

Stefan Klein
To be somebody else

Curated by

Lorenza Pignatti

An Paenhuysen

Domenico Quaranta

Giacinto Di Pietrantonio

Barnaba Fornasetti e Valeria Manzi

Gabi Scardi

Frank Raes

Stefan Klein
To be somebody else

For a certain period of time I would like to be somebody else. Maybe for 7 days. Maybe in a unknown city, like Milan. But maybe not a specific person, but many different people. Aimless and directed at the same time. Carefree without intention and yet fully scheduled. I would like to have 7 people curate my residency time for 7 consecutive days. Too conceptual without any clear concept. The result is open.

Senseless Residency 2020, Milano
(cur. Cose Cosmiche)

Lorenza Pignatti

ciao stefan,

I was tempted to suggest you to visit
the Milano underground...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pj-9TYJ1c_
<https://www.newtoncompton.com/libro/alla-sco-perta-di-milano-sotterrane>

I did a tour yeas ago, but I check and it is not
easy without a special guiding tour

PLAN B is visiting Toti, the first submarine built in
Italy after World War II

[https://www.museoscienza.org/en/collection/
objects/submarine-s506-enrico-toti](https://www.museoscienza.org/en/collection/objects/submarine-s506-enrico-toti)

that used to be underground but now is over-
ground

enjoy!
ciao
Lorenza

Ciao Lorenza,

I spent the day thinking of what it means to be underground while at the same time being out on the surface just like a submarine that is displaced on dry land far from the ocean.

On my way to the Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia, I met a vendor from Africa on the street, who is in Milano sans papier, that sold me a small blinking LED-key-chain flashlight, learned about a talk on “Hong Kong – Storia di una Rivolta” organised by the Federazione Anarchista Milano from a poster on the street and observed a group of bike food delivery guys that all took a break together in a park.

Carrying this thought around in my head, I realised how much it changed the way I perceive the city, how we are constantly surrounded by things and people that are exactly in the position of existing underground while being placed on the surface.





The vendor that is in the precarious situation of positioning himself in the risky situation of selling things illegally on the street since he has no legal status in this country, an organisation that is placed on the periphery of society advertising a solidarity evening in the glossy part of the city or the precarious work force of the 20th century racing through the streets to make their cut for a day.

Many thanks again for your contribution, I am sure this will grow into something.

All my best

Stefan

PS. The Museum was closed on the day I wanted to go and due to Covid 19 it would not have been possible to see the submarine from the insight anyway. However I managed to sneak inside the building somehow and see this huge piece of metal for myself.

An Paenhuysen

Most of my writing is based on overheard conversations that I use as a material for my writing. For one day, overhear people's conversations (preferably drinking coffee on a terrace) and make notes of the excerpts of conversation. If you don't speak Italian, try your best to understand what the people are talking about. You are allowed to use your imagination to fill in the gaps. You can also include body language and description of the persons you are overhearing.

At the end of the day, send the material to me. I wanted to add you can ask for help with translation in the overhearing... for instance by Silvia or Helga!

Ciao ciao from the airport.

An

For An

Pigeons

Oh my god look at my face
I think you look so pretty
thank you
why dont you go there
like infront of it
wait moment
moment
look look look
(laughter)
you are hilarious
should i take it with or without it?
Where there

OMG

look at me
that will be how much?
How should I pose?
What should I do?
I have to get cash
you sit down here
what do they do with that
like all of them?
Why?
I love that song. It is like saaccrifiice?

Castello Sforceszo.

You are wasting your time
no money
you are wasting your time
just look
you cant live in milano without money
i dont believe you
just look
i hope to see you tomorrow

Somewhere

Bis wann brauchst du deinen Anzug?
1. Dezember
()
Shit, vielleicht sollten wir zurück.



Barnaba Fornasetti e Valeria Manzi

Dear Stefan,

so, could we have your size number?

Valeria and Barnaba thought of a placement in the Fornasetti showroom, perhaps with a label. Playing with the idea of exhibition and curatorship, and considering the importance of the content, it would be very fun for them to have you displayed as precious object.

Let us know, also your preference about the favourite day.

