

serpina

Berlin and Phenomena

by Wolf Vostell



1966
A Great Bear Pamphlet
New York

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BERLIN

100 events
on the streets and in apartments and stores
for a chance public

took place on the 10th of november 1965
from 9 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.
within the city limits of **BERLIN**

100 events each lasting 1 minute

in actions that might have lasted longer
enough persons participated to enable the performance
to take place in 1 minute

100 minutes of 430 minutes accentuated
to make the public conscious
of the performances as works of art 100 times

performers: **wolf vostell—vagelis tsakiridis—reinhard lettau**
accompanied by a camera crew from the south
german broadcasting and television network and
free-lance photographer juergen mueller-schneck

(number of chance spectators in parentheses)

- 1 9 a.m.—waiting at the goerlitz subway station (2)
- 2 staring at the ticket seller in the subway station (2)
- 3 effacing a copy of paris-match during the drive to the silesian gate (2)
- 4 driving to the ruins of the goerlitz train station (0)
- 5 looking for a parking place (0)
- 6 burying an electric clock in the sand of the ruined area (11)
- 7 breaking an egg on it (11)
- 8 griping about germany (11)
- 9 driving to 49 manteuffel strasse (0)
- 10 looking for a parking place (0)
- 11 flooding the bed-living room with a garden sprinkler (1)
- 12 going to the cellar (1)
- 13 following the second hand of a watch with a welding torch (1)
- 14 going to the living room (1)
- 15 gluing forty-four bright pink lipsticks to a greek typewriter (1)
- 16 going to the storage room of the apartment (1)
- 17 filling a suitcase with water and adding five flashlights and pine-scented bath pearls (1)
- 18 trying to open a mercedes 220 with the door keys in the ignition (7)
- 19 driving to 19 haupt strasse fourth floor rear (0)
- 20 looking for a parking place (0)
- 21 naked woman with gas mask cowering in the corner of an empty room (1)
- 22 walking into the bedroom (1)
- 23 dribbling rice over a shoehorn into empty change purses on a double bed (1)
- 24 driving to the runway of tempelhof airport (0)
- 25 looking for a parking place (0)
- 26 waiting for an airplane to take off (take-off = dé-coll/age in french) (5)

- 27 chopping up a hundred targets with a hatchet while the airplane takes off over the action (4)
- 28 driving to thomas strasse fourth floor left (0)
- 29 looking for a parking place (0)
- 30 painting a six-pound loaf of bread gold (2)
- 31 listening to the blurred broadcast of a policy statement by chancellor erhard (2)
- 32 looking for a telephone book (2)
- 33 listening to telephone recipes (2)
- 34 walking into the kitchen (2)
- 35 washing and spinning dry a copy of der spiegel magazine in the washing machine (2)
- 36 driving to the postoffice at the anhalter station (0)
- 37 stopping to buy gold bronze (1)
- 38 stopping to buy a padlock (1)
- 39 looking for a parking place (0)
- 40 rené block dropping announcements of these 100 events to his gallery list into the postal sorting machine (8)
- 41 walking to the ruins of the anhalter station (3)
- 42 everyone eating something (2)
- 43 driving to 53 babelsberger strasse where brecht wrote the threepenny opera (3)
- 44 looking for a parking place (0)
- 45 calling the critic heinz ohff at the tagesspiegel office (3)
- 46 waiting for heinz ohff to arrive (4)
- 47 locking a copy of der spiegel magazine with a padlock and throwing the key out of the window (4)
- 48 painting one of heinz ohff's middle fingers gold (4)
- 49 attaching a clinical thermometer and a toothbrush to a copy of the tagesspiegel (4)
- 50 gilding toothbrushes (4)
- 51 holding heinz ohff's gold finger on the thermometer (4)
- 52 dripping gold spots on heinz ohff's rug (4)
- 53 tsakiridis removing the gold spots (4)
- 54 everyone eating in a grocery store on babelsberger strasse (4)

