

# Songlines

## What,

In **Songlines** we invite the Brussels inhabitants to sing. Not together. And yet together. Singing binds. The result is an emotional force that is universal, touches the heart and reason is put aside for a moment.

Each participant sings in his own language the song "Ne me quitte pas" of Brel. Separately. One by one. Afterwards, this individual song is synchronized to one global song together. In this way a choir arises. A virtual choir with a multicultural mix of personal styles, languages and temperaments. Each performer is portrayed with a camera obscura. Each 'singer' is projected separately on a cloth, a wall piece or a particular background. All 'rags' are suspended in the length of the .....straat. The .....street, a global songline.



## Vision,

### Creating with sound and light,

We have the reality of an everyday environment, an alley or street transformed into a dream scene. We do this with light and sound. The street is a sung line of projected figures under which people walk, watch and listen. Through the use of 50 slide projectors, we go to battle. We install a protective cover over the projector for rain and wind and place them according to projection requirement on all window sills, ledges, niches and walls... in short, wherever this item can be placed upon, in or on a building. The building is medium and sometimes becomes a light projection plane to our material.

We project the portraits of singers on stretched canvases, hung garments and walls. The wax threads are stretched between the houses. This seems like an everyday Italian street scene. Overall it looks magical and moves by intoxicating sounds.



## Technique,

### The technique used

The projections are made by means of the old and known slide-projector. These devices became in a very short time overruled and raged by the digital revolution. The devices are rock solid, simple to operate, transportable and can be used anywhere. So we use these as well. We install a protective cover over the projector for rain and wind and place them according to projection requirement on all window sills, ledges, walls and projections ... in short, wherever this item can be placed. All these projectors are linked to a central computer who controls the light images in order to fade away or in.. If all projectors light up at the same time there are about  $150 \text{ watts} \times 50 = 7500 \text{ watts}$  used. What should be paid attention and looked for is a street (small alley), in which the necessary silence can bear the vulnerable sound and light. An alley in which the residents are willing to place throughout the duration of the festival a projector on their windowsill or on the balcony or roof (at least in height so that the normal passerby cannot reach for it) Where the bending of a clothesline is not experienced as a violation of privacy.



## Spectator,

### The experience by the viewer

The spectator passes under the projected images as a normal passerby. As he saunters through the alley he discovers the different identities that sound through the versions of the song. Watching the projected faces creates peace, curiosity and encounter. Each face tells its own story that takes shape in sex, color, age, cool or violated. This image gets a further deepening through the mystical voice that sings in which vulnerability is a key factor. The street comes alive through these voices, who are never loud or blatant, and produces a song that brings us back to the deepest, often covered, places within ourselves.

*All ideas and images*

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