

Douze Dîners (Twelve Dinners)

Sharing a table in public



A project by Meggie Schneider, Paris 2011 / 2012

*As part of a residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris,
with support of the Senate of Berlin's Department of Cultural Affairs*

Statement of intent

Twelve dinners at twelve locations with twelve different themes in Paris,
as far as the gates of the city and its outskirts.

Neighbouring locations, places at the fringes, full of meaning,
where ideas of boundaries and marginalization intersect.

Each dinner is staged in a public space, thus removed from its original context,
the confines of its usual four walls.

Places and addressed topics intertwine in this one form as one entity.

They will be questioned in relation to each other, according to their potential association.

Mise en scène

1 table, 12 chairs, 12 plates, 12 glasses and 12 sets of cutlery, 12 empty books,
accessories found on flea markets and in the street, 1 big stock pot of soup, bread, fruit,
water and wine.

On each plate there is a blank book, conceived as a palimpsest becoming inscribed and re-inscribed by
each participant's contribution during the dinner. From that point on, the guests become part of the installation.
Everyone around the table is asked to tell a personal anecdote, taken from a particular moment
in his or her past or present life, presenting all involved with the opportunity to open up to the other.

During subsequent meals, guests are able to discern the traces of prior performances by discovering
the writings of those present for previous dinners.

Because these books are no longer empty, they are witnesses of what has already taken place.
The first of the twelve stories are written, drawn, the paper is used, traces of wine or meals
have been left behind.

The table itself becomes a protagonist of the story told, around which the participants can create
their own universe of possibilities, consciously or unconsciously, and meet time as though it were
a piece of life. From then on, the urban space presents itself as a backdrop, and possibly as a
moving space for reflection surrounding the table and the events unfolding.

Private Spaces – Public Intimacy

My intention is to question the spirit of living together, the self and the other as a possible world.

Thinking about the boundaries and breaking them, redefining them, questioning them; experiencing the feeling and the appreciation of their dialectic nature, both protective and restrictive; freeing and placing the point of intersection between the private and the public into a different context. Bringing performativity to life, illuminating and appropriating the result, sharing, exchanging and interacting.

Comprehending the world as a whole, creating gaps and letting excitement grow around a table and twelve books, waiting only to flourish and thrive.

The architecture of exchange

“Living together in the world means essentially, that a world of things lies between those whose common living space it is, in the same sense, in which a table stands between those who are sitting around it; like any between, the world connects and separates those, who share it.”
(Excerpt of *“Vita Activa”* / *“The human condition”* by Hannah Arendt)

“The one and the other:

neither the one nor the other comes first, but only the with, through which there are the one and the other.

The with is a fundamental determination of being. Existence essentially is co-existence.

Not only co-existence of us (mankind), but of all beings (it takes all kinds to make a world).

Being with or exposing the one to the other, the one with the other: nothing to do with a society of spectacle, but nothing to do either with an unexposable authenticity”

(Excerpt of *“Being Singular Plural”* by Jean-Luc Nancy)

“The space in our life is neither constructed nor infinite, neither homogeneous nor isotropic.

But do we know exactly where it breaks, where it bends, where it disconnects and reassembles?

One vaguely feels cracks, gaps, points of friction, one sometimes has the vague impression it clamps somewhere, or it breaks, or it bumps.”

(Excerpt of *“Prière d’insérer, issu de l’ouvrage Espèce d’espace”* by George Perec)



Meggie Schneider is a Berlin-based artist whose work explores the boundaries between private and public, mostly though not exclusively through an interrogation of film and its conventions. She intends to provoke inter-subjective encounters that can collectively evoke content and expand our frame of perception, placing her research in a position diametrically opposed to individual consumption.

Meggie Schneider examines the aesthetics of everyday life and architecture. She captures fragments of daily life separating them from their usual context, to locate them in a new framework in the form of installations. These places of daily life, both common and familiar, pave the way to reflection and tangible memories; the concepts of home and housing, familiar and cultural patterns of life are questioned, to be re-evaluated and apprehended in the present moment. A platform is created to exchange knowledge and information, but also individual stories and experiences.

