

## Amsterdam Dance Event

The crew of snoeiharde Shit! and Loudturgy are always happy to visit the German Freaks. You are the ones who give us a space to do new things or just make a lot of noise. Something we often miss here in Holland.

But this October we had finally a nice chance in Holland to create something loud and beautiful with new people.

We got invited by the Bijbels Museum in Amsterdam. A chic piece of real-estate at the famous grachten of Amsterdam. They have a collection of rare old bibles, religious objects (very rare for protestants) and old paintings. They're always open to do weird things in this nice place. So for the Amsterdam Dance Event (ADE) we were invited to make something in the Bijbels Museum with the title "The (re)degeneration of Heaven and Earth, a techno-interpretation of Genesis".

It's a bit weird to write about noise when the silence seems to be more spiritual. But here at ADE the silence only made sense by the noise of the techno. Let first share the concept of this event.

The audience had to enter through the door of the basement of the museum and received wireless headphones. The basement was dark and empty and so was the music: wust, leer, dunkel and brought by the DJ. The audience was guided by two dancers who took them after a while upstairs through the museum to the second room. Here the light was created by the VJ. From one pixel to whole galaxies, planets and our planet. Ending with a man watching the stars as Abraham conversating with the cosmos. After the man disappeared back into the universe and it's black holes the audiences went more stairs up through the museum.

They came into a new room with real fishes and plants. In the middle was a man playing live synthesizers on top of the DJ's dark sounds.

From the top of the building the audience descended back down to the old kitchen of the museum. Here the word was (re)created. Rik had a loudturgy style poem and a question for the audience. They could pick a word or object and give it a new name. Then all the new words were repeated by Rik.

The last journey was to the garden outside. The audience had to give back the headphones and stood there in the cold night. The two dancers who accompanied the audience all the way disappeared in the darkness. After a while they came back covered in plastic with an extra person. As a symbol of the finished new creation the third person removed the plastic. There we saw Patrick, a young dancer with Down syndrome starting to dance. While dancing the three dancers took the plastic and covered the audience with it and took them inside to toast on the new creation. This was the end of the performance.

For me it's sometimes hard to be aware of the spiritual process during such performances. Setting up, breaking down, meetings and emails. It's easy to get 100% occupied by producing. But when I witnessed Patrick uncovering himself I realised how deep the whole thing was. There we all stood in silence. No more techno, a bit cold, like we were naked in the garden of Eden looking at life how God meant life would move, be seen, be heard, exist.

So after ADE I looked back on the performance and the process and what it all could mean. Like Rik giving things a new word or name. A new word or name makes something or someone existing brand new. Like a rebirth. Imagine to really give new words for things like: glasses, shoes, a kiss, a tree, animals. Like Adam and Eve gave names to the creation. Wouldn't that be liberating and an act of resistance? In stead of following all the „framing“ by media and marketing.

For my own part, the creation of light, I wanted to show stars and our solar system. But also the human condition. As mankind also created 'light' with the atom bomb. Or the shadow side of our human existence.

In Genesis it's interesting to see that Abraham is the one who starts a conversation back to this cosmos. I wanted to go back to this moment. The start of the three big monotheist religions. But all Abraham did was listening and looking to the sky, and leaving his place. His life was void of how these religions as existing nowadays. It helps me to go back and forth between the cosmos, the creation, Abraham and the current state of our planet. Maybe things can be simple in our own lives. After a day of noise and productivity it's good to switch off the sound and look to the stars in silence. Maybe it's good to swap our newspapers for old words or no words. And I know it's good to sometimes team up with people to re-imagine and recreate things. To give people something divine instead of plain entertainment. To hack the industries of art, nightlife, theology and mix them up.

p.s. if you want Rik to translate his poems for this event. Invited us to your basements. We can recreate together. With techno, in silence or with both.

*Geerard Labeur is more an audio-visual monk than an artist. Under the name Looped Exodus he recycles and contemplates the hyper real through Silence, G;pitch and noise.*