

# Ralf Rosowski 2007, extending relations

## Bjørg Tarangers video cycle "City Angel" presented in Düsseldorf at Schirmerstrasse 22

Emne: Extending relations

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## Extending relations

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A hospital bed is the place of medical care.

The place of water and soap, creams, isopropanol, blood, sweat and body liquids.

The screen of Bjørg Taranger is binocular in a meta sense.

Half splitted into a left and a right scene and a small gap in between.

"Preparing a Private Space" is using extended materials like the sexy legs of a nurse, wearing WHITE high-heels, both signed with a Red Cross on the heel side, running straight along an endless hospital corridor followed by the camera view. There seems to be no coming further.

A Red Cross on white background is recognized as a protection symbol in conflict. (1)

It's a dramatic case of emergency or it is a case of escape?

The two nurses collaborative preparing a hospital bed on the screen right beneath are not really impressed about the running angle left side. They are completely absorbed by careful making up the hospital bed, highly concentrated on details, very accurate by smoothing the linen, contemplation by working. Love, devotion and human warmth is the spiritual substances which fills the space.

"Happening with nurses", celebrating a dance by preparing a hospital bed, wearing German birkenstocks and a white nurse coat, displaced bra straps shining trough. Suddenly the left half of the splitted screen gets BLACK for a second, an interruption followed by a right away change of the splitted screen relations.

How fragile Angels are.

City Angel. A love dance or a dance macabre? Lay down and smile. (2)

Bjørg Taranger overcomes the restrictions of a dualistic understanding (3) by the expressive use of dance. Intelligent and skilled cutting is a lonely job. But getting taught about dance by the nurses Arja-Leena and Paula is a spiritual interaction.

"Our body should go with our soul, with our spirit, shall get moved like rush from the divine breath of the inside. Amen" (4)

First time I saw this video works in Ålesund, in the late summer of 2004. I got deeply moved.

"Angels are with us.", I noticed and continued travelling.

I called Bjørg Taranger more than a year later. After some intensive talks we decided to present City Angel during oct. 2006 to the public in Düsseldorf at Schirmerstraße 22, an apartment, temporary used as Gallery, near by the city.

The installation in Düsseldorf was quite simple. "Preparing a Private Space" (5'29", 2000) and "Happening with nurses" (5'44", 2004), got directly and simultaneously projected on different white walls in same heights, both in a black-&-white-mode, relatively small sized and looped. The room used for presentation didn't got darkened, no curtains got used to dim-out the light from the windows.

We had a crowded candlelight opening, a clean place filled with the flickering light of the City Angel projection, interfering with all the specific individual experiences, fears and hopes of the visitors. We enjoyed an interesting mix of guests.

After the show, the secretary of the house organisation office, responsible for Schirmerstraße 22 called me, asking about City Angel. "Is there a social encountering place founded?" Ups, - I understood. "Yes, indeed." I answered smiling.

Ralf Rosowski, march 2007  
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- (1) The Red Cross is the original and official protection symbol declared at the 1864 Geneva Convention. It is, in terms of its color, a reversal of the Swiss national flag.
- (2) Pina Bausch, contemporary german choreographer, "Sit down and smile." (stage direction, 2002)
- (3) Rene Descartes (1556 - 1650) Descartes suggested that the body works like a machine, that it has the material properties of extension and motion, and that it follow the laws of physics. The mind or soul, on the other hand, was described as a nonmaterial entity that lacks extension and motion, and does not follow the laws of physics. This form of dualism proposes that the mind controls the body, but that the body can also influence the otherwise rational mind, such as when people act out of passion.
- (4) Peter Altenberg (1859 - 1919) was a writer and poet from Vienna, Austria. This quote is taken from the frontispiz of Dr. John Schikowski "Geschichte des Tanzes" (Büchergilde Gutenberg, Berlin,) 1926