Moving Opening Party"
 Start point : In front of Star Bucks Coffee near by Shibuya scramble crossing
 20:00-24:00



■9th October (the) Yoshinori Niwa "Hyper pillow fight" Hachiko park of JR Shibuya station 20:00-20:05



10th October (wed)
 Takuro Kotaka "Park Recipe"
 Yoyogi Park
 14:00-15:00



I11th October (thu)
 Yevgeniy Fiks "Ideo water"
 Near by Tokyu Denentoshi-line "Futakotamagawa"
 13:00-17:00



12th October (fri)
 Valerian Maly & Klara Schilliger "vapour trail"
 SL park in front of JR Shimbashi station
 13:00-

■13th October (sta)



Valerian Maly & Klara Schilliger "Departure zone" Narita International Air Port Departure Gate 11:45-12:00

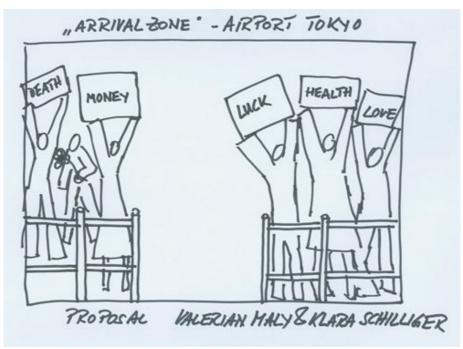


I4th October "AA video night"
 Live space Plan B (4-26-20-B1F, Yayoicho, Nakano-ku, Tokyo, 1640013)
 http://www.i10x.com/planb/ Tel : 03-3384-2051
 19:00-24:00 Admission: 1000yen

[Participating artists]

Project presentation

Valerian Maly & Klara Schilliger (Germany/Swiss)



"arrival/ departure zone" 2007

Klara Schilliger & Valerian Maly are welcoming the passengers from different international/ national destinations with signboards and flowers. But on the signboards are not named familyname and accomodation-place, instead of names will be written terms from everyday-life like "death", "money", "love"... on the signboards. And names from famous foreign persons, who influenced japanese history, personalities japanese people like or are impressed of/ or do especially not like. So it will be a continous "name- and term-dropping" from history (like "Admiral Matthew Perry", "Marcel Duchamp" or "bubble economy") to present tense, from everyday-terms to exquisite elitists terms. It will be a silent performance, which is implementing on the same time a kind of poetry, but not without provocation.

Klara Schilliger

B.1953 in Sursee of Switzerland. Live in Bern of Swizterland. She studied Modern Dance by Roni Segal. She is professor of Performance Art at the Hochschule für Gestaltung Zürich. She started performance art in 1980.

Valerian Maly

B.1959 in Tübingen of Germany. lives and works in Bern (Switzerland). He studied Music at the MusicConservatory in Luzern. He is professor at the Hochschule der Künste Bern (HKB), teaches History of Media Arts,Performance Arts & Performing Arts.

Klara Schilliger and Valerian Maly work and live together since 1984. Their artistic field is performance art and installation. They use the term of InstallAction for works, where the public is directly involved. Intermedia installations and performances are often site specific works. Klara Schilliger and Valerian Maly move as a matter of course between the different genres of arts, but without any pretended multimedia allures.

Yevgeniy Fiks (USA/Russia)



"Ideo waters" 2007

(Ideo)waters is an interactive installation that deals with connotative attributes of water as a signifier of sociopolitical conditions. Three types of water will be drawn from three different sources: (1) water from one of Tokyo's rivers, (2) regular Tokyo tap water, and (3) expensive delivered bottled water. The three types of water will be poured in three identical 5-gallon bottles for delivered water and exhibited

B.1972 in Moscow of Russia.He moved to NY in 1994.He studied at Brooklyn College, New York and the School of Visual Arts, New York.After that he participated in several international art show such as Ist Moscow biennale

Yoshinori Niwa (Japan)



"Hyper Pillow fight" 2007

Organizing pillow fight in the public space in Tokyo, it must makes others connect each others.

