

I Was There // Performance Event // 18th of May: 6pm-9pm and 19th of May 2010 6pm-open end

Stedefreund is happy to announce I Was There, a two-day event by 12 artists working in a wide range of performance-based work. Taking its name from Line Ellegaard’s work, I Was There, which constitutes a text piece in which the artist inscribes herself into the history of performance art, the event sets out to challenge the conception of performance and temporality as well as to question the function of absence and presence in performance.

The participating artists, Ashley Gallant & Frankie Charles, Linda Franke, The Woodn’t Bees, Line Ellegaard, Kika Nicolela, Chooc Ly Tan, Edward Thomasson & Lucy Beech, Shelly Nadashi and Patrick Jambon show a great variety of performances, including face-tracking armour, a mad hatter tea party and the eulogy of a renowned scientist.

The program will commence on Tuesday the 18th of May and finish with a party on the 19th of May. A comprehensive time schedule of the program can be found below.

Tuesday 18th

6 - 9 pm	Linda Franke (gallery space permanent installation/performance)
7 - 9 pm	Patrick Jambon (mobile walking around)
6 - 7 pm	Kika Nicolela (entrance space)
6 - 9 pm	The Woodn’t Bees (gallery space)

Wednesday 19th

6 - 9 pm	Linda Franke (gallery space permanent installation/performance)
6 - 7 pm	Ashley Gallant (entrance space)
7 - 7.20 pm	Edward Thommasson & Lucy Beech (gallery space)
7.45 - 8.15 pm	Shelly Nadashi (gallery space)
8.30 - 9 pm	Chooc LyTan (gallery space)
9 - open end	Patrick Jambon, Party

I was there

I was minus twenty-one years old when Yves Klein rehearsed and did The Leap into the Void, I was minus twenty years old when Allan Kaprow defined happenings as ‘events that, put simply, happens’, I was minus seventeen years old, when Yoko Ono first performed her Cut Piece, I was minus sixteen years old when Yvonne Rainer worked on Trio A, and minus fifteen years old when it was first performed as part of The Mind is a Muscle, I was minus thirteen years old when Valie Export excited male viewers with her Tapp- und Tastkino, I was minus eleven years old when Rebecca Horn made Das Einhorn, and Adrian Piper made herself repulsive in the Catalysis series, I was minus ten years old when Chris Burden got a friend to shoot him in the arm, I was minus nine years old when Vito Acconci was masturbating under a wooden ramp in the gallery space, I was in between minus eight and minus four years old when Ana Mendieta made her Siluetas in Mexico, I was minus seven years old when Joseph Beuys went to America and stayed with a coyote, I was minus six years old when Carolee Schneemann pulled a scroll from her vagina in ‘Interior Scroll’ and Martha Rosler performed, for the camera, Semiotics of the Kitchen, I was minus four years old when Marina Abramovic and Ulay exchanged their breath in Breathing In/Breathing Out, and Dan Graham put himself and the audience in front of a mirror in Performer/Audience/Mirror, I was minus two years old when Joan Jonas was performing The Juniper Tree at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, I was minus one years old when Laurie Anderson celebrated the release of O Superman as a single on 110 Records, I was zero years old when Mona Hatoum said Don’t Smile You’re on Camera

I was there

The artists:

London based artists **Lucy Beech** and **Edward Thomasson’s** collaborative performance and video projects explore the context of work and leisure in our day-to-day lives. Wriggling between corporate demonstration, movement-based performance and visual storytelling, their performance focusses on the way performance techniques and strategies are used in non-theatrical environments. The artists both graduated from Chelsea College of Art in 2008. Edward Thomasson is currently attending the MFA-Program at Slade School of Fine Art in London.

The fantastic and bizarre videos, performances and sculptures of Berlin based artist, **Linda Franke**, have the makeshift feeling of found materials that are assembled only for the duration of an exhibition or event. The motion of routine, inherent in the structure of everyday life, is taken and transposed onto made-up scenarios. Linda Franke graduated as a Meisterschüler of Leiko Ikemura at the UDK Berlin in 2007 and has had numerous solo and group shows since.

The Woodn’t Bees are a curatorial collective that facilitates artistic production, social experimentation and interdisciplinary discussion. “We dance and we play” is their inspirational mantra. They use it to cultivate the freedom of childhood imagination. On their creative journey they seek to navigate the boundaries of art, film, literature, gastronomy and performance by sharing the experience of art and the everyday in their domestic-space gallery, the Beehive.

After graduating in Fine Art and Philosophy of Liminal Religions from Nottingham Trent, **Ashley Gallant** and **Frankie Charles** persue their careers by ritually researching the unsaid, and producing images by extracting and transforming the unseen from the universe. This has led to investigations into duality, autistic luminary spectrum disorder, incanadoppleganger syndrome and incorporated baudrillian camouflage, culminating in exhibitions in Tokyo, London and Munich.

Danish artist **Line Ellegaard** graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art with an MA in 2008 after completing her BA in Fine Art Sculpture at Chelsea College of Art and Design. Her works have a transitory and transformative nature and mark, occupy and embody physical spaces, existing and resting in momentary relapse rather than through any grounded stasis. Often including live elements, most readily the presence of the artist, Ellegaard’s practice courts an absence rather than presence of event. Recent work has made itself temporarily manifest through markings of space and architectural elements offering barely visible sculptural propositions.

Born in 1981 in Haifa, **Shelly Nadashi** is a visual artist based in Glasgow. She graduated from The School for Visual Theatre in Jerusalem and recently finished her MFA degree at the Glasgow School of Art. Her activity is multi-disciplinary, ranging from video-making to live performances, from puppetry to text. Fun, play, pleasure and humour are some of the elements that form her general attitude towards artistic creation and help to carry out the mixture between the autobiographical and the surreal - which is characteristic of her artistic work.

Kika Nicolela is a Brazilian artist and experimental filmmaker. She has been receiving several grants and has participated in about 70 solo and collective exhibitions worldwide with videos, installations, photos and performances. She is represented by DConcept Gallery in São Paulo and her video work is internationally distributed by Vtape, Toronto. She is currently attending an artist-in-residency program at the Künstlerdorf Schöppingen.

Chooc Ly Tan, born 1981 in France, investigates the way we experience physics and how invisible forces, such as Gravity, act upon us. Trained as a sculptor, her work also includes performance-based video, which explore themes of metaphysics through the derision of the sublime. She graduated from Central Saint Martins with a BA in sculpture Fine Art and is currently attending the Art Practice MFA-Program at Goldsmiths in London.

Inspired by Berlin Grill-Walkers, the artist **Patrick Jambon** creates wearable structures made out of boxes and shelves fixed to his own body, which he carries on the street as a platform for games and exchange. Patrick Jambon, born in 1966 in Lyon, studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts Lyon (1985-88) and with Nam June Paik at the Art Academy Düsseldorf (1988-93). He also holds a degree from the Kunsthochschule for Media Cologne in 1996 and the Institute for Art in Context of the UDK Berlin in 2005. He lives and works in Berlin and has exhibited and performed in many countries worldwide.