



C&H

Postcards from the Future

a proposal for the BBI 2008 festival in the framework of the Wrights and Sites call for projects

Postcards from the Future

CONCEPT

A series of different postcards are produced, each made from photographs shot in the city of Fribourg.

The images on the different postcards represent daily urban situations, reconstituted in the public space for the shooting. The characters on the picture are, on the one hand, passers-by who happen to be present at the moment the photograph is taken and, on the other hand, extras especially hired for the occasion.

Before the beginning of the festival, the postcards are printed in large amounts which are then put at the disposal of the public throughout its whole duration.

On each different postcard, a specific date and time is stated, along with the exact address of the location where the picture has been taken — either as a title for the postcard, or as a caption at the back, depending on the specificities of each image.

The dates and times stated on the postcards correspond to moments within the duration of the festival.

At the given times, micro-performances take place at the indicated locations. The performances are re-enactments of the postcards. They aim at recreating the conditions that led to the specific situations depicted on the cards, involving the same actors present at the moment of the shooting.

A postcard from the future thus announces, in other words, literally predicts to the potential spectators of the performances what they will be able to see on the appointed day. The frictions arising between the exactitude of the photography and the inevitable approximations of the re-enacted reality are the substance of the performances, which remain unnoticeable for anyone who does not dispose of the models photographically prophesied by the postcards.

CUSTOM-MADE REAL POSTCARDS

Although the motives chosen for the postcards do not correspond to the sights typically seen on touristic postcards (see locations hereunder), the design, color treatment and layout of the postcards match the standards of the kind.

LOCATIONS

The scenes depicted on the postcards correspond to daily urban situations: people having a drink on the terrace of a café, waiting at a bus, or metro station, children playing on a small square, someone walking a dog in a park while joggers pass by, people walking through a passage way, the facade of a building with some of its inhabitants sitting on their balconies or looking out of the windows, people entering and exiting a supermarket, a cinema, etc.

RE-ENACTMENT STRATEGIES

Far from attempting to mimic the stillness of the photographic image, the performances attempt, each in its own fashion, to situatively reconstruct the time-frame from which the picture has been extracted, and which, potentially, could contain the same image again.

The surroundings, not aware of the occurrence of any performance, constitute the backdrop upon which the postcard image will emerge in life size realization.

POSTCARD DIFFUSION

The postcards are displayed in strategic locations within the festival, on typical rotating postcard stands (see illustration) and put at the free disposal of the visitors. The postcards —since they are real postcards— can of course as well be mailed out as invitations to the performances...

Further locations for the postcard stands could be investigated, outside of the festival premises, in shops, public places, ...

An extra postcard could be produced, not announcing any performance, but giving some background information about the project and facilitating its communication.

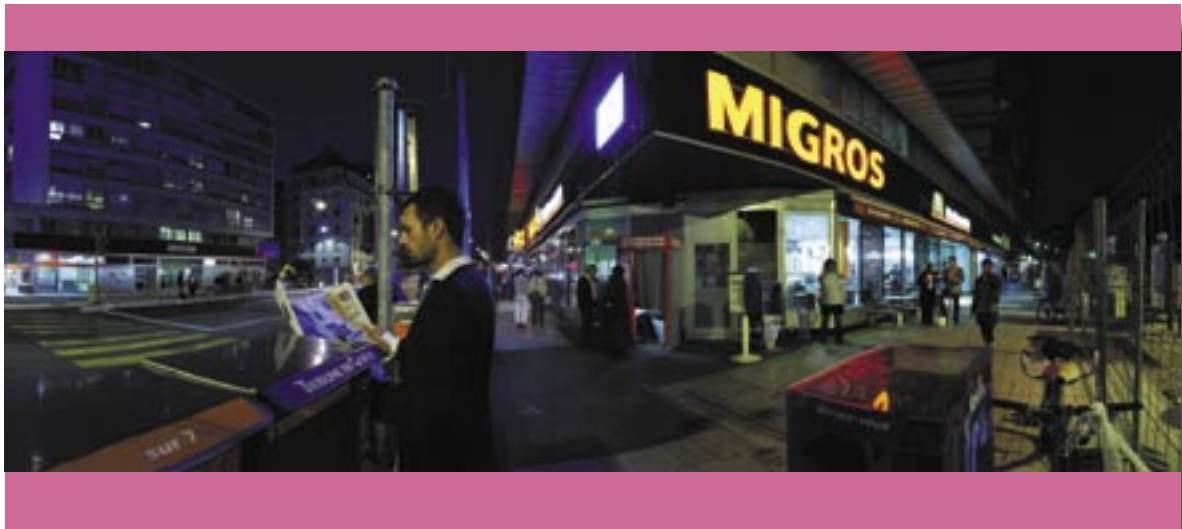
PRACTICALLY

C&H proposes to realize 4-7 postcards/performances for the BBI festival. The postcard stands would remain in position during the entire festival while the performances could take place concentrated on the second week.

The casting of the extras as well as the shooting, editing and printing of the postcards would be realized by C&H during the month preceding the beginning of the festival.

“...so the spectator, provided with his prophetic postcard, will choose the point of view from which he will be able to watch the future carried out. Of course he'll appreciate it's implacable exactitude, but he as well will be surprised by it's divergences, uncontrollable hazards of history...”





C&H

[heike langsdorf
christophe meierhans
christoph ragg]



C&H are dancer Heike Langsdorf, scenographer Christoph Ragg and composer Christophe Meierhans. Based on an essentially interdisciplinary work, their performances transversally exploit the formats of contemporary representation.

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