B.1982 in Aichi of Japan.Live in Tokyo.He graduated from Tama Art University department of moving image.He is action artist also organizer of international art festival.He organized Tokyo – San Francisco Art festival'06 in 2006.He already performed several Europe countries.Director of AA project team.

Takuro Kotaka (Japan)



"Park recipe" 2007

Collecting garbage of the park to make original food of participants. The foods are represented without lack of chef's skill and cultural background of chef.

B.1984.Live in Tokyo.He studied digital media at Asagaya art school. After traveling some Asian countries,he started performance art with his experience.A member of AA project team

///Video presentation/// Immo Klink (Germnay/UK)



"Urban Climbing" DVD / Slide show / 2004

B.1972 in Germany. Live and works in London. Master of Laws, Intellectual Property/ Multinational Enterprises, Centre for Advanced Legal, University of London. Assistant and studio manager for Wolfgang Tillmans. His works was reviewed several culture and fashion magazines for example "BeauzArts", "ArtReview", "I-D"

"Wladyslaw Kazmierczak & Ewa Rybska" (Poland)



B.1951 in Psary of Polnad.Live in Slupsk.Educated at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow. M.A. (1971 - 1976)In 1979 started with performance art. Over 200 performances in many foreign countries.He is also curator and organiser of the performance art festivals in Poland.Director of Baltic Gallery of Contemporary Art, Slupsk, Poland

"We like to watch at you" DVD / 57mim / 2004

Steve Hines (UK)



"8 x 8″ DVD / 12min

B.1963 in Nottingham of UK.Live in Lonfon.Studied MA fine art at Central St Martins

Stefanie Trojan (Germany)



"Kontaktaufnahme / first contact" etc DVD / 24min in Total

B.1976 in Germany.Live and works in Munich and Frankfurt.Studied sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts Munich.She got support from DAAD to study in NY.She had performed in several public space.

Tagami Machiko (Out-lounge) (Japan)



"Action art after Zerojigen" DVD / 35min / 2006-2007

Tgami Machiko (Owner of Out-longe)

B.1971.She studied at The School of Art Institute and Columbia College of Fine Art.After that she works based in Tokyo also organize some performance event and established alternative art space "out-lounge" in 2001 in Otsuka of Tokyo.

Mai Yamashita+Naoto Kobayashi (Japan)



Lynn Lu (Singapore)



"Release of mineral water" DVD / 5min / 2004

Mai Yamashita B.1976.Master of oil painting course of National art and music university of Tokyo, Naoto Kobayashi B.1974. Master of oil painting course of National art and music university of Tokyo

"Dear" DVD / 8min / 2006

Born in Singapore.Studied art in France and USA.Mater of Intermadia at National art and music university of Tokyo.Now she study doctor course at Musashino Art university [Projects detail]
■7th October (sun)
Valerian Maly & Klara Schilliger "Arrival zone"
Narita International Air Port Arrival Gate
17:00-17:40



Photograph by Takuro Kotaka

"Showing sign boards which say famous Japanese writer/artist/actor/ or non-sense Japanese Kanji character from the arrival gate to people "

When the artists arrive at Narita air port, the performance started immediately with the sign boards. They show several sign board of Japanese language which related to Japanese culture and history. For example, "Hokusai Katsushika (Famous Ukiyoe painter)" "Yukio Mishima (Famous writer)" "Yoko Ono (Artist)" "Money" "Health" "Hiroshima" and so on.These sign board was shown among a lot of passengers and staff of air company. Some body laugh or surprised at their boards.

