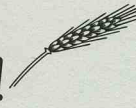


No Sovereignty!



Public Space With A Roof / A Dependant Space in Amsterdam

Running an artistic public space is no attempt for autonomy, but an attempt to construct a permeable zone of exchange, for the exchange of thoughts, concepts and opinions. It is, therefore, an attempt to re-distribute the mental and physical space one establishes.

In order to gain space for artistic "freedom" and expression, one has to articulate and confront what one's vision of that "freedom" actually is. If we take the project space as a sovereign space, does it mean that the influence of the art-market stops abruptly at our doorstep? Does it imply an "anything goes mentality" in a liberated, autonomous zone, where naturally criteria of quality should not apply? The idea of any artistic space as sovereign, "free of outside influences", is a naive concept - the creation of an artistic space is, for us at Public Space With A Roof, actually about the exact opposite.

What challenges us to run a project-space is the ambition to enter a dialogue with the outside, to be able to articulate issues of relevance to our lives in a format that others can perceive and react to. PSWAR conducts projects in order to find out what we can offer to a dialogue, what it means to produce, articulate, and develop concepts and views, and to review and evaluate one's own series of experiments.

Public Space With A Roof expressed an interest in artistic research from its very beginning. Initially, PSWAR functioned as a platform for young artists during half a year of process based, weekly shows. Following a restructuring phase, PSWAR invited artists, theorists, architects and activists to speak about strategies of interventions in the city in "Intervening the Urban Void". The three month long project operated as a meeting-point, a public archive and a lecture-space. In "Relocated Identity" (May – July 2005), a project consisting of two exhibitions and lectures, PSWAR will question the overexposure of nationality in the arts, and will examine the term of migration not as an exotic phenomenon, but as a concept inherent to our culture.

While PSWAR focusses on issues which affect our lives as artists and foreigners working and living in the Netherlands, and investigates them through exhibition making, the project space itself is, simultaneously, the place where these practices of exhibition making have to be questioned and, if possible, improved.

Feedback from audience and exchange partners (artists, critics, curators, theorists and activists) are the fuel for Public Space With A Roof. Thespace, with its people, ideas and intentions, becomes a converter for these outside influences and produces a feedback outwith the four walls. Public Space With A Roof can be described as a space in motion which becomes a discursive space, not through the amount of lectures performed, but through making the space discursive in itself, as a point of references and exchanges.

[Inga Zimprich]

Public Space

With A Roof depends on /

has been made possible by / is facilitated by / has been shared with:

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(to be continued...)

Thank you!

Inga