

Concept for Tableau Vivant from Pascale Grau

Basle, August 2010

Tableau Vivant ist a world-wide, social-cultural Art-Project from Pascale Grau which will be realized in different countries with different cultural backgrounds.

I already realized four Tableaux Vivants: 1. in Yangon Myanmar (Burma), 2. in Cochabamba Bolivia and 3. in Basel Switzerland and 4. Bangalore, Karnataka India.

The project is connected with the (western) traditional practice of reenactment of Paintings and Sculptures and is situated between theaterpractice and fine arts. It questions the cultural memory and interprete the treasure of Art and cultural-Images as well. The Tableaux Vivants will be filmed with a professional Videocamera. The five different Videos, which are an artwork itself and not only a videodocumentaion, should finally be exposed as a videoinstallation in Switzerland and if possible in all the Countries which has participated.

In a first step I always want to get familiar to the situation an the cultural background of a country. (one ore two weeks)

Then I would like to do a Performance-Workshop (4-5 days) with about eight to twelve persons. They must be intersted in Art and Performance. This could be artists, art-students, other persons or students interested in social cultural projects.

In the Performance-Workshop we do body-, concentration- and other specific exercises to be able to realize a Tableau Vivant, that means to stand still in one specific position for about 30 minutes. We discuss the proposals from the participants and get together in a process and a descision, which image we want to realize as a Tableau Vivant.

For the realisation we need two days and a wide and open space or a quite place outside. Everyone works on the things we need for the Tableau Vivant such are requisits, costumes etc. The Tableau Vivant itself finally will be filmed from a professional camera(wo)men with professional camera equipment for about half an hour. It is possible to create in mean time a situation where a public is invited to participate this concentrate Performance of half an hour.

Concerning the workshop

For the workshop the participants should bring an image out of a book or a magazine or a Photo which affects them a lot, and which is connected with them either from their own art

history or their own social-cultural background. On the pictures there has to be people. This images are the source material for the decision of the Tableau vivant.

participants: 8-12 interested artists, or (art-) students (all ages can be included)

Time needed: Two weeks for research, preparation, 1 week Workshop, 2-3 days realisation.

Space: Large quiet space inside outside with the possibility to invite public

Institution: best is that the workshop and the performance will be connected to a kind of institution.

Language: english

Reference material from former Tableaux Vivants:

1. Tableau vivant Yangon Myanmar (Burma)

Source material: Painting from one of the participant: showing a descent religious, cultural and social ritual: giving the boys in the monastery



Tableau Vivant realised in Yangoon with the artipicants of the workshop:



2. Tableau Vivant Cochabamba Bolivia

Source material: the last supper (Jacopo Bassano)



Tableau Vivant realised with the participants of the Workshop



3. Tableau Vivant Basel Schweiz

Source material: „die Nacht“ of ferdiand Hodler (one of the most known swiss painter from the last century)



Tableau Vivant realised with a group of swiss young artists



4. Tableau Vivant Karnataka Indien

Source material: Girija Kalayana, unknown artist from the Mysore School 18th cent.



Tableau Vivant realized in collaboration with Smitha Cariappa and student from the College of Fine Arts, Chitrakala Parishath, Bangalore



CV Pascale Grau

Pascale Grau, MAS (b. 1960), is an artist and cultural theorist currently living in Basel and working at the Zurich University of the Arts ZHdK. 1986–1992 she studied Visual Communication and Fine Arts at the University of Fine Arts Hamburg HfBK; her instructors included Rüdiger Neumann (experimental film), Wilfried Minks (stage design), Bernhard Johannes Blume and Marina Abramovic (fine arts). Subsequently she studied with Marina Abramovic in a Master's Degree course and was her assistant in the mixed media class at HfBK for two years. Since her return to Switzerland in 1995 Pascale Grau has worked as an artist, lecturer and curator. 1998–1999 she participated in numerous art and out reach/art mediation projects in Basel, e.g., *Erstes Manifest* [First Manifesto] of important and renowned artists, *Kongress für künstlerische Strategien* [Congress of Artistic Strategies] and *Performance Index* festival. Between 1998 and 2006 she curated numerous performance events at Kaskadenkondensator, a project space for contemporary art and performance in Basel, as well as served on its executive committee for years. She was co-publicist of *Selbst ist die Kunst! Kunstvermittlung in eigener Regie. Kaskadenkondensator Basel seit 2004*. (Eds.): P. Grau, K. Grögel, A. Saemann. Edition Fink, Zurich, 2004. 2006–2008 she completed a MAS at the Institute for Cultural Studies, ZHdK. In her Masters' thesis *Aufzeigen und Aufzeichnen. Dokumentieren im performativen Akt* [Trans.: Revealing and Recording. Documentation in the Performative Act] she explored the relation of performance and the document, whose theses subsequently served as the basis for the SNF/DoRE research project *archiv performativ*. Pascale Grau has been and continues to be engaged as a teacher at various Swiss higher education art and specialist institutions including the F + F School for Art and Media Design Zurich; ZHdK; Berne University of the Arts HKB; and Academy of Art and Design Basel, HGK FHNW. In 2009 she received the *Werkpreis* [Award

for Artistic Work] of the *Kunstcredit Basel-Stadt* and a monograph of her art work – *Pascale Grau. Rollenwechsel* – was released at the end of 2009 by the publisher Verlag für moderne Kunst, Nuremberg (Irene Müller, ed.) Since April 2010 she has been leading a SNF/DoRE research project *archiv performativ* at the Institute for Cultural Studies, ZHdK.

Pascale Grau

Dornacherstr. 53

CH-4053 Basel

Tel. ++41 (0)61 681 37 18

www.pascalegrau.ch

email: pascalegrau@gmx.ch