

conditioning social ritual
infiltration museum's display
expectation long duration
framing unannounced actions
audience as subject
fake viewers behaviours
unnoticeable bodies
public space in/visibilities

Living sculptures by Jérôme
Leuba



Jérôme Leuba
battlefield #160, 2024
Living sculpture
Duration 4 hours.
Exhibition view, Performée #5, Villa du Parc, Annemasse, France
Photo © Justine Givry

A group of people stands in the same place throughout the evening of an opening, settling in and creating a territory in a place of passage.



Jérôme Leuba - Coline Ladetto
battlefield #157, Le tour de table, 2024
Spatial device and light score for 8 spectators.
Duration 10'.

Images: Moments of the device without spectators, Théâtre Le Spot, Sion

Spectators are invited to sit on chairs arranged on a theater stage. This is followed by a luminous score that is always the same, working the balance of power between places and visibilities.



battlefield #130

Living sculpture, 2022

Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne - MCBA

30 performers (as fake viewers) look and stare at each new spectator coming into the room by a door (from 11 am to 17 pm).



battlefield #151 / 4 propositions / Cleaning

Living sculpture, 2022

Kunstmuseum Luzern

Proposition 2 : 4 people clean the entrance of the Kunstmuseum Luzern during the «Swiss performance price». They take a break together four times an hour.

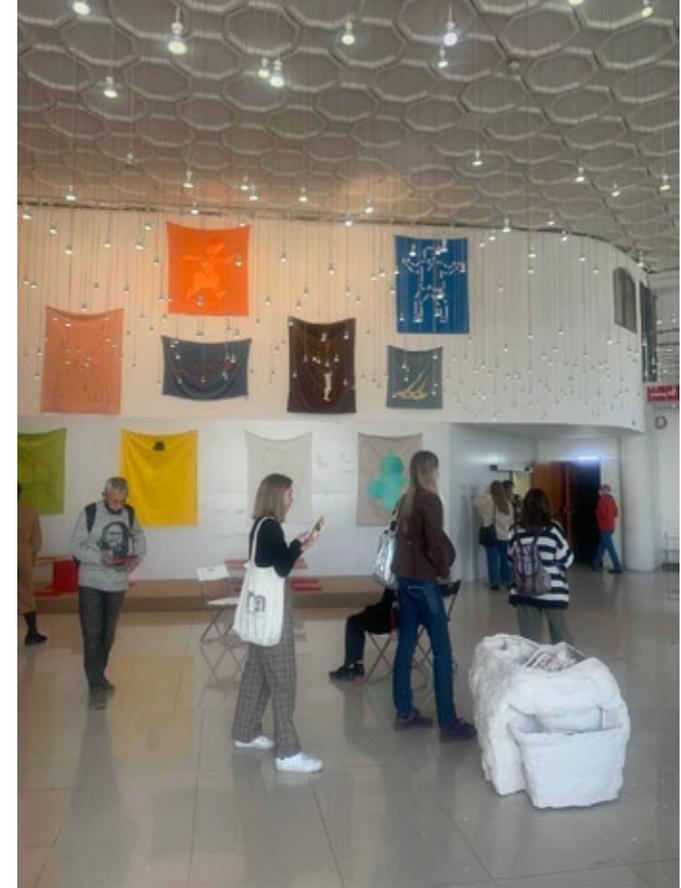


battlefield #151 / 4 propositions

Living sculpture, 2021

«6th Ural Industrial Biennial», Yekaterinburg, Russia

Proposition 2 : 4 people eat pop-corn on the stairs of the entrance of the Biennial's venue. Each hours they moved and they started to clap, looking at something outside.



battlefield #151 / 4 propositions

Living sculpture, 2021

«6th Ural Industrial Biennial», Yekaterinburg, Russia

Proposition 3 : 4 people are queuing in the exhibition space of the Biennial, during two week-end. The line is moving very slowly and appears like a lost fragment of a waiting queue.



battlefield #151 / 4 propositions

Living sculpture, 2021

«6th Ural Industrial Biennial», Yekaterinburg, Russia

Proposition 1 : 4 people clean the entrance of the Biennial's venue.
During two week-end they cleaned what it could be touched by hands
and take a break together on steps each hour during 30 minutes.