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The books - in process at Cité Internationale des Arts

Paris 2011

Douze Dîners 01 - 12 guests in the Cimetière des Chiens (Cemetery of Dogs), Asnières-sur-Seine

Douze Dîners 02 - 12 artists / 12 nationalities in the garden of Cité des Arts at Norvins, 18th arr., Paris

Douze Dîners 03 - 12 women at Olympiades, 13th arrondissement, Paris

Douze Dîners 04 - 12 philosophers and artists on a playground, 4th arrondissement, Paris

Douze Dîners 05 - 12 women from the neighbourhood at Olympiades, 13th arrondissement, Paris

Douze Dîners 06 - 12 architects / artists, on the terrace of L'Atelier / Trans305, Ivry-sur-Seine

Douze Dîners 07 - 12 construction workers from the site, on the terrace of L'Atelier / Trans305, Ivry-sur-Seine

Douze Dîners / re-staging 01 - At Cimetière des Chiens (Cemetery of Dogs), Asnières-sur-Seine

Douze Dîners / re-staging 02 - At the construction site on the terrace of L'Atelier / Trans305, Ivry-sur-Seine

The re-staging

of Douze Dîners brings to life the experienced performance and the process of memory, questioning its evanescent character. As the invisible becomes palpable, tangible, imagination is awakes to shape its own image.

The people previously invited mingle with passers-by, with participants who spontaneously wish to associate with the performance. An already familiar encounter is infused with novelty and freshness.

An exchange fusing experience and discovery, the flow of which becomes part of a creative process and evokes a new apprehensible space.

Thoughts roam, hands invent, leaving upon the table individual, coloured traces.

Paris 2012

Douze Dîners 08 – 12 guests on the wasteland of the construction site of TRANS/2 - Trans305, Ivry-sur-Seine

Douze Dîners 09 – 12 guests on the embankment and in the gallery of Point Éphémère, 10th, Paris

Douze Dîners 10 – 12 guests on the Ferme du Bonheur and in the P.R.É. (Experimental Rural Park), Nanterre

Douze Dîners 11 – 12 guests on the “platform” of La Cité de la Noue near the « 8 », Bagnolet

Douze Dîners 12 – 12 guests on the “platform” of La Cité de la Noue near the « Peaks », Bagnolet

Douze Dîners - 01 / 20 July 2011

12 guests

Cimetière des Chiens, 4 pont de Clichy - 92600 Asnières-sur-Seine

in collaboration with Philippe Babé, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Asnières-sur-Seine

12 guests with a sense for the subject of cemeteries, animal lovers, attached to the past and to its ephemeral nature, reflecting upon remembrance, memory, and reminiscence in a space marked by their complexity.

The dog cemetery, the oldest in the world, was founded in 1899 by feminist Marguerite Durand, whose horse lies near the entrance. An animal lover, she owned horses as travel companions, a docile lion by the name of "Tiger" and dogs.

(this elaborate pet cemetery is the burial site for many dogs but also for a wide variety of pets ranging from horses to monkeys to lions and even fish)

*"Free thinkers, including myself, must, as their first principle, let others think freely."
Marguerite Durand (1864 - 1936), actress, journalist, feminist.*



The guests

Philippe Babé, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Asnières-sur-Seine

Martine Canetti, director of the library *Emile Bernard*, Asnières-sur-Seine

Béatrice Tréglodé, librarian, Asnières-sur-Seine (Paris, 16th arrondissement - Grenoble)

Lucia-Labry, youth librarian, Asnières-sur-Seine

Lydia Smadja, youth librarian, Asnières-sur-Seine

Alain Genesty, actor, guide to the cemeteries of Paris, Asnières-sur-Seine

Hervé Cosenza, manager of the Cimetière des Chiens, Asnières-sur-Seine

Agnès Barbarin and her father Yves Barbarin, owning grave of their dog Oscar,
(Paris 18th and 13th arrondissements)

Maurillia Coudray, owning grave of her dog Elvis (Paris 13th arrondissement)

