

NAME OF THE STUDENT: Bertrand Lesca
PROJECT ADVISER: Dr. Susan C. Haedicke

Outcome:

*Preparation of a short video documentary on the work presented at the festival.
Tangible documentation for the preparation of Dr. Susan Haedicke's book,
Interventions and Border Crossings in European Street Theatre, under contract with Palgrave Macmillan.
Paving the way to the creation of a full length documentary on street theatre festivals in France.
Interviewing artists and organizers which contributed to the development of research team skills.
Understanding the role of performance interventions in urban spaces and its interaction with the audience.*

The Metropolis initiative demonstrates how art in a broad sense of the word can play a part in the development and identification of a city. In a transitory urban reality there is a call for examining and displaying how we interact, meet and live in our city. Art in the city deals with how we by way of experiments, actions and images can become aware of structures and possibilities.

What can art do for the development of the city or society? The many types of artistic approaches connected to Metropolis indicate a number of motivations, ambitions and agendas, demonstrating the absurdity of an attempt to find a single answer to this question.

However according to the performances that we have seen in Copenhagen it is possible to decipher some important notions to the making of the art into the city.

Form

What are the elements in the artistic approaches that influence the urban development? One essential tool in creating spaces of possibilities is form. Physical and visual expressions provide opportunities to put reality in perspective of possibilities. By adding 'body and character, issues become tactile and present and upgrade the imagination'.

Form is not just about visualizing; stories and words also allow the vague and the abstract to become present and approachable. In any event, 'the aspect of form is crucial'.

Voicing the personal

The city is a unique mechanism for interaction, but it is also limiting in terms of what kind of communication is allowed for. The personal signs in public space today are mainly graffiti or common vandalism. But there are attempts to create space for more personal communication to be expressed in more positive ways. There is a will to challenge the often uniform and sterile ways of communication that characterizes the shopping areas and to advocate for urban space as a place for a more varied, 'interpersonal communication'.



DOCUMENTING THE ENCOUNTER OF ARTS, URBAN SPACES AND THE PUBLIC:

2009 Metropolis Biennale in Copenhagen