battlefield #151 / 4 propositions
Living sculpture, 2021
«6th Ural Industrial Biennial», Yekaterinburg, Russia
Proposition 1 : 4 people clean the entrance of the Biennial's venue.
During two week-end they cleaned what it could be touched by hands
and take a break together on steps each hour during 30 minutes.



battlefield #142

Living sculpture, 2020

«Street. Life. Photography», Fotomuseum Winterthur

Two days long, few people are occupying by their normal presence, the main small entrance of the Fotomuseum Winterthur creating an unwished proximity with the spectator.



battlefield #142

Living sculpture, 2019

«Territoire #4», Open Space, Nancy

One day long (11 am to 17 pm) a group of people is looking to the same direction. The group moves slowly around Stanislas Place, Nancy, France.



battlefield #138

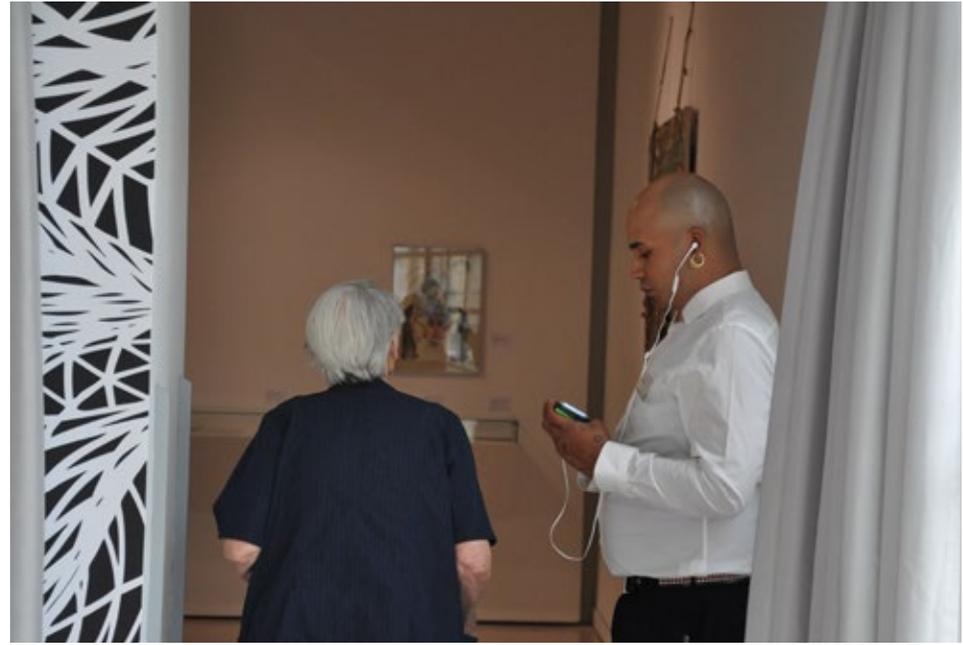
Living sculpture, 2019

«New Year's Reception Event» annex14 Zurich, Löwenbrau

During all the event, a man is carrying hidden art works trough the audience, coming back and forth into the gallery.



battlefield #135
Living sculpture, 2018
«Living Room» Pro-Helvetia Platform, Basel
One day long (10 am to 6 pm) during Art Basel, 2 persons are playing sports all around the curatorial platform, making noise and small disturbing moments.



battlefield #133
Living sculpture, 2018
Kunstmuseum Zug, Tanzfest
Two exhibition guards don't do their usual work of surveillance and public services. They are focused on their own display and disturb ways and passages.



battlefield #130
Living sculpture, 2018
Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland
«New Swiss Performance Now»
30 performers (as fake viewers) look and stare
at each new spectator coming into the room by
a door. (from 10 am to 17 pm).



On Vernissage TV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmKZz8CXmw4>

battlefield #132

Living sculpture, 2018

Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland

«New Swiss Performance Now»

One person is focused on its Laptop, working and sitting on stairs. Running each day during one month from 11 am to 18 pm.