■8th October (mon/holi)

Artist as Activist "Shibuya Moving Opening Party"

Start point : In front of Star Bucks Coffee near by Shibuya scramble crossing 20:00-24:00



Photograph by Shinkichi Onda

"Walking opening party in Shibuya, with a lot of beer"

The concept of this opening party is this town is our space. We had a curious opening party outside of Shibuya district, we had walked around Shibuya to find historical and curious place with beer. For almost two hours, we walked in the street and talked to pedestrians about this project. Shibuya have several face of town, one of them called "Center twon", there are a lot of shops of young people, second, called "Mayuyama-cho" there are a lot of love-hotel which is Japanese typical hotel, people go there to have sex. We researched situations of the town.

■9th October (the) Yoshinori Niwa "Hyper pillow fight" Hachiko park of JR Shibuya station 20:00-20:05



Photograph by Sachiko Suganuma

"Pillow fight with a lot of people in the center of Tokyo"

We organized one of flash mob activity, pillow fight in the center of Tokyo to have a connection with others. A lot of people with their pillow come to join our for just five minutes project. Participants said they really enjoyed after the pillow fight. The place "Hachiko park" we did is usually only for meeting point, but we tried to change a view and re-use this place for another purpose at this time. ■10th October (wed)
 Takuro Kotaka "Park Recipe"
 Yoyogi Park
 14:00-15:00



photograog : Yoshinori Nlwa

"Making big sandwich together with trash of the park"

We and participants collected trash in the park. And made big sandwiches together with trash which we collected before at first, but we switched to make big pizza together. This project disclosed participants' imaginations and cultural background through cooking together. Among the participants there are British art curator, artists from Swiss, management staff of art school and art students who are studying video and theater. The artist of this project "Takuro Kotaka" now is collecting images of a recipe which had done through this project. 11th October (thu)
Yevgeniy Fiks "Ideo water"
Near by Tokyu Denentoshi-line "Futakotamagawa"
13:00-17:00



Photograph by Yoshinori Niwa(Left) Haruka Yamada(Right)

Tasting three kind of water

"River warer" "Expensive mineral water" "Tap water of Tokyo"

We organized tasting counter to drink each water with professional chemical report freely. We could talk a lot of passengers about water, some body can drink only mineral water, she use mineral water for everything like cooking and medicine. The aim of this project is to disclose real ideal water for the people. However we could know there are no ideal water, Somebody said there are no difference from mineral water and tap water, we just want "ideal" as mineral water.

■12th October (fri)

Valerian Maly & Klara Schilliger "vapour trail" SL park in front of JR Shimbashi station 13:00-



photograph by Varelrian Maly (Left) Takuro Kotaka (Right)

"Walked with ice-block containing 20kg Swiss stones"

Freezing 20kg stones from Swss inside of ice-block, The artists walked outside of Tokyo with it. Soon the ice start melting, meting water was drawing a star.

Audience must watch actions very carefully, it changes quickly. The artists said we think about world environmental problem, for example water changes its form, we must use it very carefully in its circulation. The performance lasted for almost one hour inside, a lot of passenger of the train could see their action.

113th October (sta) Valerian Maly & Klara Schilliger "Departure zone" Narita International Air Port Departure Gate 11:45-12:00



photograph by Shinkichi Onda

"Speaking Japanese language in Japanese art port"

The artist have learn several Japanese words during their stay, for example "Kin(Gold)" "Te(Hand)" "Tori(Birds)" "Burikko(Behave like a chid)" "Tera(Temple)" "Hashi(Chopsticks)" and so on, their concept is the air port means the place of exchanging other culture, so they decide to speak Japanese even if they cannot speak well as challenge.

■14th October "AA video night" Live space Plan B 19:00-24:00



photograph by Sachiko Suganuma

"Video showing of AA project activities and world's artist works related to this project"

We hold video screening event at the end of the project, called "AA project video night". We show a lot of video including video documentation of AA project on previous seven days with talk. At last we had talk event (guest speaker: Lynn Lu from Singapore) about performance project outside of Tokyo, and possibilities of sight specific art project in the future. We discussed the situations of each country.

[Organizers – AA project team]

[Organized by] AA project team

[What's AA project team?]

