

The archetype of writing

The project aims to bring people in public spaces for writing collectively.

The interaction between the writing, the readers, how people react to others, create a new relation with the space. To take part to these writings is free, and it is a way to take time - give time, and establish a new type of relation with others.

Act. I

I was alone, inside the school. Walking up and down my ladder. I hanged the textile on a wall, I started writing with a marker. Even though I was facing the wall, I felt the pressure of other people passing behind me, stopping, observing me or even worse, ignoring me. I filmed the performance from two different perspectives, to observe their reactions. One from their back, one in front of them. This helped me to frame the space, to frame peoples into characters, archetypes.

Act. II

I was together with other three people, inside the school. We all knew each other. The atmosphere was comfortable. This time I hanged more textiles, five pieces, and I have used on type of brushes and paint to write faster. I gave little instructions to the participants: no political sentences, no offenses. They were free to write down what they wanted, how they were feeling, their thoughts. They started writing a sentence I gave them, to brake the ice. They continued by themselves, reacting to each other's writing.

Act. III

I was together with other four people, inside school. I hanged 8 pieces of textiles. We played some music, we had different size of brushes. I gave little instructions to the participants: no political sentences, no offenses. We didn't know each other very well. I was the only one knowing them and we could all perceive the initial tension. I didn't give them a sentence, but I asked them to build a story all together, sentence by sentence, thinking loudly about 'what's next'. I started the first sentence and I asked them questions to feel their reactions. Slowly, they startet writing indipendently. We decided to write down a word - a topic on the other empty textiles , and starting a reflection related to those words. Everyone was free to express him/her/themselves, to react. I was guiding them slowly, to take time and distance before writing again, when necessary.

Act. IV

I was in the street. The public space.

I wasn't alone. I started writing down a question. 'Is the street a good public space to write a story collectively?'. People passing by started stopping, reading and asking me questions. From here, their reactions were written down by me. In this way I obtained a frame of people impressions, what they want to say publicly, what they think. I had feedback about the project, the methodology, how to improve it, if they consider it relevant or not. I asked them to answer my question starting a story. And everyone could ass a sentence, react on what was written. This frame is the basis for a collective story, and I am the narrator. My role is to put them together, to create connections, the same ones I created in our conversations. Finally, to give a sense to it.

Final Act.

Textile was involved in all the performances as a medium. Writing on big fabrics allows to write in a big scale, to hang them so that they become visible and accessible. It allows to take time to write, because it cannot be as faster and smooth as on paper. It allows to go bigger, and then smaller, to create gestures with your body, not just with your hands. It allows to move around the room - the space, to take distance and get closer, to read from far and not, and to react on the others. Everyone can see it, and this view has an impact on writing. It becomes something that is no more intimate and personal, but it is shared.

The value of writing, is sharing.