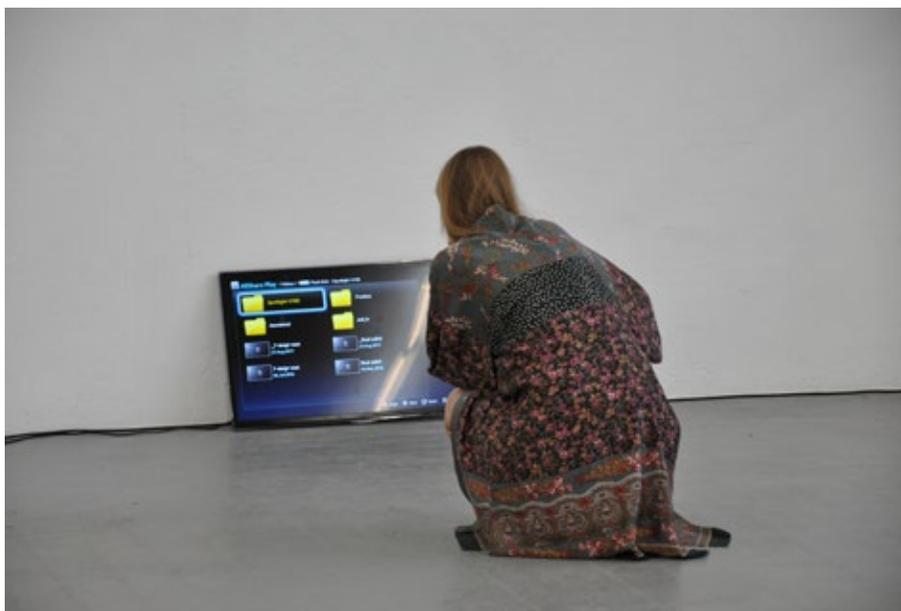
battlefield #122 / missing

Living sculpture, 2017

Swiss performance award, Gessnerhalle Zürich

Several unnoticeable devices are installed all along the day adressed to the audience waiting in between others performances. Into the queue line 15 fake viewers were chosen to entry before the others, or to go to a closed room, or to clap together in a strange moment.





battlefield #118 / working

Living sculpture, 2017

All through the opening of this exhibition (2:00 to 5:00 pm on Sunday 27 August) someone is still installing a video work, trying to make it visible, without success.