Hyunmi Cho, dancer and choreographer, Cité des Arts, Paris, 4th arrondissement (Korea - United States)

Abdelaziz Zerrou, visual artist, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement (Morocco)

Meggie Schneider, visual artist, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement (Berlin)





Douze Dîners - 02 / 16 August 2011

12 artists / 12 countries

Cité internationale des Arts, 24 rue Norvins, 75018 Paris

At the heart of the garden of Cité Internationale des Arts, located on the heights of Montmartre. The two sites of Cité Internationale des Arts intersect. (4th arrondissement Pont Marie and 18th arrondissement Montmartre)

12 artist "laboratories", personal and interdisciplinary, connect. Language forms a space of expression and encounter. A point of departure, allowing for a confrontation of boundaries, the impossible, differences; containing the seed of possibility, questioning the real, immersed in the musicality of its multiple variations.



The guests

Alejandra Vela, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement (Argentina)
Andri Stadler, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 18th arrondissement (Switzerland)
Augusta Atla, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement (Denmark)
Ayako Yoshimura, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement (Japan)
Julian Soulé, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement (France)
Kianoush Ramezani, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement (Iran)
Margit Lukács, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement (Netherlands)
Nicki Deeley, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement, (New Zealand)
Simon Laouli, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement (Morocco)
Seokyeong Kang, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement (Korea)
Yolanda del Amo, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement (Spain - NY)
Meggie Schneider, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 4th arrondissement (Berlin)



Douze Dîners - 03 / 9 Sept 2011

12 women

Les Olympiades, Rue du Disque, 75013 Paris

At the heart of the Asian neighbourhood in the 13th arrondissement, assembled on the rooftops of the mall *Asiapalace* and *Centre Commercial Oslo*, amidst the towers of Les Olympiades.

A round table of discussion and intellectual stimulation paying tribute to feminist Marguerite Durand, near her library, and to today's women who continue to defend and draw the outlines of women's status in society.



The guests

Agnes Barbarin, beautician, who grew up in the neighbourhood of Les Olympiades, 18th arrondissement (France)

Daisy Barbarin, resident of Les Olympiades, 13th arrondissement (France)

Ma Ye, student of photography and cinematography, Paris 13th arrondissement (China / France)

Silvana Segapeli, architect, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris (Italy, France)

Elizabeth Servant, editor of France Televisions (France)

Daniela Göller, art historian, (Germany, France)

Glaucis Demoris, visual artist, (Brazil, France)

Nicki Deeley, visual artist, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris (New Zealand)

Seokyeong Kang, visual artist, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, (Korea)

Rashida Amara, visual artist, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, (Tunisia)

Elke Reinhuber, visual artist, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris (Germany)

Katja Kottmann, photographer, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, (Germany)



Douze Dîners - 04 / 2 Sept 2011

12 philosophers / artists / Paris - Berlin

L'aire de jeu, rue de Charlemagne, 75004 Paris

Gathered in the playground located in the 4th arrondissement, the heart of the oldest part of Paris, next to the oldest part of the city wall formerly erected by Philippe Auguste, near the Lycée Charlemagne.

A table of discussion and intellectual stimulation based on communication and envisaging the other simultaneously as trace and as a world of possibilities.

Communication as event.



The guests

Angela Melitopoulos, visual artist, Berlin

Bernard Gerboud, visual artist, curator, Paris

Chantal Pontbriand, critic and historian of contemporary art, curator, Paris / London

Christa Blümlinger, researcher and film theorist, Paris

Jean-Louis Poitevin, philosopher, Paris

Jean-Yves Langlais, director of the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris

