

## **Stefan Klein - Kneeling**

3 Performers are walking down at visible distance to each other, but their mutual connection is not visible to the random passer-by. At the same moment they kneel down to tie their shoelaces and they remain in this position for 1 minute.

After 1 minute they stand up at the same time and walk on.

### **Jolanda Jansen**

10 min.

This was a nice action to do, because you had a common task as a group and you had a common code, of which the people around you are not aware. Within your group there was a difference in interpretation, and a tempo, and a distance. The distance chosen was bigger than I thought it would be. In the distance I could occasionally no longer see the first performer, because the second performer took a further distance. It was a targeted action that suddenly was brought to a halt. The lacing seemed to take a long time. I tied both shoes several times. The multiple tying felt noticeable. I am not sure if this was the case but unconsciously I felt more eyes on me. Eventually the person got up again and we walked again and the first person turned out of my sight. In my opinion we agreed to

do the action several times, but in their opinion not. We searched for the first performer for some time and after a while walked back and saw each other there again; somewhat confused.

### **Safanja Bendeler**

Corona was very much in my head at the beginning of the performance, because there were a lot of people crowding together. So I was very happy to be free in when and where to walk and kneel and choose to go around people. I started to remember what I read about this performance during my walk before we knelt and made my mind ready to rest in my kneeling and getting aware. I did not go to protest against the ridiculous racism which is still happening in the world. Now I felt a kind of protest with the three of us and I was very much aware of my freedom of choices....

### **Iris van Wijk**

It felt like a secret mission. We almost lost each other. Because we were trying to avoid being seen as a group. We walked with a fair amount of distance between us. The 3 of us (me, Louwrens and Jolanda) kneeled around the same time, and stayed there for about a minute. I desperately avoided a big statue of a man in 16th century clothing.

### **Leonard Passchier**

a nice way to become more conscious of a small gesture with the possibility to have a great meaning.

## **Kirsten Heshusius**

Very exiting at this hour 8.00 in the morning on a Saturday.

The town is waking up. Everybody is doing their task, everything is part of kneeling, even the cat taking a piss against a tree. I do the performance with Leonard and Emmy, they are a couple, I just met them, I like them.

During the execution I notice that I never tie my shoelaces like this.

I do not put my knee on the floor. And my back is not so straight. That makes it a seremonial action.

The night before I woke up and thought about the action to come. In my half sleep I thought; I need to have something in my mind where I kneel for. Waking up I thought; this will come during the action, from out of what happens.....or not.

People watched.

I am used being in the streets and perform there. It was pleasant to see that our action was accepted by the market people building up their stall. People working in public space are curious and very open to other people sharing this space in the same way.

I recognised the purpose of the few people in the street; the inhabitant, the worker and us the temporary.

I listened to Tracy Chapman on my journey to Dordrecht this morning. I noticed that during the action I was singing in my head one of the songs; 'Across the lines'.

Afterwards I read the lyrics because I was not aware of the content of the song:

'On the back streets of America, they killed the dream of America'

So meaning the kneeling came to me through Tracy Chapman I guess.

## **Emmy Vollaard**

It made quite an impression on me to do the act of kneeling in the midst of the Nieuwstraat with the market getting started, the people waking up. Maybe they noticed how humble and strong at the same time it made me feel. Maybe they noticed three people at the same time, kneeling on the street, getting up, and walking away again. We repeated it four times.

## **Stefanie van den Bos**

Together we walked and kneeled for little things and big things on this road/place/city /world life is simple with great effect.

## **Nico Parlevliet**

ook deze performance haakte mooi in op de actualiteit en voelde daarom ook best aan als belangrijk en serieus. Het meedoen aan deze performance voelde aan alsof je iets belangrijks aan het doen was.

## **Louwrens Botha**

She kneels, I kneel. Shoelaces undone, redone. A minute is a long time.

Suddenly I don't notice if people are noticing. Next show. Wait. Wait. Wait. She is getting up, I am

getting up. Self-consciously, casual, I follow till the end of the Nieuwstraat. On the bridge I take a photo of the house on the canal.

