

Shervin Kianersi - Whispers of the Street

The text of the work Whispers of the Street changed substantially during the preparations. An updated version will be on this page soon. Please come back later.

- Pieces-of-papers-with-on-one-side-the-text:
- “A-street-remembers-our-footsteps-after-we-forget.”
- But-only-at-night.-Only-in-silence.”
- On-the-other-side-of-the-paper-title-of-the-work-“Whispers-of-the-Street”.
- During-the-performance:
- Carry-the-papers-in-a-small-pile,-treating-them-like-an-important-announcement.
- Hand-them-out-actively—Instead-of-discreetly-placing-them,-offer-them-directly-to-passersby-with-a-simple-gesture.
- Use-a-phrase-to-engage-people—Since-the-text-is-invisible,-you-could-say-something-that-hints-at-its-hidden-nature,-like:
- “-“News-for-the-night.”
- “-“Only-visible-after-dark.”
- “-“A-message-waiting-to-be-seen.”
- “-Or-say-nothing—just-hold-them-out-like-a-silent-street-vendor.
- Move-through-Nieuwstraat-deliberately—Walk-up-and-down-like-someone-distributing-flyers,-newspapers...
- Let-people-react-naturally—Some-might-ignore-it,-others-might-take-it-with-curiosity.-The-performance-lies-in-the-act-of-offering-something-that-doesn’t-immediately-reveal-itself.



Photo Frans van Lent

Reports:

Kathrin:

Starting at Nieuwstraat, I offered the cards with the text to passers-by. When standing and distributing, people avoided me. So I started walking and distributing the cards. There were about five slightly interested people that read out the text aloud, three of them with the help of a magnifying glass, two read it with their sharp vision only. The readers were all enthusiastic, in saw expressions of joy, discovery, and they (the approached people) said they said they found the text very poetic.

Most of the people contacted took the card saying "thank you".

My overall experience was that a majority was oversaturated with flyers or scared of religious content, therefore refused taking the card.

It was a particular encounter; I found the card rendered it somehow a kind of "trade" or "messaging". I wondered if the text had been readable easily, if then people would have asked questions or would have commented directly. In any case it was difficult to break/alter the perception of the card as message. Most memorable where the moments when people read out loud, when the words entered the public space.