- 55 driving to the strasse des 17. juni—the street renamed for the date of the east berlin workers' uprising in 1953 (0)
- 56 cursing about the detour caused by the wall (0)
- 57 stopping and trying to buy two identical tables at a store (2)
- 58 stopping and trying to buy two identical tables at a second store (1)
- 59 stopping and trying to buy two identical tables at a third store (2)
- 60 driving on (0)
- 61 looking for a parking place (0)
- 62 vostell and lettau sitting in armchairs on the strasse des 17. juni (4)
- 63 parting spontaneously in opposite directions — lettau toward the brandenburg gate and vostell toward the victory column (8)
- 64 driving to linke strasse (0)
- 65 confronting the notice found in berlin apartment houses
**CHILDREN ARE PROHIBITED FROM PLAYING
 ON STAIRS AND IN HALLWAYS AS WELL AS
 FROM LOITERING OUTSIDE THE ENTRANCE**
 with the reality of war ruins and juxtaposed posters, pictures and news photos:
- 66 the line-up at a debutantes' ball
- 67 weeping american soldiers in viet nam
- 68 a 12-year-old viet cong bending over a dead friend
- 69 an american soldier lighting a cigarette
- 70 vietnamese girls serving in american army field hospitals
- 71 a smiling man leaning on a volkswagen
- 72 cigarette ad
- 73 concentration camp number on a forearm
- 74 the brandenburg gate seen from the west
- 75 the victory column
- 76 the kaiser wilhelm memorial church against a background of the colored lights of the kurfuerstendamm

- 77 colored photo of philharmonic hall seen from the west
- 78 the europa center
- 79 u.s. astronauts in space
- 80 negro children bathing
- 81 street fighting in rhodesia
- 82 "him, not him . . . her, not her" ad
- 83 south vietnamese soldiers
- 84 naked woman
- 85 rockers on motorcycles
- 86 1965 plymouth
- 87 UNICEF meal
- 88 piccadilly circus
- 89 student demonstration in west germany
- 90 sheet of white paper
- 91 driving to wilhelm strasse (0)
- 92 looking for a parking place (0)
- 93 walking to the wall (0)
- 94 strewing twenty pounds of sugar on western soil border-
ing the wall (0)
- 95 waiting (0)
- 96 waiting (0)
- 97 waiting (0)
- 98 waiting (0)
- 99 becoming aware that there is no end
- 100 reading the announcement that these 100 events took
place (500)

PHENOMENA

a dé-coll/age happening

sponsored by the BLOCK gallery the 27th of march 1965 in the automobile graveyard at sachsendamm in BERLIN

participants: the public and twelve human phenomena

k. p. BREHMER

h. c. ARTMANN

j. PETERSEN

v. TSAKIRIDIS

p. o. CHOTJEWITZ

l. GOSEWITZ

h. HOEDICKE

s. d. SAUERBIER

h. NITSCH

m. LUEPERTZ

w. VOSTELL

r. BLOCK

live a second

a minute

an hour

a phase of 1965

dé-coll/agitated and made conscious through VOSTELL

automobile graveyard near tempelhof airport

airplanes constantly fly over the site

spectators climb and crawl through the labyrinth of automobiles following a route marked off with ropes

rené block distributes instructions to the public

about 500 wrecked cars

old car bodies are covered with shrouds

hoedicke sits silent in an open green ford

he is wearing transparent plastic gloves and holding a spray
can in each hand

he sprays blue-green paint on his hands and into the air during
the entire event

he sits near a puddle of water in which american flags are floating

chotjewitz lies on an iron bed in front of a board with 25 red
airport signal lights

he is wrapped up in rubber innertubes and from his forehead
wires lead to the red lights lie-detector style

he reads over and over again a news item from the tagesspiegel
of march 27:

*“It was officially reported further that the South
Vietnamese were supplied with three types of gas
known in the American Army as CN, AM and CS.
These types of gas are also used by American police
as well as by night watchmen and private guards...”*

the route marked off for the public to follow passes through a
chain of five automobiles from each of which a loudspeaker
emits a different radio program so loud that acoustic fields
are created through which the participants must crawl

