dem schatten entlang

performance in public space, audio installation

16 June - 20 July 2002 — Kunsthalle Arbon, Arbon, CH — Köppl/Začek, individual exhibition — curated by Dorothee Messmer — Participants: passersby — Duration of audio loop: 11' 12 min

Background — The lakeshore promenade on Lake Constance.

Setting — Outside the Arbon city center. A gigantic factory hall with a tar floor; also an access route for the classic car club located in the same building. Light from above. A row of four columns.

Materials and Preparation — Intervention: a microphone, a recorder. Time and sunshine. Installation: four meter-long listening channel inside a supporting wall, on one side. On the other side, a hollow wood space divider. In both walls, holes for speakers, offset from one another, at ear height.

Procedure — Over the course of several days, X and Y speak to passersby on the lakeshore promenade and ask whether they are willing to be described and to give a description. X and Y first describe the external impression, clothing, hair, age, etc., of passersby and then ask them to characterize X and Y in turn. The portrayals are recorded on tape. X and Y disassemble the recording into individual statements. The mutual descriptions are preserved as pairs. Edited tightly one after another, they form an 11-minute sound piece. For the installation, the voices are separated into a left and right sound track. After each statement, the channel changes. The mutual descriptions jump back and forth from channel to channel.

