

Petra Dubach & Mario van Horrik - De Mobiele Masseur

On google maps, we noticed that on Nieuwstraat number 7, the mobile masseur is located. This gave us the following idea:

Two people start at house number 7 and walk behind each other. The back person has both hands on the front person's shoulders and while walking, the front person's shoulders are massaged.

They walk at their own pace to the end of the street. There they cross over and walk back, switching roles. The masseur is now being massaged.

When they reach house number 7 again, the performance ends.

To ensure that there is no stepping on each other's heels, it is advisable to walk at a slight angle behind each other. Persons who are about the same size is advisable.

Performers are allowed to stop, talk, rest whenever they want or need to. The only fixed rule is that if they are walking, then there will be massage. While resting, waiting for traffic etc, there is no massage and one may take their hands off their shoulders.

The time of day, number of times, number of people (couples) is the choice of the performers.

Reports:

Sandra:

When we started, we agreed: we wouldn't talk while walking, we would first try to find our pace. I started massaging at number 7. Before we started, I felt some distance from Annie. As soon as we started, that distance melted away, it became intimate.

Annie said that we might be seen as a lesbian couple. We walked on and met an acquaintance at the market. Relaxed and pleasant. We continued on and I saw the wedding procession of Juno, which made me feel happy. It was fun to do together; there was an immediate connection. Later, we walked back from Voorstraat to number 7.

It was wonderful to be massaged. Soft. I enjoyed the exchange beyond words. Between hands, shoulders, back and upper arms. My body especially enjoyed this performance.

Annie:

This makes you (made me) very happy. It is important to find the right pace. Once you have found it, it is easy, almost intimate, and a bond, a pleasant relationship, is immediately created. It is very easy to abstract yourself from your surroundings and surrender to receiving or giving. Where did the trust come from?

Nazli:

I walked with Kathrin and we massaged each other. To be honest, I was sleepy when she asked me to do this performance, so it was the perfect moment for me to do it. We started at number 7, first she massaged me while we walked. It is very soothing when someone touches you while you are walking outside. At first, I wasn't sure if it would work. But it felt like Kathrin was supporting me to reach my destination. Because we were in the moment together, we sometimes stopped and talked about what we were doing in our lives. That added an extra dimension to our experience. Massaging/mobile massaging is for each other and it's really very relaxing. Later, I massaged Kathrin. For me, massaging someone is very important, because it's a moment that I offer to that person. The performance felt to me like I was free as a bird, I hope she felt that too.

Kathrin:

We walked 2 rounds in total, enjoying each other's massages. The breaks were just as nice as there was a lot to exchange about our perception. Walking whilst massaging was intriguing, as the

weight, strenght and tension of a body in front of you is so different than the still, resting bodymass on a massage table. Being massaged was a gift, transported to a different space just as a train: the movement, and all scenery passing by, created conext and embedded the piece. Nazli and I shared a lot of observations and talked about performance in public space and the role of the spectators and performers. It felt comfortable, trustful and serious, dedicated. For me, the piece was inspiring as it brought to the surface many aspects of action, attitude, reading, interpreting and giving form.

Passers-by identified us as performers of the Unnoticed Art Festival which felt interesting as well as it seemed to pin our doings to a context that legitimates its particularity/odditiy.



Photo lenke Kastelein