

gescheiterte bildungsversuche

performance, installation

5 November 2004 — Im Birch School, Zurich, CH — Live-Art performance festival — curated by Victorine Müller and Sibylle Omlin — in collaboration with Karin Frei, Zurich Building Department — Participants: pupils at the Im Birch School — Duration: 8 hours

Background — For the first time in Zurich, a Kunst am Bau project (Art on Public Buildings)* was announced for a performance festival of a limited duration. The Im Birch School, designed by architect Peter Märkli, was intended for 700 pupils and is the largest in Zurich.

Setting — A gigantic, empty gymnasium with bleachers.

Materials and Preparation — At X and Y's request, for several weeks leading up to the performance the custodian collects the paper trash from all the classrooms in two metal trash containers on wheels. An unattended microphone is set up alternately in various hallways of the school building. Pupils approach curiously. X and Y edit the recorded bits of conversation and noise into a 15-minute sound piece. This is looped on tape. A wooden box with a tape player and six sets of headphones.

Procedure — Over the course of eight hours, X and Y take the paper trash from the metal containers and carefully arrange it on the gymnasium floor until the surface is almost entirely covered. On the bleachers, spectators can listen to the sound track and observe the work of arranging the papers. After a while, X and Y open a side door of the gymnasium. The public is required to take off their shoes. They walk across the surface on which the paper trash has been arranged and leave tracks in the organization.

Preliminary Results — A teacher at the Im Birch School happily discovers evidence of one of her past lessons in the array of paper trash. This discovery inspires other teachers to search for traces of their own past lessons.

*Initiative according to which a portion of money for construction of public buildings is designated for art.