AA project team is an international art organization, artists and art editor group ,established in September of 2006.The artistic director is artist Yoshinori Niwa(b.1982) ,also staff are editor Kenji Yamakita(b.1982) and artist Takuro kotaka(b.1984).We use powerful network of Yoshinori Niwa and accept advices from other organizers.We explore possibilities of Tokyo's art scene.

[Members]

Director : Yoshinori Niwa Publicity : Kenji Yamakita Finance : Takuro Kotaka

Office :

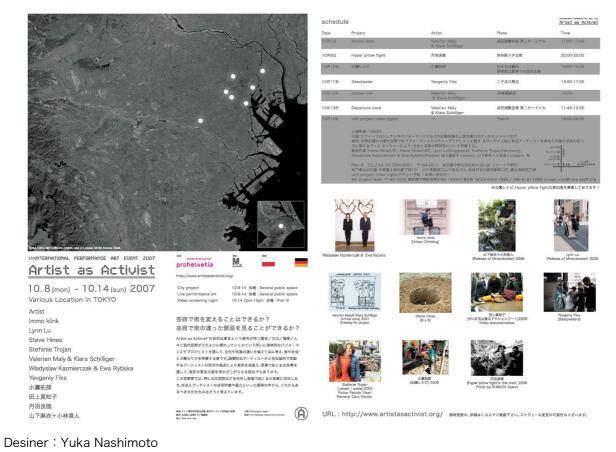
AA project team c/o Yoshinori Niwa 2-60-16 Sayuri – 6 ,Wakamiya, Nakano, 1650033,Tokyo Tel : 090-4187-0362 E-mail : niwa@niwa-staff.org

[Festival supporters] Camera Crew Shinkichi Onda, Naoto Naokatahiro, Tomoka Ueno, Yuta Hinohara, Sachiko Suganuma, Takuro Kotaka, Yasushi Takiguchi, Shiki Matsuo

Volunteer staff Kenta Kimura, Haruka Yamada

Supporters Arts and Law, Sakiko Yamaoka, Shiki Matsuo, Yoko Negami

[Design] Flyers

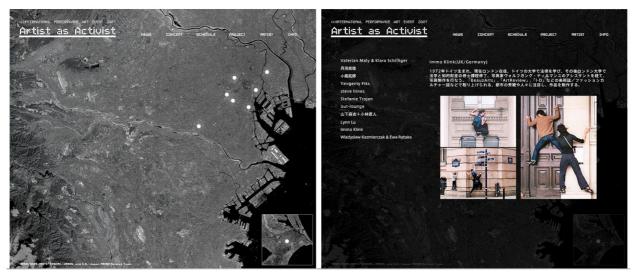


Size : A4 (210mmx148mm)

Number of copy : 5000

Color: 4C

Web site



Desiner : Rie Itoh

URL : http://www.artistasactivist.org/

Logos >>>INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE ART EVENT 2007

<u>Artist as Activist</u>

Desiner : Yoshinori Niwa Size : Possible to change Color : BW

Boards



Desiner : Yuka Nashimoto Size : B2 (515mm×728mm) Color : BW

[Data] Final report of finance of AA project (5th November 2007)

expense: 5021 CHF *Advertising : Invitation / poster / flyer 450 CHF *Printed catalog : 0 CHF *Insurance : 0 CHF *Travel cost : 2711 CHF *Accomodation for invitation artist: 0 CHF *Artist and Design Fee : 400 CHF

*Rental fee of the space : 250 CHF *Documentation cost : 270 CHF *Clerical work expense : 570 CHF

Income : 5021 CHF Prohelvetia / Zurich 3000 CHF Entrance fee and catalog 230 CHF Private money of organizer 1791 CHF

Budget and financial plan of AA project

Budget of expense: 5700 CHF

*Advertising : Invitation / poster / flyer	*Rental fee of the space :
800 CHF	300 CHF
*Printed catalog :	*Documentation cost :
0 CHF	300 CHF
*Insurance :	*Clerical work expense :
0 CHF	400 CHF
*Travel cost :	
3000 CHF	Budget of Income : 5700 CHF
*Accomodation for invitation artist:	Prohelvetia / Zurich 3000 CHF
100 CHF	Entrance fee and catalog 200 CHF
*Artist and Design Fee :	Private money of organizer 2500 CHF
800 CHF	

[Number of audience]

When we cannot count exactly number, we put almost number.

