

About the work of Tilmann Meyer-Faje

## **Playing with Utopia**

(lecture and artist talk about the work)

Utopian illusions work as stimulating factors in our daily lives. City planning, politics, advertising, and science are driven by ambitious objectives. Tilmann Meyer-Faje examines the extent to which they comply with their promises as he lets these dreams take form in his performances. His work reveals an irony arising through the discrepancy between marketing language and actual experience. He is consciously blurring fiction and reality. He presents the fillet pieces of his detailed investigations from archives or internet. Among his mix between real and fake finally there is less fiction than the spectator might expect.

Often he performs in his own installations and his public becomes part of the performance as well. For his interventions he is using sometimes the media. For a Mozart-opera festival he initiated a fieldwork project in order to find out how far the "Mozart effect" works. Music was broadcasted at 50 locations round the city. The theatre public could follow the research monitors in the opera foyer. The installation looked like surveillance videos of public spaces. Part of the research was the production of "Mozart eggs". The news about the farm that chickens are listening to live Mozart music was worldwide broadcasted.

Tilmann Meyer-Faje enlaces the reality into a fictive set. In Hildesheim where the closing military barracks are transforming to art and business spaces he staged in the theatre an informative lecture where he suggested to move the soldiers in empty shop spaces in the pedestrian area to open new city-barracks. Finally he used this lecture to give an ironical illustration how military is presented in the local media, politician speeches and advertising spots of the weapon industry. In a small Austrian village he built a small university where he performed the business himself. In his lectures he was playing with the gap between theory and personal perception. He presented theses where scientists are describing ordinary subjects like how people behave in pubs or how we should design dustbins from concrete.

Further he edited a yellow press magazine about the dramatist Friedrich Schiller, and recently he designed a small store for concrete souvenirs in the biggest shopping mall of the Netherlands. In this lecture, the artist will present a number of his "utopian illusions" as they have appeared in his projects.

Some of his projects can be visited at:

[www.buurtkroket.nl](http://www.buurtkroket.nl)

<http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=Tilmann+Meyer-Faje>

Tilmann Meyer-Faje, born 1971 in Germany, lives and works in Amsterdam. There he studied audiovisual art at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy and fine arts at Sandberg Institute.