Julian Soulé, visual artist, Paris

Maurizio Lazzarato, philosopher, artist, Paris-Berlin

Meggie Schneider, visual artist, Berlin / Ma Ye, visual artist, Paris

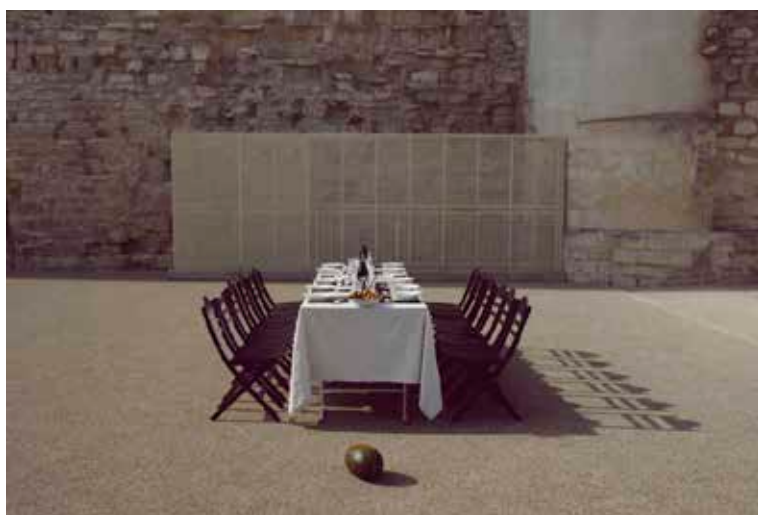
Monique Stieffatre, philosopher, Paris

Raymond Bellour, researcher, critic and theorist of cinema and literature, Paris

Stéphane Olry, theatre director, writer, actor and researcher, Paris

Child 1 on the playground, impromptu visit

Child 2 on the playground, impromptu visit



Douze Dîners - 05 / 27 Sept 2011

12 women from the neighbourhood

Les Olympiades, Rue du Disque, 75013 Paris

in collaboration with Carole Ressay (director of the socio-cultural centre 13pourtous, Dalle des Olympiades)

At the heart of the Asian neighbourhood in the 13th arrondissement, assembled on the rooftops of the mall *ASIAPALACE* and *Centre Commercial Oslo*, amidst the towers of Les Olympiades.

A round table of discussion and intellectual stimulation paying homage to today's women, who continue to defend and draw the outlines of the status of women in society.

Re-garde Moi (Look at me) is the theme of the evening and is dedicated to housing conditions in Les Olympiades and around.

Each guest provides the accessories composing the dinner and sets them up at the table.



The guests

All the women from the neighbourhood who have participated





Douze Dîners - 06 / 29 Sept 2011

12 architects / artists

Atelier / Trans305, 51 avenue de Verdun, Ivry-sur-Seine

in collaboration with Stefan Shankland, Trans305 (www.trans305.org)

12 guests gathered on the terrace of Trans305
interested in urban space, its structures but also in its components
its own process of evolution, embracing the opportunity
to meet and share their views.



The guests

Dimitri Messu architect / draughtsman, Paris

Erik Goengrich, visual artist, Berlin

Hédi Saidi, head of Plastic Arts and Art in Public Space, Ivry-sur-Seine

Martine Bouchier, architect, doctor of Arts, Paris

Meggie Schneider, visual artist, Berlin

Philippe Zourgane, PhD student and architect, Agence Rozo architecture, Paris

Raphael Grisey, visual artist, Berlin

Sandra Parvu, architect / researcher, 1aa agency, anthropology of the city in the contemporary world, Paris

Séverine Roussel, Agence Rozo architecture and teacher at ENSA-Paris La Villette

Stefan Shankland, visual artist, Paris

Silvana Segapelli, architect / researcher CNRS, doing a research at the workshop / Trans305, Paris

Véronique Patteeuw, engineer /architect, editor at NAI Publishers, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (in 2007), Paris



Douze Dîners - 07 / 30 Sept 2011

12 workers

Atelier / Trans305, 51 avenue de Verdun, Ivry-sur-Seine

in collaboration with Stefan Shankland, Trans305

12 workers gathered on the terrace of *Trans305*.

The terrace is surrounded by three major building sites where workers, of all disciplines and origins, congregate for their lunch break.

Most of them can see *Trans305* from their workplaces without ever having visited it.

Thus the dinner was rescheduled for lunchtime with the intention of preserving their regular rhythm but taking it into a different setting. A time to meet and to gather as an incredibly turbulent group of workers who never sit down at the same table.