gray dkw
pink volkswagen
green mercedes
blue opel

red ford

nitsch halts repeatedly and stands with arms outstretched

airplanes

a circle of cars enclosing twelve hospital beds made up with
white sheets

gosewitz lies in one of the beds with a black motorcycle across
his legs

next to him is an open isetta in which sauerbier lies wrapped
in white

brehmer sits in a gray ford spraying pine scent toward the isetta

tsakiridis stands in another isetta

colored wires lead from his head to artmann's head

artmann with helmet sits on a bed with red pillows

colored wires lead from his chin to tsakiridis' chin

petersen wrapped in white lies on another bed

his hands are bound together with raw meat in plastic bags

colored wires lead from his hands and feet to artmann's head

luepertz lies bored in another open car

they remain as they are until the entry of spectators who have
been instructed to start a dialogue with them

for twenty minutes things are as they are

then suddenly twenty dynamic action-filled minutes

the action breaks off as abruptly as it erupted
and the happening ends

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

vostell empties a case of bones onto artmann's bed

artmann writes numbers on the bones

tsakiridis pours red paint all over himself

vostell pours yellow paint over gosewitz and the motorcycle

gosewitz binds himself to the motorcycle on the bed

brehmer sprays pine scent on gosewitz

sauerbier does nothing at all

luepertz sprays his car from the inside

vostell pours blue paint over petersen

tsakiridis pours red paint over a motorcycle

vostell starts a motor running

gosewitz rips his feather bed apart

the others rip their feather beds apart

petersen pours red paint over himself

nitsch stands around with outstretched arms

brehmer sprays pine scent

artmann pours red paint over a woman

vostell pours yellow paint over an isetta

tsakiridis pours blue paint over a red ford

petersen crawls around on the ground a tire on his back and
in his right hand a piece of raw meat

the spectators bind the performers to parts of automobiles

hoedicke sprays green paint on his hands

chotjewitz lies in his bed covered with rubber tires and repeats
over and over again: "imagine yourself stuck in an elevator
between floors at the outbreak of an atomic war" (vostell)

nitsch stands around with outstretched arms

gosewitz is bound in a sack

sauerbier flops about in a mountain of paint

brehmer ties a vacuum cleaner to someone

tsakiridis lies among fish in petersen's bed

artmann numbers bones in bed

vostell effaces a television program

luepertz ties a bird to his head and scatters the bones that
artmann numbered

airplane flies over the automobile graveyard

brehmer blows into an alcohol test balloon

block puffs into an alcohol test balloon

artmann puffs into an alcohol test balloon

petersen puffs into an alcohol test balloon

tsakiridis puffs into an alcohol test balloon

chotjewitz puffs into an alcohol test balloon

hoedicke puffs into an alcohol test balloon

gosewitz puffs into an alcohol test balloon

sauerbier puffs into an alcohol test balloon

nitsch puffs into an alcohol test balloon

luepertz puffs into an alcohol test balloon

vostell puffs into an alcohol test balloon

airplane flies over the automobile graveyard

brehmer binds himself to the public

artmann binds himself to the public

petersen binds himself to the public

tsakiridis binds himself to the public

chotjewitz binds himself to the public

gosewitz binds himself to the public

hoedicke binds himself to the public

sauerbier binds himself to the public

nitsch binds himself to the public

luepertz binds himself to the public

vostell binds himself to the public

(translated by Laura P. Williams)

WOLF VOSTELL

was born in Leverkusen, Germany, in 1932. He studied typography and lithography in Cologne and Wuppertal, and painting in Dusseldorf and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris.

In 1954 Vostell chose the word "dé-coll/age" to describe his erasures, demonstrations, events and Happenings, which he pioneered in Europe. In the past decade he has produced dé-coll/age Happenings in many European cities, using the metropolis itself as his theater of operations, and has exhibited his graphic work in Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain and the United States.

Since 1962 Vostell has edited five numbers of *dé-coll/age*, a unique international anthology and proving ground for the avant garde. (Copies are available through the Something Else Press.) His publications include *phasen* (with Juergen Becker and Max Bense), Galerie der Spiegel, Cologne, 1960; *TPL* (with François Dufrêne and Alain Jouffroy), Kalender Verlag, Dusseldorf, 1961; *Happenings* (with Juergen Becker), Rowohlt Verlag, Hamburg, 1965, and 2 *Dé-coll/age Happenings*, Verlag Galerie Block, Berlin, 1966 (published in English as Great Bear Pamphlet #9). The Something Else Press plans for Fall publication *Dé-coll/age Happenings*, a comprehensive collection of Vostell's scenarios together with a portfolio of his notations.

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