

## west-östlicher diwan

### performance

26 April 2003 — CentrePasquArt, Biel, CH — In diesen Zeiten/c'est le moment, group exhibition — curated by Dolores Denaro — Duration: 40 min.

Background — In 1819, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe published a volume of verse entitled West-Eastern Divan; it was inspired and influenced by Hafiz, a fourteenth-century Persian poet, dervish, Sufi, and Sheikh. Biel has a large population of foreigners.

Setting — A large, neutral gallery space. Well-lit.

Materials and Preparation — See installation. Two additional serving trays. A speaker, an amplifier and a microphone. X and Y ask migrants in the city of Biel to say their first name, to explain their name's meaning and origin, and to talk a little bit about their relationship to their own name. Audio edit.

Procedure — Visitors enter the space. X greets them, serving tray in hand. After they have assembled, X asks each one what he or she would like to drink. He serves them tea or Coca-Cola as requested. Y appears carrying a serving tray with the microphone, recorder and prepared tape. He asks visitors to say their first name, to explain their name's meaning and origin, and to talk a little bit about their relationship to their own name. Twelve answers are recorded. In the meantime, X sets up an amplifier and speaker on the styrofoam surface. Y cues the tape with the recording. He hooks up the tape player to the amplifier and turns it on. X and Y leave the space. First the voices of migrants, and then the voices of visitors to the CentrePasquArt, can be heard answering the same questions.

