

Art & Asphalt

Imaginative installations and performances on location have become the trademark of artist Peter Schröder (Utrecht, The Netherlands) in the past 15 years. His newest project coincides with a roadtrip to Kazakhstan and Nepal, which he will undertake from autumn 2009 until spring 2010. He plans to collect ingredients at every stop or break, for example photo's, video interviews and materials of any kind, which he can use for the final exposition at the end of the trip. The project will be under construction for half a year and carries the title: **PAUZE**. But whatever unexpected turns the project will prove to take, a returning element will be, the 'claxophone'.

Claxophone

Peter Schröder likes to use technology in his artwork. These last 3 years he focussed on developing and refining the 'claxophone'; a musical instrument consisting of 32 ordinary car klaxons in different sizes and shapes, that can be made to subtly honk, croak and twitter. Peter has composed several pieces for this instrument on which he can play by means of a computer. One of the compositions is based on natural waterbird sounds, as he lives surrounded by them on his houseboat in Utrecht. The philosophy behind this composition is that cars and the sounds they produce, construct a new form of man made nature. By playing on the 'claxophone', he adds an extra poetical dimension of sound to the everyday soundscape that surrounds us, in which mimicry and comment blend together.

The 'claxophone' has already been presented to listeners in Mexico City, where a special concert was given from one of the church towers. On this occasion every quarter of an hour, a soprano singer performed in a woman-machine-duet, as she improvised melodies around the rythmic sounds of the 'claxophone'. Singer and 'claxophone' together became a 'siren' calling out over he millions of people in the city.

At another occasion, chairs were placed on the pavement along one of the busy roads in Mexico City. In this way a spontaneous jamsession was created, as all the cardrivers who honked their klaxons suddenly appeared to become active musicians along with the music from the 'claxophone'.



Other artprojects

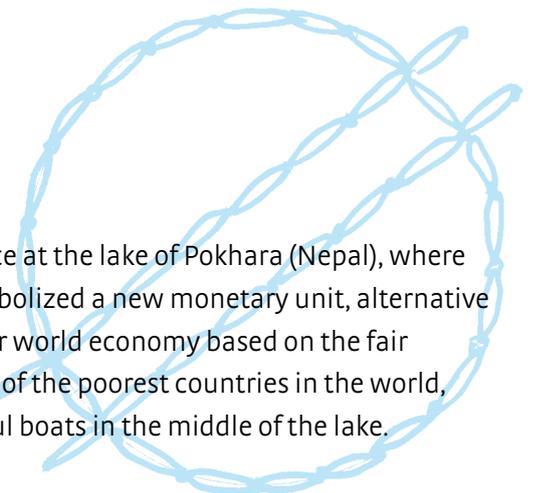
During his travels through Europe, Central-America and Asia, Peter Schröder always sought co-operation with local artists, cultural institutions or museums. He feels that working together with others, gives exploring the limits of possibilities for making art at any specific location, its real value. Sometimes it becomes clear along the way, that a change of plans is needed, however the main idea of a project will always be preserved. Every new work of art gets its final shape through a very close connection with the city, the people and the land.

Nepal

In Sidharta Art Gallery (Kathmandu), during the years of the civil war in Nepal, Peter organized a performance in which colourful plastic balls were inflated until they burst. The sound of this work of art interacted with the every day reality of bombs exploding in the streets, where in fact children should be playing.



A completely different example is the 'Globo bank project', that took place at the lake of Pokhara (Nepal), where Peter called for the help of local fishermen. The 'globo' he designed, symbolized a new monetary unit, alternative to the dollar and the euro. It called attention to the possibility of another world economy based on the fair distribution of money. The fishermen, who actually live and work in one of the poorest countries in the world, participated in constructing the symbol of the 'globo' with their colourful boats in the middle of the lake.





Mexico

Plastic balls and city children have played an active role in his installations for a number of years. In Oaxaca (Mexico), for example, he created a artificial rain consisting of green and pink balls, on the inner court of museum Sante Domingo. Two hundred children, who had been invited through a network of private orphanages, were part of that performance. (It goes without saying that they took their new toys home with them).