On a surprisingly warm day in late September, a lively circle is ready to exchange views, ready for an encounter and an acquaintance.



The guests

12 construction workers





Douze Dîners - re-mise en scène 01 / 17 Sept 2011

Cimetière des Chiens, 4 pont de Clichy - 92600 Asnières-sur-Seine

Performance as part of the Heritage Days (les journées patrimoine)
in collaboration with Philippe Babé, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Asnières-sur-Seine

12 spools of thread and 12 needles, fabric for sewing pieces of tablecloth into plates,
using one's individual imagination

Staging

1 table, 12 chairs, 1 tablecloth, 12 spools of thread and 12 needles, fabric





Douze Dîners - re-mise en scène 02 / 30 Sept 2011

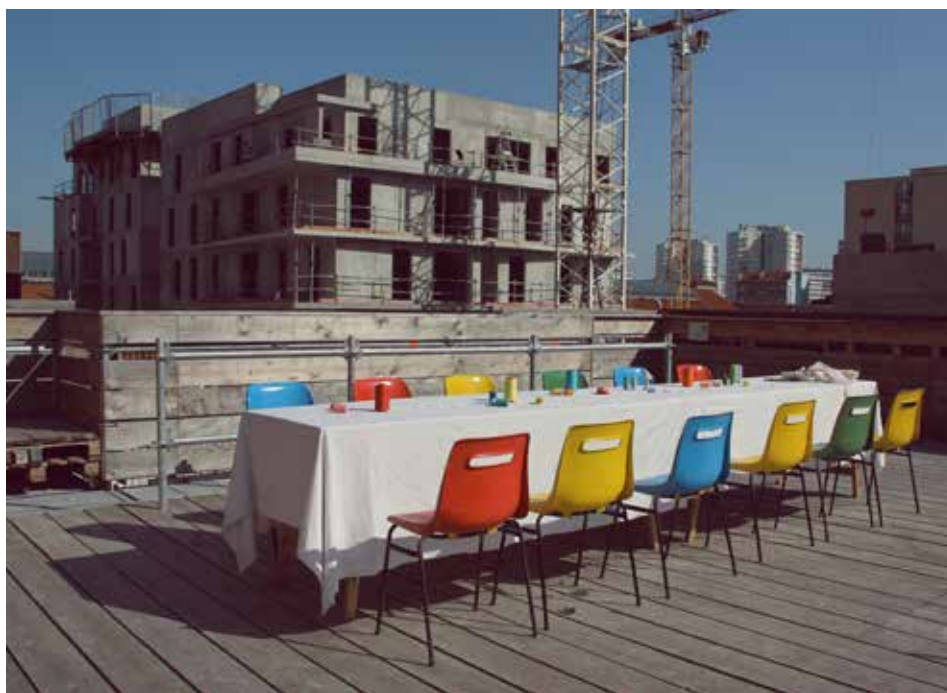
Atelier / Trans305, 51 avenue de Verdun, Ivry-sur-Seine

Performance *in collaboration with Stefan Shankland, Atelier / Trans305*

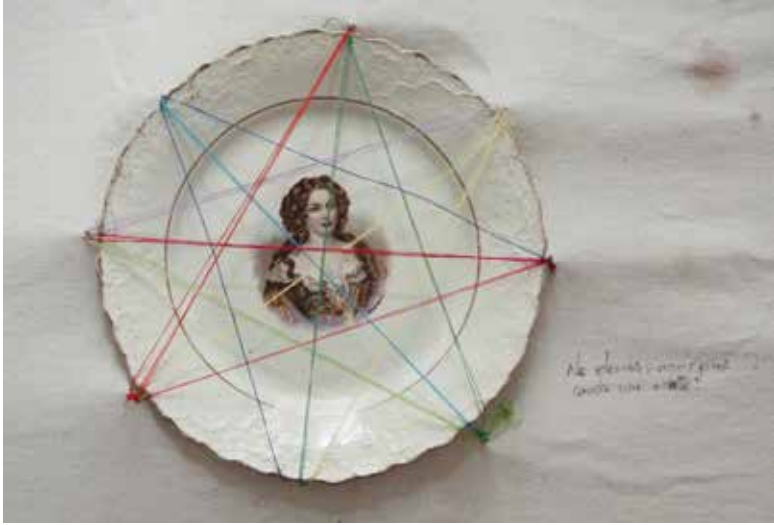
12 spools of thread and 12 needles, fabric for sewing pieces of tablecloth into plates, using one's individual imagination

