



EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

8.7.2011 – Myriam Lefkowitz – The Eye Walk

http://11moments.org/artists/?page_id=776

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INTERVIEW #2: Today we would like to introduce you to Myriam Lefkowitz. Myriam is a dancer based in Paris, who contributes to the festival with her work „The Eye Walk“.

Myriam, where are you at the moment?

Myriam Lefkowitz

I am sitting at my desk in my Parisian apartment.

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What are you working on right now?

Myriam Lefkowitz

I am still and constantly working on "The Eye Walk" project. I am developing new objects related to the walk such as poetic mappings based on walks. I am also starting to write more and more on the experience in collaboration with critics and art historians who are interested in working on the effects produced by the experience... So I'm doing different things at the same time...

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Can you explain in one sentence what „The Eye Walk“ is about?

Myriam Lefkowitz

In one sentence... ah la la. I can try: "The Eye Walk" is about using a walk to reconnect to our vision and to witness what is is to see consciously again.

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It seems to me that your project is like a full length movie that you see? What is it that makes it special? What can the participants expect?

Myriam Lefkowitz

I guess the relationship that the situation creates between the guide and the viewer is one of the reasons for turning the seing situation into some kind of constant connection to someone. It's about two bodies involved in public space, looking for some other ways to relate to their environment. When an eye walk works the viewer goes through a holistic



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experience of perception. It is more about a different type of presence in the daily context that I wish to share with the viewer than the effect on the visual sense. What do you think now that you experienced a walk yourself?

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One of the effects that you have in mind maybe was for me that my brain was constantly producing pictures – pictures of things that had not been there in real space. I felt a really strong connection to you and the world in total.

Myriam Lefkowitz

There are very different effects for each person experiencing a walk. One of the main things is the social disturbance that the situation engenders. People are kind of seeing someone seeing them. This is the situation of public visibility, and the walk allows the viewer and the witnesses to acknowledge that. A lot of viewers also talk about the fact that they feel the physical engagement of walking, running or touching, but they don't relate to a direction in space. So it's like feeling a movement for itself but not focusing on an orientation which a "public walk" normally is about. I know where I am going so I don't feel a walk. One last thing: the fact of not seeing doesn't mean you don't see anything: Tons of images are projected in the viewer's mind on the base of one snapshot or on a lighting atmosphere, on a sound, on a certain speed. The real space is constantly put in dialogue with the viewer's projections and I think, this is what perception is about – from reality to personal images. At the end you don't really know what you see.

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Have you ever heard of *satori*? It's a Japanese term referring to a flash of sudden awareness. It's a moment when time stands still. Have you experienced such moments? And if so, when did you do so lately?

Myriam Lefkowitz

Ah, I didn't know that term. It's nice. It's precisely what the snapshot is about. It is about some kind of visual event. I guess I am striving for *satori* all the time. I tend to create some kind of *satori* collection. I wonder if I can keep them as you keep objects.

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Is there a website related to „The Eye Walk“?



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Myriam Lefkowitz

Apart from the Exchange Radical Moments! video there is another Parisian eye walk documented on Vimeo: <http://vimeo.com/21783116>

The website is still in progress. I'll let you know when it is finished.

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Thank you for the interview and have a good time!

Myriam Lefkowitz

You're welcome! Good time to you, too!