scotchman

performance and installation

15 May 1999 — Les Halles, Porrentruy, CH — double exhibition with Vivian Van Singer and Stéphan Landry — curated by Laurent Gaxotte— Duration: 40 min.

Setting - A large, empty, white space with a grey cement floor. A wall with windows and a glass facade. Four cast-iron columns.

Materials and Preparation — A stopwatch, a ladder and a pair of scissors. Wax paper. Packing tape and double-sided tape. On one wall, a grid of double-sided tape, 280 cm x 350cm. The entire grid is covered with packing tape, sticky side out. A third of the floor of the room is similarly covered in a layer of packing tape, sticky side up.

Procedure — The audience comes into the space. The soles of their shoes stick to the packing tape, causing a loud crunching noise in the background. X and Y enter the space. Y wraps the body of X in packing tape. There are sticky surfaces on his torso, upper and lower legs, and lower arms. X sticks a sheet of wax paper to Y's back. X and Y stand back to back in front of the wall with the sticky surface. X faces the wall, then walks up the wall using the bodily support of Y. Y presses X firmly to the tape surface, upside down with his head stuck at the bottom. The visitors in the gallery stand still. The background noise dies down. Y sits in a chair with a stopwatch in his hand. After seven minutes, Y gets a ladder and uses scissors to cut X out of the packing tape costume. X and Y exit. The tape costume hangs on the wall. The surface of the floor has been shredded.

Additional presentations: 18 May 1999, during the regular gathering of members, Kunsthalle Zurich, CH, invited by Thomas Müllenbach — 19 August 2001, Kunsthalle Arbon, CH, curated by Dorothee Messmer

