

Tanja Vujinovic

Disaster memo piece, *Variola Vera*, (smallpox) deals somehow sado-masochistically with our angst of death in a prolonged suspense. The piece is a reminder of our vulnerability despite publicly promoted insurance of safety and control. A hand with the match is enlightening the dark sites, as if a historical process of enlightenment did not really succeed in the battle with nature. The doubt resides in the basement inhabited with suspicion and danger. While we are watching the repetitive obscure place and listening to the original soundtrack from the motion feature *Variola Vera*, we do start to contemplate the micro images of the macro disasters. As if the language, we might not be able to understand, adds to the *memento mori* ritual, provokes the imagination of horrible scenes and finally, the ritual might cure us from living in denial. The *Variola Vera* piece suggests that we better get used to a probable catastrophe and to living in a state of crisis where human behavior and value systems are the crucial parameters in crisis management.

*Dialogue* is polluted with noise from frequencies that are traversing the atmosphere. We hear the sounds from a café, particles of statements, which come and go in waves. Therefore it is hard to follow the utterances of two artists, Marcel Duchamp and Herman Nitsch. We find ourselves in a situation that is similar to a disturbed hunter who is trying to catch the prey of his interest. However, there is no such thing as a pure-ideal situation. The messiness of the sound is aggressive. The bombing of our capacity to perceive what is going on is even increased by the equally important sounds of everyday compulsive activity, such as the sounds of dishes being washed. As a counterpart, we may rest our eyes on the images of beautified kitsch details from one's home, (the words kitsch and kitchen sound so similar), which do offer comfort and visual pleasure that nurture people's needs of integrity. You might feel safe when you have at least something to rest your eyes upon and consequently, you think that you are in control.

Duba Sambolec

Duba Sambolec, *Tour / Detour, Helium*, a sound art series in 5 parts on the internet, Ballongmagasinet and NIFCA (<http://www.ballongmagasinet.com/helium>), 2002.