Kunsthaus Baselland, Switzerland



battlefield #131 / where
Living sculpture, 2017

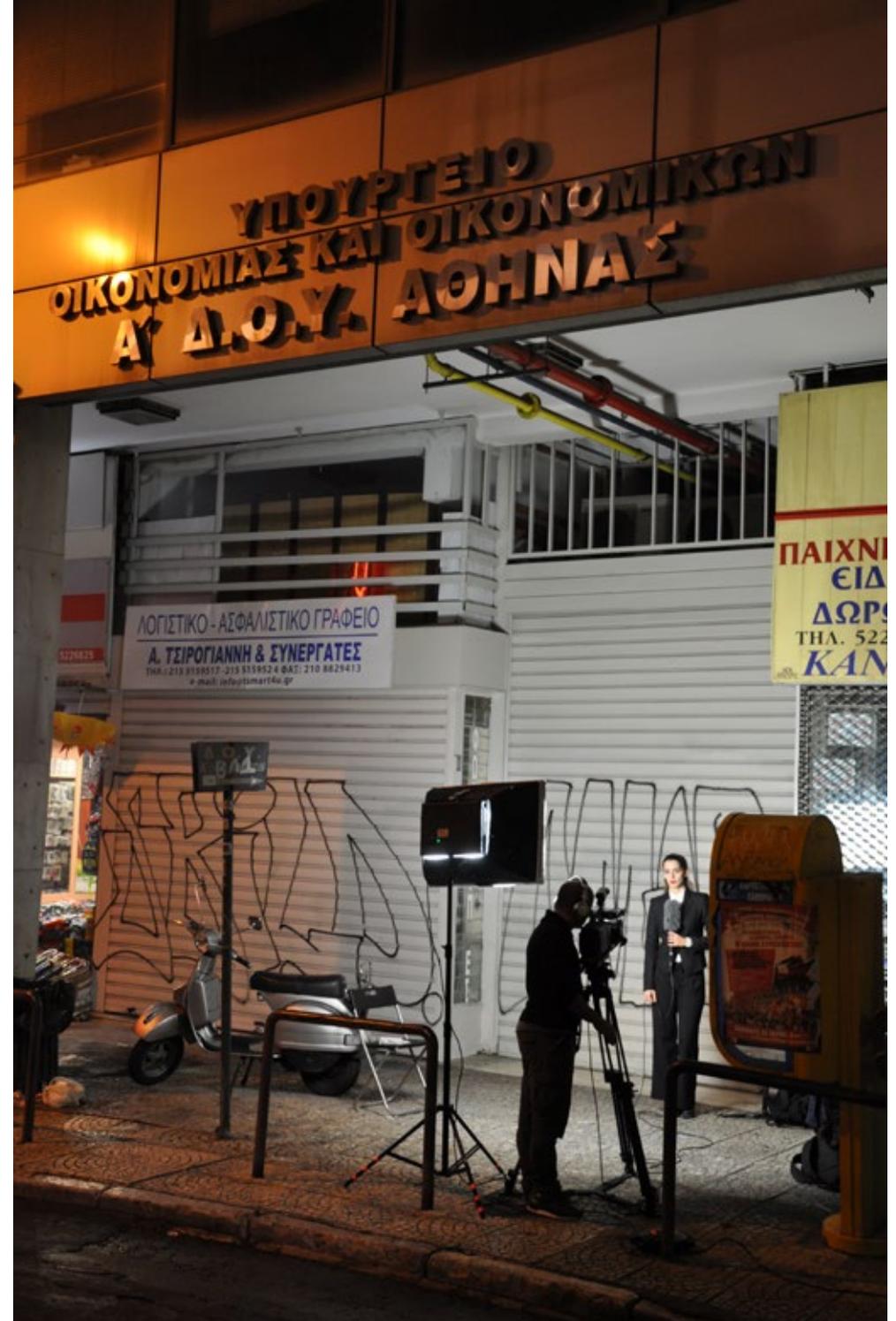
During the opening of «Jérôme Leuba, Sebastian Stumpf» exhibition at annex14 gallery Zürich, a man is looking for something everywhere, coming back to the gallery, every 10 minutes.

