

Jimmie Durham
Pissing in Germany
2012

Installation, 12 parts / 12 Teile
Laser printed texts on paper, mounted on wood; different sizes
Laserdruck auf Papier auf Holz; verschiedene Größen
Dimensions variable / Dimension variabel

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Jimmie Durham's exhibition *Too Long and Drawn Out* bases on diary-like texts about his occurrences during the last months. Durham travelled to Naples, Rome and Berlin, made a retrospective at MUHKA in Antwerp, an installation at the dOCUMENTA (13) and realised a sculpture on Luis Buñuel at the art fair in Basel.

Installation *Too Long and Drawn Out* Galerie Barbara Wien, Berlin, 2012



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After the long train-trip through the forbidden cities of Westfalia I arrived in Antwerp and began looking at old artworks being unpacked for my retrospective show.

My face and mouth were still swollen from a visit to the dentist in Arnsberg, but no time to rest; the dental visit had made me a couple of days late and I knew that there would be works to repair and change.

Immediately I saw that a part was missing in a work that was important to me. I asked for the crate to be re-opened but it was not found, so we began a Europe-wide search by email and telephone. It was not found so I began planning how I would re-create the missing part.

The next few days were spent working in the museum. When it then became time to make the new part I asked for the crates to be looked in one more time. The missing part was found.

After the opening in Antwerp Maria Thereza and I took a train to Berlin, where I began work on this piece and others for a show at Wien-Lukatsch, which opened 23 06 12. After 2 days in Berlin we went to Rome, then Napoli the next day, returning to Rome in the evening. The next morning we returned to Berlin for a couple of days, then took a train to Kassel to set up the work for Documenta.

My work was so simple there, unlike Maria-Thereza's complex piece, I thought nothing could go wrong. But much did.



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Pissing in Germany

We must pay one Euro to use the public toilets in the train stations of Germany. (Unfortunately the mother of one little girl could not find change quickly enough.)

It costs only fifty-cents to piss, however, and the customer is given a voucher for the other fifty-cents that she paid as part of the one-Euro piss ticket.

If you frequent the train station pissoirs often enough you may collect piss vouchers and use them for discounts while shopping in the stations.

I left by train early on the day of the official opening for Basel, to make a very complex piece for the art fair. Four of us worked on it over the weekend and it was ready Monday morning for the press opening.

Monday or Tuesday I visited friends at the Fair, but my back was hurting much, from lack of proper exercise and from sleeping on strange beds. (As well as from lugging suitcases for several weeks.)

Tuesday afternoon at the Fair my neck was making me dizzy so I found a place to sit down.

Many people came up to speak with me, so that there was no chance to try to fix my neck. It got worse and I became so nauseated I thought I was having a heart attack. An ambulance was called, which took me to Basel's University Hospital, where I am writing this on Friday—still in hospital four days later. The doctors here believe that I had a mild stroke, and am therefore in danger of having another.

It is not true. I did not have a heart attack. I did not have a stroke. After I went to hospital many people said I had been looking tired. That is also not true. What is true is that I had constant back pain, which makes me look strange.

Ok, ok, I know this is getting too long and drawn-out, but I am in a room with three other guys with time on, as the saying goes, my hands.

Of the three, only one of us is Basler. There's me, a young German athlete, and a youngish Asian whose only European language is English. I know where he is from but want to protect his identity.





Durham, Jimmie Medizin 5.1
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Durham, Jimmie

Medizin 5.1

15.06.2012 Mittagessen

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Zf. _____

Umv. _____

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Durham, Jimmie

Medizin 5.1

15.06.2012 Abendessen

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Glutenfrei

BouilonNat

Omelette

Blattsalat

Himbi Kpt

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Umv. _____

Die MitarbeiterInnen der Küche wünschen Ihnen einen Guten Appetit !

What follows are parts of conversations between him and the doctor:

(first day)

"We gave you more of the medicine to stop the bleeding than we had given you yesterday, but it has not stopped. Now we must try something else. We thought to try your other (not heard) but you do not have it...or it is undeveloped..."

"I know that dialysis is uncomfortable, but until we get the biopsy we can't do more."

(second day, morning)

"Your liver will always be this way. You must realize that even a little alcohol is lethal for you."

"Not everyone responds to this treatment."

(second day, afternoon)

"The medicine I am now giving you has strong side effects. You will have a difficult night; you will feel anxious and nervous."

(telephone conversation overheard; the same patient, next day):

"No, Sir, you assured me that I would not have to pay the next payment until July, when my wife arrives. You told me that. So I do not understand why that has changed."



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Arnsberg to Antwerp

Cool and raining in Arnsberg in the Sauerland.
Late May and raining outside the train.

A train from Dortmund to Bochum in the rain,
Travelling on to Viersen where not many go.

Changing at Viersen, still raining.
Raining in Velden, slowing into Mönchengladbach.

Misty rain in Meerbusch, Grevenbroich
Still falling.

Hückelhoven and Hörde water hovering,
Not quite falling from the sinking sky,

Like just hovering in the air all the
Way to Hombruch, Sprockhövel.

Hours of rain. Hours. Venlo ---
Is Venlo Holland? Is Antwerp close?

