

Soirée á l'italienne

Public space performance
Sierre, Switzerland
June 15, 2012

I worked with a group of elderly Italian women living in the city. These women experienced a difficult integration process in the Swiss society of the 1960's, characterized by open discrimination towards the Italian community.

I met them through a local association that works with them in order to form a choir that helps them strength their sense of identity and to become more present in the public life of the city. The women always at service of their families and husbands found in this choir an opportunity to share their opinions and to talk freely about their interests and concerns.

After talking with them, they commented that there were no places to sit in a local park they really to visit in the summer and that older adults like them cannot enjoy this place for this reason. We made a plan to invite local administration representatives to have a dinner together in this park to discuss this issue.

After the event, all of the present agreed that enjoying a summer evening in this park, singing, eating and laughing, all in Italian was a great experience. The concerns of the ladies regarding the park were addressed by the city planning.

This action was developed in order to test how can performances become for tools for advocacy and to study their potential as ways to promote discussions and participation in the public space.



La Fête de Ramon

Public space performance
Sierre, Switzerland
June 6, 2013

The association's director asked me if it could be possible to repeat the action from last year given that the ladies really enjoyed the performance. After exchanging ideas with them, we decided to expand the event by inviting the foreigners that are newcomers in the city. This was made by contacting the integration department of the city and addressing the invitation for those that are recently inscribed in the public language courses that offered by the city.

It was also collectively decided to employ the same strategy of placing tables on the middle of the public park and to ask all the participants to bring some food to share. The ladies would sing to give ambience to the event like the last time. One of the Ladies proposed to rename the event as "La Fête de Ramon" and the name quickly stuck as a funny remark.

Language was in the beginning a challenge, but the food and drinks enabled interactions from people that were most of the times not used to talk with others in the city. This was particularly appreciated by some of the participants, which came through several difficulties to have a better life in Switzerland.

For this action I was awarded with a prize from the school. The city administration also engaged to support this action, so could be performed every year. A press article in the local newspaper was published to describe the event.





“Collecting useless memories” - Berlin

The present is now

Public space actions

Berlin, Germany

July 14 to 28, 2012

As part of an exhibition titled: 0° latitude / longitude Gleisdrieck, I realized a series of seven actions performed in the public space by approaching people that were sitting on parks and streets of the city.

These were: 1. Selling ordinary rocks. 2. Create a human wall. 3. Stamp people with a number. 4. Give free head shaves. 5. Collect useless memories. 6. Change the name of a street. 7. Climb over a small wall with a ladder.

These actions were conceived as experiments in performance art, and relational art. The interactions and conversations generated by them were the main goal and well as offering people a chance to experience a moment where routines and social norms were “bent”



1. *Paper hearts: I told people that the best way to solve problems is through love while I gave them a paper in the shape of a heart. To finish, I asked them to break the heart if they disagree...*

Politics of love

Public space actions

Graz, Austria

September 21 to 29, 2012

For the “truth is concrete” an art and politics festival, I planned a series of five actions executed in parks and squares of the city with the intention of having conversations with people sitting there.

2. *Candies: I offered some candy to test if people were still afraid of taking candy from strangers while talking about trust as the base of civilization...*
3. *Super Speed Dating: I asked people to hold both hands of the closest person nearby. I asked them, while holding hands to look in the eyes of the other until they could not longer stand it...*
4. *Friendly Drones: I wrote friendly messages in paper planes. Then I threw them into the open windows of the apartments in the city...*
5. *Friendly Bar: I sold beer, wine and cigarettes in front of a bar to initiate conversations with and between strangers. These were sold at a much lower price than inside the bar...*



Compacting the audience

Participative performance
Sierre, Switzerland
April 17, 2012

This action took place during an exhibition. I pushed the visitors of the show in one corner to break the accepted physical distances and create a compacted feeling.



The weight of knowledge

Participative performance
Sierre, Switzerland
February 7, 2013

I convinced our teacher to give a short lesson while we lifted him. Scientific argumentation was used to demonstrate that effort made the lifting helped to transfer the art knowledge in a more efficient way.



Sleeping madness

Public space action
Sierre, Switzerland
November 3, 2012

This performance took place inside a supermarket. I lied on the floor next to the check out and pretended to be sleeping. Visitors of the shop reacted surprised and unaccustomed.



The end

Participative action
Sierre, Switzerland
October 3, 2012

I organized a surprise party to celebrate the “end of the world” with music and drinks in the middle of a regular day in the school. None of the participants knew of this spontaneous action until the extremely loud music started and came to my studio see what was happening.