Best

Valentina Casacchia



FORNASETTI

corso Venezia, 21 A — 20121 Milano — Italia

Gabi Scardi

Ciao Helga
thanks for your message
dear Stefan,

it's a pleasure to e-meet you.
sorry for my delay.

I was sure I had sent you my proposal, but now I see I drafted it and did not send.

this is the task I would like to give you: spend the day with one or more than one animal, if unusual for you. If this is something you are used to, please search and observe some kind of animals that you are not familiar with. You can freely decide how to structure these activities during the day. but please keep some traces of your day.

Please let me know if you agree.
I hope to meet you in person
my very best
gabi

Dear Gabi,

there were so many animals that came to my mind – following a bird around through the city for one day seeing where it leads me until I lose its track, hanging out at the dog park and accompanying one person home or befriending the pigeon that lives here in the backyard. Helga even offered me to hang out with one of her turtles that she has at home.

Some corners of the city reminded me of Athens, where I lived in 2015 and there were many stray cats everywhere. So I also thought it could be nice to make a short video looking for street cats in Milano. A bit of a joke since I think there are not really any stray cats here, so you just have wonderful shots of empty streets with no cats.

Well in the end I found this fly sitting on the window of the adjacent gallery space in via Aleardi. I checked on the internet and it was a common Mayfly (Ephemeroptera; from the greek word ephemeros : one day) – which in German has this beautiful and very concrete name “Tagesfliege”, which literally translates to “day fly” describing its average life span.

I found it astonishing to pick one random day of my life to spent time with an animal whilst this day enfolds its entire life, from birth to death. Time to me suddenly felt like a very abstract thing that we try to measure and put into categories since we are having troubles to grasp all this time that was before us and will come after us.

In the evening I had to run some errants and left the door of the gallery open to get some fresh air in. On my way back I was thinking of what to do with the fly when it passes away – if I should just put it out on the street, keep it in an empty matchbox or organise a proper funeral with candles and inscent sticks. When I arrived in the gallery the fly was gone and I was happy that it went its way, leaving no traces, staying in this ephemeral state just as it had begun.

All my best

Stefan

Giacinto Di Pietrantonio

Dear Stefan,

It was very nice to meet you yesterday at the opening in Milan. As I told you I suggest to you to be Maurizio Cattelan for one day. I am leaving Milano and coming back on Monday evening. I hope to see you in Berlin or somewhere.
Thanks to involve me in your artproject

All the best
Giacinto

Dear Giacinto,

when i saw Cattelans work for the first time he was already quite famous and too be honest i did not care so much about it, i was missing some kind of subtleness and humility. Researching his early work however there were many things that intrigued me. Especially this notion oft escape and withdrawal and maybe not caring too much what other people think (but this is just a guess, maybe it was a strategic move from the beginning).

So in this spirit I thought its nice to dodge this task by just going for an ice cream with Silvia and Helga. (Adding a layer of care-taking and avoiding cynicism, something that I find very important as an attitude towards the world).

I am sure he would have liked that.

Kindly
Stefan



Domenico Quaranta

Dear Stefan,
thank you too for the invitation! I would love you to be me for one day :-)

So, my suggestion is: buy or borrow some basic painting equipment (one or more canvases, oil / acrylic colors, brushes) and paint all day long. Prosaic landscape painting, possibly en plein air. If it rains or you are too lazy to look for natural places around Milan and paint sur le motif, stay at home and paint the sky.

I love cloud studies and skyporn. Date and sign every painting as Domenico Quaranta. They don't need to be masterpieces: just enjoy the pure joy of painting, for one day. You can keep what you do of course, but I would be happy to have one painting for me at least.

Why? Being Domenico Quaranta has to be a gift, not a punishment. As I got your request, I thought that I should share with you what I'd like to do if I could, not what I'm usually doing. Well, if I had a 48 hours day, I'd paint. I'm also taking the idea of "curating your life" very seriously.

Watching nature and painting can offer you a relief from the toxicity and speed of daily life; and

can definitely heal a young good artist from the aftermaths of conceptualism.

