

como
recordar
o que nunca
aconteceu

LISBOA
30 / 10 / 1981
30 / 10 / 2011

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how to recall what never happened

HOW TO RECALL WHAT HAS NEVER HAPPENED

A true happening has to also encompass the possibility of its impossibility as a fundamental rule: its demise, its absolute presence, and its irredeemable loss to a subject.

The acceptance of what could have not happened, just so that it can take place. Something that has never taken place can neither be true nor false. Memory can only register an infinitesimal part of what has really taken place and translates it as the truth in whole.

When trying to recall anything that has never actually taken place, one has to turn back to its representation. When remembering something that never came to be one enters in the realm of fables, of figments, proceeding into its representation.

It is that impossibility of what doesn't happen - that fiction that is absolutely necessary for living in present time. And it is in that context that our take on Design is more of a take on Fiction. Taking all action as a selection between possibles, as well as a representation or a memory of everything that has taken place. This fabrication holds all the possibilities of our actions and thoughts.

As Communication Designers and Visual Artists, we have invited the artists that had "participated", some thirty years back, in *Lis'81* - the *Lisbon International Drawing Biennial* to devise an intervention for a non-happening.

Lis'81 was however consumed by flames during its staging phase at the *National Modern Art Gallery in Belém*. This cultural area in Belém was at the time an important cultural spot of the capital and the Biennial was intended to incorporate Lisbon in the route of the International Art Fairs. *Lis'81*, though it was never inaugurated, has left us a catalog, a way of reaching into it, of fabricating it. Each one of the guest artists has taken inspiration from the motto *How To Recall What Has Never Happened* for a production that takes as its stage a culture related space or building in Lisbon that has either lost its original purpose or has fallen into ruin.

The chance to reach into these non-happenings is given by the distribution of communication material (catalogs and exhibition abstracts) for a group of fabricated exhibitions/presentations. Communication in itself is really the only happening. *Useless* communication that becomes useful.

How To Recall What Has Never Happened - phase 0 - was stated at *EXD'11* the International Design Biennale of Lisbon. We invited the visitors for a preview of that communication objects, printed directly on the wall.

Invitations were sent about to two hundred artists who had participated in *Lis'81*. Although we obtained some responses, and already some proposals, the project has not moved from its *phase - 0* - the presentation room.

The disaster, a challenge for meaning. The praise of paradox. The simple life of objects.

Je est un autre: the expression of the desire to objectify oneself, of something that takes place.

All project can be following in this web sites:

<http://www.comorecordaroquenuncaaconteceu.com/en.php>

<http://www.experimentadesign.pt/2011/en/02-05-00-comorecordar.html>