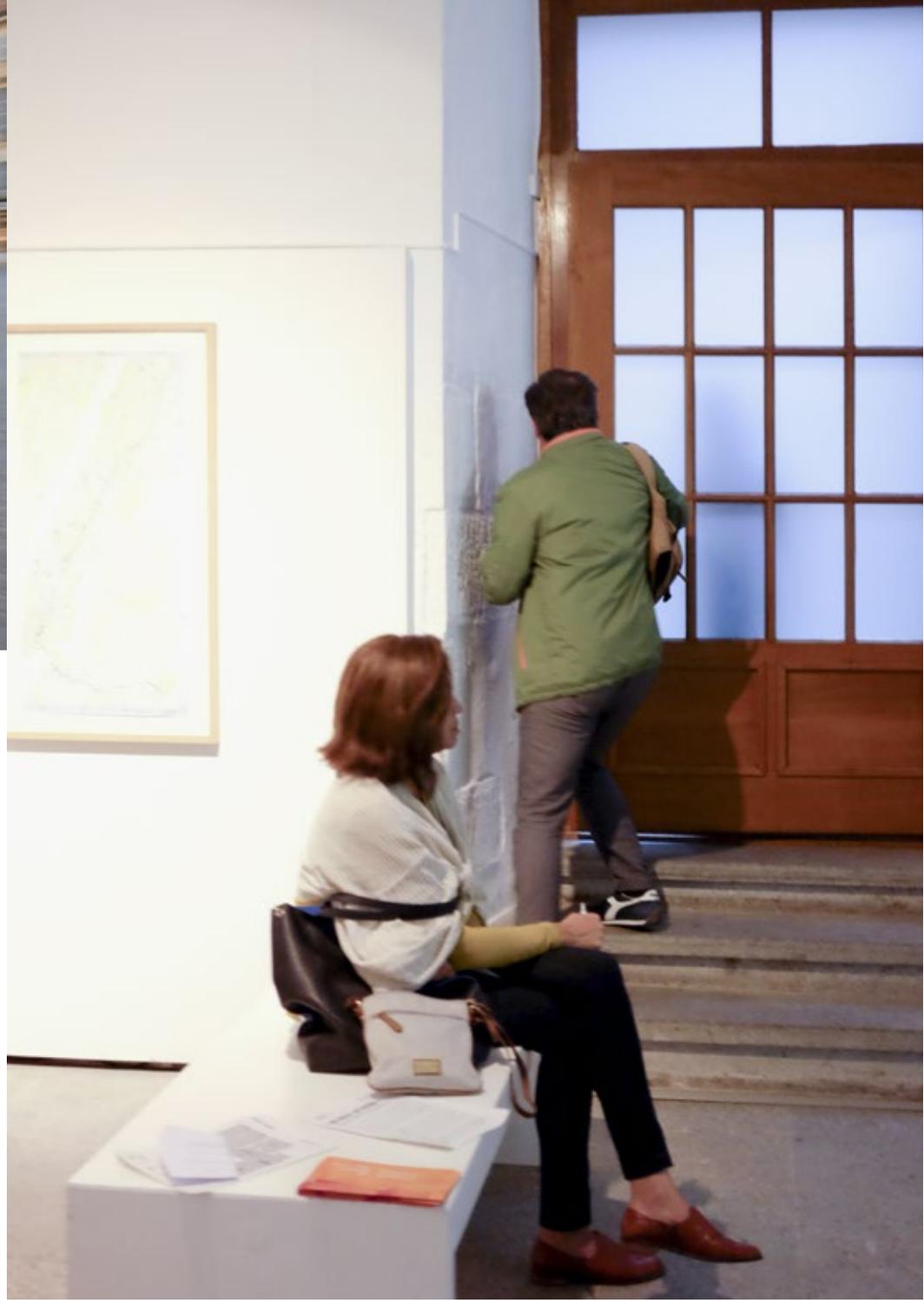


battlefield #114 / live

Living sculpture, installation, Athens, 2016

During the opening of «Twisting C(r)ash» exhibition in Romantso, Athens, a fake set up of a TV report is installed in front of the art Center, and just below of the Economics Department building of the State. During 3 hours, they apparently wait for something, testing the technical equipment, ready for a potential broadcast.





battlefield #115

Living sculpture, 2017

During the opening of «No walk-No work» exhibition in Centre d'art contemporain d'Yverdon (CACY), real fake spectators are coming late. During 3 hours, every 20 minutes someone is running, coming, entering into the exhibition and vanishing by a backdoor into the museum.



battlefield #120

Living sculpture, 2016-2018

.perf festival, Geneva

A woman walks through shopping streets with a caddy full of different types of bags: from shopping bags to cheap stuff. Between overconsumption and poverty (photo © E. Bayart)



battlefield #120
Living sculpture, 2016-2018
Tanz Tage Zug
A woman walks through shopping streets with a caddy full of different types of bags:
from shopping bags to cheap stuff. Between overconsumption and poverty.



battlefield #95 / gaze
Living sculpture, 2014-2015
5 persons stare at the pedestrians, staying
at the same place 5 hours a day during
several days.
«Test-run: art in public»
Modern Art Oxford



battlefield #95 / gaze
Living sculpture, 2014
6 persons standing on a walkside, stare
at the pedestrians. The stay at the same
place 6 hours a day during the 4 days of
the exhibition «Performed the city», 12th
edition of the Swiss Sculpture Exhibition
Biel/Bienne



battlefield #111 / sightseeing
Living sculpture, 2015

1 person stare at the museum's window, staying at the same place outside 7 hours a day in the street, during the 3 weeks of the exhibition «Twisting C(r)ash», Bâtiment d'Art Contemporain, Geneva.

Inside the museum, the viewer of the exhibition looks through the window and is directly observed by the performer outside.



battlefield #107
Living sculpture, 2015
Ongoing during the exhibition's opening hours.

