

The Act of Painting (Being the Universe)

rosalux

November 26 – December 10, 2016

On a hot summerday in 2015 we met Tiny Domingos in his independant art space – “Kunstraum” – rosalux in Wedding. We talked for two or three hours about art and life. Mostly Tiny was the one who did the talking. His energy, his enthousiasm and his love for art and artists made a huge impression on me and it has never left me since then. We agreed to do a show in the winter of 2016. An *Act of Painting* show. *The Act of Painting* is an international artist’s collective that I founded in 2013 together with Jeroen Hofhuizen. Big issue of the collective is abstract painting and more specific how an intuitive state of mind leads to a better understanding of the world in times of merely commercial thinking. We have organized shows in Enschede, Eindhoven, Nagoya, Tokyo and Berlin and a show in Amsterdam is coming up. The show in rosalux would be the first smaller group show, in the two spaces of rosalux sized like livingrooms, with the artists Charlotte Warsen (Berlin), Marie van Vollenhoven (Maastricht), Andre Kruysen (The Hague), Jeroen Hofhuizen (Maastricht) and myself, Raymond Cuijpers (Amsterdam). When we arrived at the Wriezener Straße after a train trip from Amsterdam, we found Tiny Domingos in an old pair of jeans and a black T-shirt painting the walls. The works wouldn’t arrive from Amsterdam till the next morning. We contemplated for a while in the empty white spaces of rosalux.

The next day we installed the show and I was very pleased with the combination of the works. While we were hanging the works, people from the neighbourhood peeked in and reacted positive on the classical way the works were presented. A few hours later rosalux was open for public and people kept on stepping in. All the “Kunsträume” in Wedding had opening night and the atmosphere was electric. I remembered this energy from the “Rundgang” in Mitte in the nineties and early years of the new millennium. Tiny seemed to know everyone and presented the works with pride. He introduced the artists to most vistors. I think all together about 250 people were in rosalux that night; most of them came back after having a look at the other spaces in the hood. Marie van Vollenhoven did a live VJ-performance. Visitors were talking about the works, about painting, someone said: ‘Endlich etwas Sinnliches’ – something for the senses, finally. The opening started at about six or seven and lasted till eleven pm. When the last visitors left we went for a dance and a beer at the “Kugelbahn”, around the corner. It was a surprise to see a real bowling center when we entered. DJ’s were pumping the beats into the space, people were dancing and sweating and bowling and drinking. All the people from the art spaces were there, and it looked to me as if Wedding was the hotspot of art in Berlin that night. And when I think about it now, that thought occurred to me not only out of the rush of the show we just had put up, no all those art spaces and the people – with Tiny Domingos as a great inspirator – made Wedding the real center of art, because no one was thinking of selling the work (like the galleries in Mitte are), one was showing the art as it should be shown, out of love for art, for the lifes of artist, for their vision and their dreams.

Raymond Cuijpers, February 2017