Staging

1 table, 12 chairs, 1 tablecloth, 12 spools of thread and 12 needles, fabric







Douze Dîners - 08 / 28 June 2012

12 guests

Trans/2 – Trans305, 14 passage Hoche, 94200 Ivry-sur-Seine

in collaboration with Stefan Shankland Trans305, Ivry-sur-Seine

12 people wondering about urban space, about the pleasure of reading it, its structures, its components, and also its own process of development.

Upon visiting the terrace, the participants gather on a wooden platform, in the middle of the new wasteland of TRANS 305, TRANS / 2. Willing to share each other's views, ready to meet and to benefit from each other, as well as to honour the memory of Georges Perec, who died in Ivry-sur-Seine.



Built in the middle of several building sites, TRANS 305 is a place of experimentation dedicated to artistic practices. Originally located along the ancient national road RN 305 (today RD5) in Ivry-sur-Seine, TRANS 305 now occupies a passage tucked away in the midst of a row of houses, a container majestically standing, unsuspected, seemingly rising out of our imagination or from another time. When entering this space, the visitor passes through a courtyard, which in turn is joined by another container, then leading to a heap of soil, a vacant lot, quite the theatre of the construction site. Like an urban jungle, it embraces the highest buildings, ready to touch the sky, the concrete layers reminiscent of the great tradition of urban architecture.

A temporary studio, dressed in traditional deconstruction materials and perched on the hills, providing a cube-shaped terrace decorated with colourful containers.

It is here, at the heart of this observation platform, where the urban process becomes fascinating. The contradictory nature of all human faculties finds itself embroiled in a concentrated form of apperception. A place to share the inspiration of recognising, of apprehending, of savouring, of wondering, of deconstructing, but also of letting many questions well up. One senses urbanity breathing on the terrace, in the midst of those towering concrete sculptures, whose changing face is patiently moulded every day at the hands of the workers and installers from all over the world. Because Stefan Shankland has freed them from their traditional context, each ingredient appears so obvious, distilled in upright boxes, rectangular ashlar. Replacing the growing structures, the towers rise under the careful eye of their observers, revealing from their heights a clear view of a piece of the city. The wasteland of TRANS 305 is a space to experience and understand the urban process, an ideal platform for exchange and encounter.

The guests

Stéphane Moreaux, Professor of Fine Arts, Paris

Stéphane Olry, Director, Paris

Steven Paradisi, Cameraman, Paris

Prune Paycha, Public Relations at l'Atelier / Trans305

Nancy Roquet, Architect, Technical Assistance and Collaborator at l'Atelier / Trans305

Meggie Schneider, Visual Artist, Berlin

Stefan Shankland, Artist / Sculptor, Paris

Solène Michel, Architect, Paris

3 women from Passage Hoche, Ivry-sur-Seine







Douze Dîners - 09 / 20 July 2012

12 guests

Point Éphémère, 200 quai de Valmy, 75010 Paris

in collaboration with Point Éphémère, Frédérique Magal and Sandra Tomassi

12 people wondering about urban space, the essence of its structures, its components, but also its own process of development, 12 people, ready to share their views on the dynamics of art.

In a location where subways and boats touch upon each other, along the Canal Saint-Martin, on a square, facing the cleansing department, adjacent to both the Point Ephémère and the fire station, bringing into contact a refugee camp and the passers-by who happen upon it by chance A transient place, next to the metro station Jaurès, located on the border of the 10th and 19th arrondissements.