One person stand along the road at the entrance of the museum.
He looks and stares at car drivers, as well as people entering to the Foundation, during three weeks on opening hours of the museum (from 10:00 to 7:00 p.m.).



battlefield #84 / american carnation

Living sculpture, 2012

Ongoing during the exhibition's opening hours.

Swiss Art Award, Basel

A man sells flowers such as «American carnation» grown in the Gaza Strip and exported to Europe despite the embargo. During the opening some people present in the exhibition called the basel police. The flowers sellers have been kicked out by the police and they erased pictures i did on my camera.





battlefield #79 / jogger
Living sculpture, 2012
8 Joggers are running each day and night
into the MS Dockville Festival, Hamburg,
Germany, among the real audience.



battlefield #77

Living sculpture, 2011

Centre d'art de Neuchâtel

During the time of my own exhibition (battlefield #82, installation) and the one of DAAR (Decolonizing Architecture art Residency/Palestine-Eyal Weizman) a woman visits the exhibition, once a day, with stones on her hands.

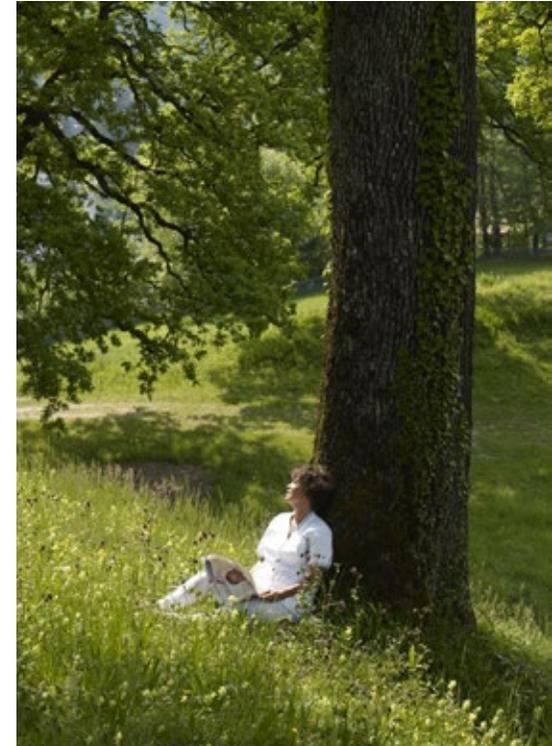


battlefield #83 / light check

Light programming, 2012

Unannounced light programming between bands Metronomy and James Blake at MS Dockville Festival, Hamburg, Germany. Each lights turn on until all they are all lit. Then they all turn off suddenly.

This programming was repeated several times.



battlefield #72 / break

Living sculpture, 2011

Women in work clothes take a break. They are always visible and present in the Park. Ongoing during the 3 months of exhibition's opening hours.

«Territoire», Bex Art Switzerland



battlefield #71 / mona lisa

Video 2010. 15', loop.

In front of the Mona Lisa in Louvre Paris, the audience always hides the famous painting (documentation). No staged devices.

battlefield # 37 / focus



battlefield #37 / focus
Living sculpture, 2008

25 persons as fake viewer/audience are hired to stand up from 12:00 to 20:00 during all the art fair (5 days long), looking at something. The real viewer join the group and belong to the sculpture. Open Space Art Cologne, Köln, Germany, madonna#fust galerie.
Ongoing during the exhibition's opening hours.



battlefield #37 / focus
Living sculpture, 2008

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Ongoing during the exhibition's opening hours.



This living sculpture is made by the presence of 25 natural redhead viewers. They belong to the real audience in a performance evening (Swiss Performance Award) and they are visible but not noticed as an art work. Over the evening, little by little they come closer all together and become more noticeable.

battlefield #70
Living sculpture, 2010
in «Sicht auf ds Original» at Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel
Swiss Performance Award nominated.







battlefield #54 / lovers, Living sculpture, 2009-2018

An active young couple is going to kiss during my own openings. They are mixed with the reality of the real audience and completely infiltrated into the audience. Substitut, Berlin / Recyclart, Bruxelles / 8 St-Bon, Paris / Rotor, Graz / Profile Fondation, Warsaw / Casal Solleric, Palma Mallorca / Kunsthaus Zug



battlefield #92 / connected
Living sculpture, 2010-2015
All along an opening one person, infiltrate as a fake viewer, is completely separate from others, checking and playing with screens and electronic devices.





