

Black Market International in Glasgow, at Glasgow and around Glasgow around

Fascination

During my first visit to Glasgow with Black Market International, I was first fascinated by the 'Sound of the Voices' of the innate habitants. I felt, this sound was the sound of the principle of Black Market. I walked in the streets and asked people about uninteresting things, only to hear them speak, to describe to me ways and directions I knew (from the city-map). Unforgettable.

This sound is in my ears. I asked myself often where the sound in the voices is coming from. As an association, we are working very precisely in the creating of images as breaking and changing situations and we are creating sound, not as music, not in the sense of a multimedia creation. The whole space is an interactive and intermedia sound, like the voices in the streets. Voices by humans, voices by machines, voices by elements and voices by the things which speak with you. Yes, yes, incredible Glasgow.

Birthday I

25 years NRLA and 20 years of Black Market International (B.M.I.). Enter the Arches - this wonderful space - to celebrate our 20th anniversary, to celebrate the prediction of our principles.

The reception was sincere and full of honour. The performance started with the preparing in the morning, later the public enter too, switching, coming and going, in the rhythms of the other events. The sound of this meeting.

The NRLA, the possibilities, this large trick disk of the different types of performance and performing arts and all these meetings, artists, whom I never met before, and I could see their works. Field of gravitation and hot spot at once.

Transforming hardware to software

Black Market is based in the art of encounter. In this open system, there is no permanent group, no fixed rules and most of all no pre-elaboration. Each one ignores what the other will do and the artists function under the principle of exchange: reciprocity, in interference and simultaneity, without hierarchy. They take over the space which becomes a space of freedom dedicated to artistic creation. Only the time and starting image is pre-determined.

(S.Ferre)

And then the invitation for 2007. Looks like a dream. Five days, around ten hours each day, workshop, performative lectures, possibilities to invite other artists (some of them were invited to the NLRA festival), a big space and time for experiences, a lot of time. We got from the streets of Glasgow rusted vehicles, found good stones, by misunderstanding we got special materials which forced us to experiment and all together was installed as a strange stretched situation, an excellent basis to start. It was a satisfied time and full of exquisite events – I think, the audience got it too.

Art forms and art styles, historical and critical, are cultural hardwares and Black Market International transformed in their five day performances this kind of cultural hardware into an indescribable and indefinable living software, a source. Myriam Laplante wrote: 'The immaterial centre of the utopies-meetings lies in the absence of schemes in which the exchange between artists evolves in a quantistic manner; it is the sum of the unknown factors (*incognito* in Latin) that create the work.'

Birthday II

30 years NRLA. A round date. A great and festive date for Performance Art.

25 years BMI. A round date too and a kind of anticipation – what will come?

Boris Nieslony