Pre ■7th October 17:00-17:40	50
Valerian Maly & Klara Schilliger "Arrival zone"	
■8th October 20:00-24:00	50
Artist as Activist "Moving opening party in Shibuya"	
■9th October 20:00-20:05	120
Yoshinori Niwa "Hyper pillow fight"	
■10th October 14:00-15:00	20
Takuro Kotaka "Park recipe"	
■11th October 13:00-17:00	50
Yevgeniy Fiks "Ideo water"	
■12th October 13:00-	100
Valerian Maly & Klara Schilliger "vapour trail"	
■13th October 11:45-12:00	20
Valerian Maly & Klara Schilliger "Departure zone"	
■14th October 19:00-24:00	45
AA project video night	
la total	455

In total

455

[Press clip]

Preview

■L25 / Weekly free information magazine (No.36 2007.10.4)

■Web magazine of ASAGAYA COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

■Weekly Pia (2007.10.11/ 2007.10.18)



資料請求 お問い合せ

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阿佐ヶ谷美術専門学校

"Artist as Activist" 東京で起こる「現場」の芸術

デジタルメディアデザイン科をH17年卒業した小鷹拓郎さん が、国際アートパフォーマンスフェスティバルに参加。国内外 からの数名のアーティストが東京各所で作品を発表されます。

芸術で街を変えることはできるか?芸術で街の違った側面を見 ることができるか?"Artist as Activist"の目的は東京という都 市が持つ歴史/文化/環境/人々と現代芸術がどのように関

わっていくかという問いに身体的なパフォーマンスやプロジェクトを通して、文化や民族の違 いを越えて共に考え、街や社会との関わり方を考察する事です。国際的なアーティストのと日 本国内で活動するアーティストの両方の視点により東京を見据え、現場で起こる出来事を通し て、現在の東京の姿を浮かび上がらせる試みでもあります。この芸術祭では、特に公共空間な どを利用し現場で起こる出来事に注目します。

【参加作家】Immo Klink(UK), Steve Hines(UK), LynnLu(Singapore),Stefanie Trojan(Germany), Wladyslaw Kazmierczak EwaRybska(Poland)、田上真知子(Japan), 山 下麻衣+小林直人(Japan), 小鷹拓郎、丹羽良徳

【会期】2007年10月8日(月)-14日(日) 【会場】東京23区内各所(City project)、Plan B(Video上映) 【小鷹拓郎公式サイト】→<u>http://kotaka766.com</u> 【HP】→<u>http://www.artistasactivist.org/</u> 【以下の写真をクリックすると大きな画像が見られます】









この芸術祭は以下の3つカテゴリーから構成されています ■A:シティープロジェクト 2007年10月8日(月)-14日(日) <City project>東京23区内各所他路上や公共空間で行なう都市プロジェクト

■B: ライブパフォーマンスアート 2007年10月8日(月)-14日(日)

http://www.asabi.ac.jp/topics/SS4.php



入学案内FAQ

ベージ1/2

Review

■Art drops (Online art magazine)

URL ; http://artdrops.exblog.jp/



■Locus Suspectus

(Canadian contemporary art magazine) British curator Ohta Emma is now wrting.



■Left Lion

(British culuture magazine)

British curator Ohta Emma is now wrting.



[Critic text] by Ohta Emma(British curator)

Artist as Activist

7th October – 14th October 2007, Tokyo

Is there a difference between artist and activist, and can they be embodied in the same subject?