The guests

Marc Borgers, Artist, Paris

Hyunmi Cho, Dancer and Choreographer, Korea, United States

Loïc Julienne, Architect, Paris

Philippe Lardy, Artist, Paris

Frédérique Magal, Director of Point Éphémère

Stefan Shankland, Artist / Sculptor, Paris

Sandra Tomassi, General Coordinator at Point Éphémère

Michel Cosher, Employee of cleansing department in front of Point Éphémère

Meggie Schneider, Visual Artist, Berlin

3 Employees of Point Éphémère

Douze Dîners - 10 / 26 July 2012

12 guests

La Ferme du Bonheur, 220 avenue de la République, 92000 Nanterre

in collaboration with La Ferme du Bonheur, Roger des Prés and Anne Métrard

Special guests

The donkey, Moshe-Mohamed-Jesus-Rinpoché-Jean-François called *Momo*

The she-dog, Greta Blutwürst

The she-dog, Dakodak Chikungunia-Fukushima and his concubine Felix Mecuri-Mojito, cat of its own kind

The goats, Laurence, Christine-Isabelle et Aglaé

The peacocks, answering to the name of Leon (I, II ...) for males and Elisabeth (I, II ...) for females

The cats, the most assiduous of the Ferme, Jakie-Chat, Laurent Breton, Erika Sushichon, Chantal ...

Guests who are wondering about urban space, the essence of its structures, its components, but also its own process of development, willing to engage with each other.

The evening begins with an aperitif at the farm, followed by a walk of some ten minutes in the company of the animals, on the last wasteland on the great Axe de La Défense, on the remnants of the construction site of the A86 motorway.

There the plants have reclaimed their right to the city, flowers, vegetables and apricots are welcoming us in a fantastic garden whose life is punctuated every 20 minutes by the passing RER train.

The tour ends in the P.R.É. (Experimental Rural Park) where the dinner is held.

On the edge of the wasteland, buildings, some thirty floors, imposing and offering a view on La Défense. Opposite, an RER train passes.







Born by chance in 1993 on the embankment of the demolition site of the schools “Petit Nanterre”, La Ferme du Bonheur has “sprouted” and resisted in the midst of rubble, plastic bags, motorway interchanges, industrial areas, oil depots, a prison, air corridors ... on the fringes of the University of Paris X. La Ferme du Bonheur is a cell of research and reflection on mankind and the earth, using culture in all its forms.

The guests

Gregory Abou, Artist, Paris

Michel Boukhers, Entrepreneur and Activist, Slovakia

Sophie Colardelle, Student of Fine Arts, Bordeaux

Marlène Galland, Architect, Paris

Jacqui, living on *La Ferme du Bonheur*, Nanterre

Juüia Kammerhuber, Intern at *La Ferme du Bonheur*, Austria

Kenji Lefevre-Hasegawa, Mathematician and Artist, Bagnolet

Anne Métrard, Artist, Nanterre

Roger des Prés, Founder of *La Ferme du Bonheur*, Nanterre

Meggie Schneider, Visual Artist, Berlin

3 inhabitants of the neighbouring buildings

Douze Dîners - 11 / 18 September 2012

12 guests

The « 8 » on the “Platform” of Cité de la Noue, 43 rue Charles Delescluze, 93170 Bagnole

in collaboration with Centre Culturel de la Noue, Alhassana Diallo



The Cité de la Noue sits perched on a hill immediately behind one of the largest and oldest flea markets, the market of Montreuil. You can reach it from Paris by bike, as I would do, some five kilometres to Bagnolet. On weekends, the streets are congested along the main aisle of the market, and you can hardly get through. During the week, the car parks are mostly abandoned except for some people who live there.

They cook, wash clothes, pick and collect things that have piled up over the weekend.

An almost cinematic atmosphere painted almost entirely in shades of grey, if it weren't for all those colourful oddities on the street.

Further behind the market, the path on the right climbs up to the Cité de la Noue which overlooks the city like a queen. Tall housing blocks mingle with small, detached houses equipped with gardens, meandering up the hill.

We pass a camp of Roma, pieced together of containers, and more than ever one hears the monotonous hum of the urban motorway.

