

## ein spiel

performance in public space

22 August 1998 — Appenzell, cantonal common, CH — Die message salon/ Ferienkolonie/Art und Appenzell, Wahlverwandtschaften — curated by Esther Eppstein — Participants: Michael Neff, trumpet — Duration: 30 min.

Background — Every year on the last Sunday in April, all women and men from Appenzell Innerrhoden who are eligible to vote assemble on the common to elect the highest authorities and to make decisions about important cantonal affairs. The elections and referendums are carried out in a so-called ring by the raising of hands. The half-canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden was the last canton in Switzerland to give women the right to vote, in 1990, by order of the Federal court.

Setting — A small field bordering on the cantonal common.

Materials and Preparation — On a small area of lawn, a ditch 170 cm deep, 60 cm wide, 200 cm long, dug by a backhoe. Excavated earth piled next to the ditch in two pyramidal hills, offset from one another. The ditch is covered with a board and with grass, leaving two 60 cm openings on either end. A chessboard with chess pieces. A tape with a recording made in an empty, echoing air-raid shelter. Voices, unidentifiable sounds, falling objects. In the ditch, a player, amplifier and speaker.

Procedure — It is pouring rain. X and Y climb into the holes and begin to play chess on the board positioned positioned between them. They have to help each other in order to move their own chess pieces past the middle of the board. A trumpeter is sitting on a ladder under the eave of a nearby house. From time to time, he blows his trumpet. Now and again, the recording from the air-raid shelter can be heard. After 30 minutes, X wins the game. While X and Y are ending the performance and climbing out of the openings, the church bells of Appenzell begin to ring.