The Tokyo performance festival Artist as Activist confronted this dilemma in a week long series of events which investigated art, activism and the spaces which they inhabit. Challenging the routine of everyday life, presenting a re-examination of public space and the creative possibilities which it holds, the events of AA took place in streets, parks, airports, and stations, with the objective to make a form of intervention within these spaces of transition and to penetrate the semi-consciousness of its people.

The structure of the festival was in some ways a reaction to the tyranny of the gallery which the festival organizers identified as imposing a rigid set of rules and assumptions in the encounter of art work and which inevitably engages a very narrow audience. Wanting to have a real relationship with human beings rather than the artificial environment of the gallery, AA determined to create interruptions in open public spaces and provoke a mental reaction in passers-by. Without the framing of the gallery AA set out to explore how creative acts might be encountered.

It is often claimed that Japan has a low level of political and social activism, protests being on small scale with little visibility. It may appear that the most active activists in Japan are right-wing nationalists, activism is of course not just a Leftist movement.

However Activism takes many forms, from highly visible activism such as demonstrating on the streets, to letter writing, to decisions in lifestyle, activism is not just loud speakers and placards, as the AA festival proved. Through various methods of alternative activism AA set out to raise awareness of our potential to be activists, to encourage diverging voices and the possibility to change things.

Activists activate something, perhaps it is activating a response, whether one of support or opposition, activating thought, activating reaction, challenging one to think - What is this? How do I position myself to this?

The festival involved pillow fights, water tasting, melting ice, play food among other forms of original activism, aiming at activating something new within the public realm.

Relationship with place was intrinsic to the conception of the festival itself. The artists and organizers had to confront a space filled with movement, history, function etc. and with an awareness of this interplay of systems carefully considered the locations for the events and how they might interject the systems in place.

The Events

Visiting international artists were Valerian Maly & Klara Schilliger, from Germany/Switzerland, whose entire presence in Japan became a performative investigation and activation.

Arrival Zone: As the artists arrived in the airport, their performance began, holding up signs in the arrival zone, but not waiting for the usual Mr X, signs written mostly in Japanese were held up one after the other by the artists, waiting for money, health, happiness, victims, love, rice, death..... A silent demonstration in which the artists themselves did not understand the message which they presented. Which may be true in the cases of some placard holders. And yet a form of poetry emerged through this. This ignorance was somehow countered by their final performance in the Departure zone in which the artists read out all the Japanese words they had learnt over the past week as if reading a farewell letter to the country.

Their intermediate performance, Vapour trail, expressed in many ways the journey which the artists were making through their visit to Japan. Valerian, with a 20 kg block of ice upon his back and Klara dragging the same with ropes, staggered repeatedly across the open space between two stations in Shimbashi. The ice continuously melting with their strained steps, leaving a trail of water behind them, soon to evaporate and leave no trace of where they had been, the artists were traversing a new space, yet having little impact on it. In an attempt to leave some imprint of their presence, stones from the Swiss Mountains had been frozen in the blocks, and formed relics of the artists movements as they fell to the ground with the thawing of the ice.

It appeared to comment in some way upon the artists travel to Japan, with awareness of the impact of air travel on the environment and its relation to the melting polar ice caps. But perhaps also suggesting a certain futility of the artists and the challenge of making activism impress upon something.

This performance in fact created the most disturbance, being surrounded by station guards and police, causing small crowds of people to stop and watch what kind of drama maybe unfolding. The encounter with the 'authorities' resulting in the AA team having to scrub the space clean, the slightest trace of this action completely washed away. A highlight of the AA video evening was the screening of a series of performance works by the German artist Stefanie Trojan, whose actions range from the confrontational to that of the near invisible. For example in Mitfahrgelegenheit (Lift) Trojan waits outside a supermarket and as people come and collect a trolley to do their shopping she jumps into their trolley and asks for a lift. Those who accede are then aided throughout their shopping trip by the artist as she is pushed along in the customer's trolley piling fruits, vegetables, cans and boxes on top of her.