Machines

Apart from the temporary installations and performances made on location, Peter also designs and constructs machines in his workshop. Machines that produce gigantic soapbubbles, machines that pump colourful liquids through long tubes or a 'windmachine' that can be matched realtime to a breathing individual and can thus be made to move simultaneously with every breath. At exhibitions these machines form parts of larger installations.

The newest project

'PAUZE' is going to be an asphalt safari on which Peter will record his observations so as to transform them into an installation or a performance that can be presented to an audience. And as an important part of the trip, the 'claxophone' will be played, thus creating interactive concerts with its 'asphalt surroundings'. Furthermore it will be brought to the Aral lake, where the composition of the Dutch waterbirds will be performed. No doubt the claxophone will be heard many more times along the way.

(soundtrack waterbirds is attached)



(a morse code poem performed by the 'claxophone', 32 klaxons and horns)

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Date of birth 18 – 11 – 1962
Education 1979 – 1983 MTS , electronics, Eindhoven
1983 – 1984 Institute for Sonology , Utrecht
1984 – 1986 Academia for Contemporary Art, Utrecht
Autodidact artist since 1993.
1999 – 2000 WIK support
2002 – 2004 Basissubsidie : grant for minimum of
two years (FVBK)
2005 – 2008 Private support



The last 15 years many different projects have been launched. Themes like travel, time, structures in organic chaos are used to make objects, installations, poetry, billboards, production of CD-record, piano-improvisations, objects made from steel and plastics and different machines for organic structures (moving liquids, foam and gigantic soap bubbles, breath-controlled machines, computer controlled harmonics) many projects where made on site.
New project are started and new expressions of the mind are developed.

2008

birds installation
claxophone installation
nieuwe vide robodoc
Haarlem
Amsterdam

2007

devolver la vos de oaxaca installation
old times wake up installation
saludos de Oaxaca installation
ninos performance
grito de auxillio installation/performance
casa de la ciudad
iglesia san paulo
Ex teresa
Ex-teresa
Nieuwe Vide
Oaxaca Mexico
Oaxaca Mexico
Mexico-city Mexico
Mexico-city Mexico
Haarlem



2006

hiding the balls installation
blowing up the balls installation
answers bicycle installation
globo-bank land-art installation
catch a cow installation
sidharta art gallerie
mountain-museum
Bhaktapur Nepal
Kathmandu Nepal
Pokhara Nepal
Pokhara Nepal
Pokhara Nepal

2005

da vinci sonrie installation
thank you movie
I am a bird installation
casa de la ciudad
pochote
Oaxaca Mexico
Oaxaca Mexico
Zaachila Mexico



2004

Pelotas desde el cielo 1,2,3 installation
Huebos al gusto installation
Muziek-performance
Centro Cultural Santo Domingo
Genootschap kunstliefde
Genootschap kunstliefde
Oaxaca Mexico
Utrecht
Utrecht

2003

TOPES installation
flying installation
Night Bubbles performance
fotonno installation
flying fish installation
grabbing balls installation
MOIRA
MOIRA
Pochutla Mexico
Tulula Mexico
Mexico-city Mexico
Ruigoord
Utrecht
Utrecht

2002

Running lights installation
Bubbles performance
stad als theater
Zwolle
Malinalco Mexico

2001

floordirection installation
In line with insects installation
caraterra digital installation
Yogacenter Solstice
Lumax
teateravenue
Utrecht
Arnhem
Mexico



2000

Uit welke poel wordt er gevist installation
Running Lights installation
Wallsigns installation
catch a dream installation
chaotic lights installation
running discs installation
wallpapers installation
Hooghuis
Tivoli
DOOF festival
Israel
Stichting Sophia
Kunstvlaai / Westergasfabriek
Ruigoord
Honnay
Utrecht
Amsterdam
Belgie



1994 – 2000

indian poetry billboards 5 x
4 directions soundsculpture
nine brides installation
faces of the city foto installation
time is moenyey installation
phase of kali soapbubble-installation
Monument voor de tijd cargocontainer
flying by video-installation
Piano Tafel Bank installation
Signs of change installation
etalage piano performance
dark colors expo-installation
koffers eclipse
installation galleria Sztuki Wspolczesne
diverse lokaties
Alythus
Opole
Opole
Den Haag
Utrecht
Manchester
Ruigoord
Alythus
Utrecht
Belgie
Polen
Polen
Engeland
Litouwen
Polen