Then we reach the stairs to the terrace of the Cité. You're on a tennis-court-red roof overlooking Paris. In the distance the Eiffel Tower and the infinite sky, inching close, residential highrises winding all the way to the centre of town. And just in front allotments and parkland of an almost artificial green.

To my back, the Cité. On Friday, people gather here in the mosque whose architecture is integrated into the pedestal parking structure. Everything here seems to be subject to unwritten rules, a peaceful and autonomous city. You can hear the white noise of sewing machines that seem to soak in the air, coming from a sewing workshop, which opens up behind a door, unveiling the friendly faces of workers. A small supermarket hides behind the largest building of some forty floors whose antennas connect the Cité with the blue sky.

The red roof terrace still bears the traces of its origin. Former volleyball courts and basketball hoops; their nets may have vanished although they do not fail to bear witness to another time.

A breath of freedom, friendly faces, wind, a lot of wind.

The streetlights have wavered in the course of time. Some still function.

In the Cité, people are on good terms with each other, always willing to lend a hand.

The community centre here plays a vital role for many, open even on weekends, a second home in the heart of the city. It is here that I both cooked and observed the daily business.

The "platform" is empty. But during the day, there are children, who, after school, come to join the table curiously, dining with us and returning for a second dinner with their friends.

A kind of surface area leading up to the park or to the mall in the valley, near the vast coach station, from where you can reach Europe's largest cities by coach.

On the "platform", there are again areas with certain names. So I find the concrete cast "8", where the eleventh of the Douze Diners took place. And also the coloured "peaks" that rise from the ground like ice cream cones, abandoned protagonists, which endow the Cité de la Noue with something of a human face.





The guests

Véronique Holley, Film Producer, Montreuil

Chiara Gallerani, Dancer, Paris

Maurizio Lazzarato, Philosopher, Sociologist, Paris

Ma Ye, Visual Artist, Paris

Steven Paradisi, Cameraman, Paris

Meggie Schneider, Visual Artist, Berlin

Unexpected child 1, Cité de la Noue, Bagnolet

Unexpected child 2, Cité de la Noue, Bagnolet

Unexpected child 3, Cité de la Noue, Bagnolet



Douze Dîners - 12 / 20 September 2012

12 guests

The “Peaks“ on the “platform” of Cité de la Noue, 43 rue Charles Delescluze, 93170 Bagnolet

in collaboration with Centre Culturel de la Noue, Alhassana Diallo

12 people, who are wondering about urban space, the essence of its structures, its components, but also its own process of development, willing to engage with each other.









The guests

Didier de Fays, Photographer, Paris

Bernard Gerboud, Artist / Sculptor, Philosopher, Paris

Daniela Goeller, Art Historian, Paris

Lefevre Kenji-Hasegawa, Mathematician and Artist, Bagnolet

Stéphane Olry, Director, Paris

Felix Sabal-Lecco, Musician, Paris

Meggie Schneider, Visual Artist, Berlin

Alena Williams, Curator and Researcher, Berlin, Paris

Ma Ye, Visual Artist, Paris

Kai Yuen Chan, Visual Artist, Paris

Wang Chen, Visual Artist, Paris

4 children of Cité de la Noue, Bagnolet

Thank you

to all the guests,
to everyone who accompanied and supported the project
throughout its process,
from conception to completion,
to all the wonderful people I met during the project.

Thank you especially

Melanie Chanat, for her translations, her collaboration and her daily and unwavering support,

Brent Klinkum, who attended the birth of the project by my kitchen table in Berlin,

Christine Noll Brinckmann, for filling me with courage to realise the project in Paris,

Jean-Yves Langlais, for his support and commitment, for his innovative, rich and creative ideas,

Stéphane Olry, who nourished my mind with his small, delicious dishes, offered me a roof,
and brought in his participation and encouragement,

Laurent Dréano and Claudine Lespagnol, for their personal and warm-hearted commitment,
their encouragement and their accommodation,

Ma Ye, for her support, her attentive participation and continuous commitment, her accompaniment and loyalty,

Ma Desheng, who accompanied the project, and without whom the Studio Barbara Holstein would not have
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