

overall

performance

26 August 1998 — Galerie Gaxotte, Porrentruy, CH — Commerce, group exhibition — Duration: 12 min.

Background — To finance his gallery, Lauren Gaxotte organizes the exhibition Commerce, the point of which is to sell as much as possible.

Setting — A large gallery space with objects and pictures by well-known Swiss artists.

Materials and Preparation — A pair of blue work overalls, written on with masking tape. Naked bodies, written on with blue felt-tip markers. Packing tape.

Procedure — X and Y are sitting in a corner of the exhibition space. X is naked, Y dressed in blue overalls. X and Y tape one another's feet together, toe to heel. They crawl on their hands and knees through half of the space. They lie on the floor stretched out on their sides. In the resulting straight line of overall of Y and naked body of X it becomes possible to read: COMMERCE. After one minute X and Y suddenly turn onto their other sides. OVERALL can be read on the naked body and on the overall. Y slips the overall from his shoulders and pulls it down the length of his body. X pulls the inverted overall over his feet and onto his body. X and Y stretch out sideways again, so that on the now-naked body of Y and on the overall that X is now wearing, it becomes possible to read: IDENTITY. After one minute, X and Y turn abruptly onto their other sides. FOR FREE can be read on the naked body and on the overall. After one minute, X and Y go crawling out of the space.