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©Thierry Paré



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battlefield #50

Living sculpture, 2009

A queue line cross the Credit Suisse bank, from the entrance to the way out. 50 fake spectators were hired to slow down the line which crossed the bank hall. The real audience walk and expected to see an art work, but they just follow the line, crossing the bank and going outside.

Schalterhalle, Credit Suisse Bank
Bern Bundesplatz, Museums night Bern



© Thierry Paret



© Thierry Paret



battlefield #49 / bystander

Living sculpture, 2008

3 motionless bodies stand in the grass from 12:30 until 18:30 during 3 days.

Parc des Bastions Geneva

«Points d'impact» performance festival, Piano Nobile, Geneva



battlefield #47

Living sculpture, 2009.

«Utopics», 11th swiss public art exhibition, Biel/Bienne

A man is sitting on a balcony from noon to 18:00, 6/7 days a week, during two months. He stares at the people of the shopping street below. A swiss army rifle was placed next to him, barely invisible.

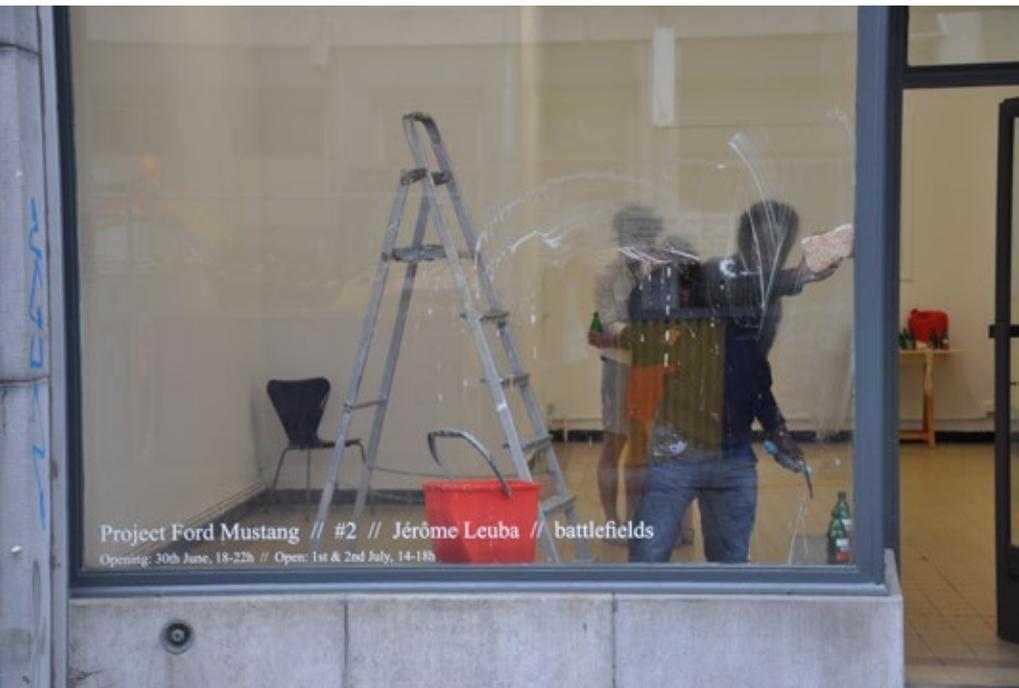
Ongoing during the exhibition's opening hours (each day during 2 months).



battlefield #19 / if you see something, say something
Installation, bags, 2008
«Shifting identities», Kunsthaus, Zürich

The legend «if you see something, say something,» printed on the back of New York Metro Cards, gives the title to this «battlefield» constituted of pieces of lost luggages and other tote bags simply scattered into the exhibition space and gates.





battlefield #57/ cleaning
Living sculpture, 2008-2010
A man is cleaning windows during the opening.



battlefield #40

Living sculpture, 2008

Someone is sleeping in the exhibition space, staying motionless. Ongoing during the exhibition's opening hours.

«Blank light», Ausstellungsraum Klimental. Basel