`\$100:8min55sec' presents Trojan on a street corner in New York handing out flyers to passers by. As is often the case people ignore her, push past, refuse her offering. But then people begin to realize she is giving out \$1 bills. These passers-by are then faced with the choice to accept this money or not, some confused, some uncertain, some hungrily asking for more. It takes 8min 55sec for the bills to disappear.

'Die Tasche' is a performance enacted in many stations and airports around the world, touching on fears of terrorism, the suspicious object, with an ironic gesture, Trojan takes a large luggage bag, climbs inside, closes the zip, then begins to move intermittently along the ground, much to the bemusement of passengers and station staff.

Trojan presents us with unexpected situations in which we are asked to question what we would do in such a case, and which prepare us for future experience of the uncanny.

Other videos presented included:

Lynn Lu – Dear – taking part in a faux consumerism protest in Munich, Lu follows the march dragging her weight in salt behind her. Alluding to the burden of possessions and the ancient use of salt as currency the performance was completed when having reached the final station of the march, Lu empties the salt upon the ground, and creates a snow angel amongst the crystal grains, finally unburdened in a symbolic death.

Immo Klink in 'Urban Climbing' presents a choreographic ascent of walls and buildings in the city of London. Challenging the city's structures through alternative scaling of surfaces is an increasing form of popular activism against the enforced manner of engagement and navigation of urban space.

Returning to the live performances, Hyper Pillow Fight was the clearest spectacle in a public space, 20 people at Shibuya crossing hurling pillows at each other for an intense and exhausting five minutes. A guerrilla attack in one of the most crowded spaces in Tokyo, clearly making an exhibition of all involved. Possibly the most aggressive activism in the Festival. A fight in which all were indiscriminately targeted by each other.

In contrast, Park Recipe, in Yoyogi park, was a peaceful leisurely collaboration between artist and audience, in which everyone was given a bin bag and asked to collect rubbish, twigs, leaves and other objects to be found on the ground of the park. Looking rather like a 'Keep the Park Clean' team...the group wandered through the park filling their bags with all sorts of materials. These were the ingredients for the park recipe, from these ingredients the team had the task of cooking up a delicious sandwich. Rather like making mud pies, the team assembled branches, newspaper, crisp packets, plastic bags amongst other things into the shape of a sandwich (which looked more like a pizza in the end). Lead artist Kotaka, Takuro has made this project with kindergarten children, whom, he admits, need no tutoring in these methods as they are geniuses in the art of park recipes, however perhaps this adult team could have done with a little guidance from the young masters.

Ideo Water by Yevgeniy Fiks also took the shape of a subtle intervention, in the form of a water tasting booth set up at Futakotamagawa station. Dispensing mineral water, tap water and water from a local river, this work involved direct engagement with the public, requesting their participation and their judgement, being asked to have an opinion, enfranchised in a vote for the leading water.

Elements of the spectacle were clear in the strategy of AA, but also actions of quiet challenge were also of significance in these tactics. It is not just the overt attention-grabbing events which may shock us or challenge out perceptions. That which subtly diverts from a given environment can also result in heightened awareness of where we are, what is going on around us and how we could potentially participate in this.

Festival Director Niwa, Yoshinori commented on his motivation to initiate these events as a wish to create a 'social accident' in which the public come across something challenging in the course of their everyday life which forces them to question their habitual routines and assumptions. When asked if he wants to position himself as an artist or an activist Niwa responded that this is something he has considered many times and has had to conclude that being an activist perhaps has more impact than being an artist, as perhaps the activist is able to occupy more spaces than the artist. Yes, there may be a distinction between artist and activist.

Niwa Yoshinori is a highly active young artist/activist and organizer. He has performed in various countries worldwide and has been organizing alternative events in Tokyo and San Francisco. <u>www.niwa-staff.org</u>

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