Hope you'll enjoy being me (and I mean me, not Bob Ross)

Domenico

Dear Domenico,

I had a great time exploring the beauty of cloud paintings, it was a sunny day with clear blue sky and I am quite happy with results. Now I took the freedom to organize a small opening this upcoming Sunday (invitation attached).

It would be great to meet up there and I hope you can make it.

Kindly

Stefan

PS. One painting is of course reserved for you to take home

**DOMENICO LONELY
QUARANTA CLOUDS**



**VERNISSAGE
DOMENICA 4 OCT
17.00 - 20.00**

Ufficio Vendite
Via Alessandro Aleardi 11
20154 Milano

Riparazione Sartoriali di Antonella Weng
Via Alessandro Aleardi 14
20154 Milano

Message Piantare
Via Alessandro Aleardi 5
20154 Milano

Rock Space Nuovo Secolo
Via Alessandro Aleardi 2
20154 Milano

Trattoria Chiese Long Chang
Via Paolo Sarpi 42
20154 Milano

DOMENICA
QUARANTA







Frank Raes

Dear Mr. Klein
(cose cosmiche in cp)

please excuse my delay in answering your mail.
I am writing you as the director of the Museum of
Anthropocene Technology (see website below).

It is kind of flattering that somebody would like to
be me. It would even be more interesting, I believe,
if we could actually swap our lives for a day.
Unfortunately this week is difficult, unless you
want to know what it is to be a father of 3 adult
daughters...

But from your writing I gather that we do not necessarily
have to do a physical swap. I can also
give you an idea (and maybe you can give one to
me).

I also gather that this project is about curateship,
right?, and that you believe that everything can
be curated. My question is: curated what for?

At the Museum we collect
"... things of our times, try out different exhibits,
until "things fall in place", until hyperobjects become
fully visible, create wonder and doubt and
show that things are more complex than what

they are taught to be. Use all of this to recompose knowledge. Use curatorship to cure.”

So at the Museum, we continuously think about what is curating, and why we curate. Can I suggest that you think about this, for a day?

Of course, if you want to come and visit the Museum during your stay in Milano, you (and Silvia and Helga) are very welcome. Let me know in advance. I am NOT available Tuesday and Thursday.

Hoping that all this keeps your interest.
Best regards and looking forward to be in touch,

Frank

Dear Frank,

it was a pleasure to meet you at the opening last Sunday.

I am writing to you sitting in a train driving through the magnificent Alps thinking about your quote in the mail, to make hyperobjects visible. That is so hard for us to understand how such an enormous piece of rock could have been shaped throughout time, and will change again in the future. How the snow-capped mountain tips might not be there anymore in the future and how our actions directly contribute to that or more precisely how the time that was before us has come to this point where we are now left with the results trying to compensate previous actions while we have to face and adopt to the situation we are in.

Generally I really liked what you wrote in your mail about creating wonder and doubt and show that things are more complex than what they are taught to be. I can very much relate to this in my work – that often has a quite minimal appearance or comes as a small (sometimes humorous) gesture but opens up to complex systems that lie beyond. Or at least that is what I am aiming at.

I had left your task for the last day of my week since there was this presentation in the form of a small exhibition planned that needed curation of all the individual days into one final big set-up and I thought this was fitting. I choose a layout that made me think of walking into a big sketchbook. For me this week opened up a lot of new paths to follow, things to try out and make more precise later on.

If there was more time this week I would have loved to come visit you at the museum and realise some intervention with the display having the idea of curating in the back of my mind. But maybe in the future we can work something out.

For now to return an idea, I am curious what happens if there is little to show, if no objects are involved, how do you curate something if the selection process happens mostly in the mind of the viewer.

Many thanks again for being part of this project

All my best

Stefan

SENSELESS RESIDENCY, curated by *Cose Cose smiche*. Is a residency program that provides a place for developing and working on projects deemed to be “senseless”: beyond the good common sense, standards, norms and normalization (conscious or unconscious) of the artistic and intellectual production of the time... of this time. The senseless Residency program is supported by the Arthur Cravan Foundation.

Arthur Cravan Foundation, inspired by the Dadaist performer A. Cravan, is dedicated to supporting, producing, and promoting projects and ideas deemed to be “unrealizable,” “non-conventional” and “No Future”.

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