

solar+

performance

21 June 2004 — Kunsthof Zurich, CH — Der längste Tag (The Longest Day), performance event — curated by Dorothea Rust and Peter Emch — Duration: 45 min.

Background — Summer solstice. Hourly performances from sunrise to sunset.

Setting — An open-air exhibition space at Zurich Academy of the Arts. An empty lot with gravel floor. A 2m-high wall facing the street. A stage constructed out of wood.

Materials and Preparation — X and Y choose the hours when the sun is highest for their performance. Two solar panels, 60 cm x 70 cm and 40 cm x 80 cm, supply two electro stimulators with power. White Tshirts, green and blue work pants. Bandages.

Procedure — Y enters the stage, barefoot and carrying a solar panel, the connecting wires not visible underneath his T-shirt, the contacts of the electro stimulator affixed to his face with flesh-colored bandages. He lays the panel on the stage, takes the regulator out of his pants pocket and gradually increases the strength of the electric shocks. Every second there are visible convulsions in his face, which, as the current steadily increases, intensify into winking grimaces. After fifteen minutes, X enters the stage carrying a solar panel, the contacts of the electro stimulator affixed to his face with flesh colored bandages. He positions himself across from Y, lays down the panel and gradually increases the strength of the electric shocks. The contacts are affixed to X's face in such a manner as to cause his head to shake. Through the rhythmic interaction of head shaking and winking, the two performers appear to be communicating with one another. Y gradually decreases the current and leaves the stage. X follows him after 15 minutes.

