

Gisela Weimann

Selection from ideas and concepts developed during my stay as a resident guest of the Emily Harvey Foundation in Venice, 8 April to 31 May 2009

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Series Corte Ca' Michiel: My reflected work table at night

Diary

I have kept a diary throughout my entire stay. I have not decided whether I will work out my impressions literally or not. One idea is to produce a book and create a structure that is reminiscent of the flowing water of the canals by printing the individual pages several times on top of each other thus only revealing a touch of their meaning.

Handwritten diary entry in German, written in cursive script. The text is dense and covers several lines of a page. It appears to be a reflection on the experience of staying in Venice, mentioning the canal city and the artist's work.

Gisela Weimann
LA NOTTE BLU
A project for Venice

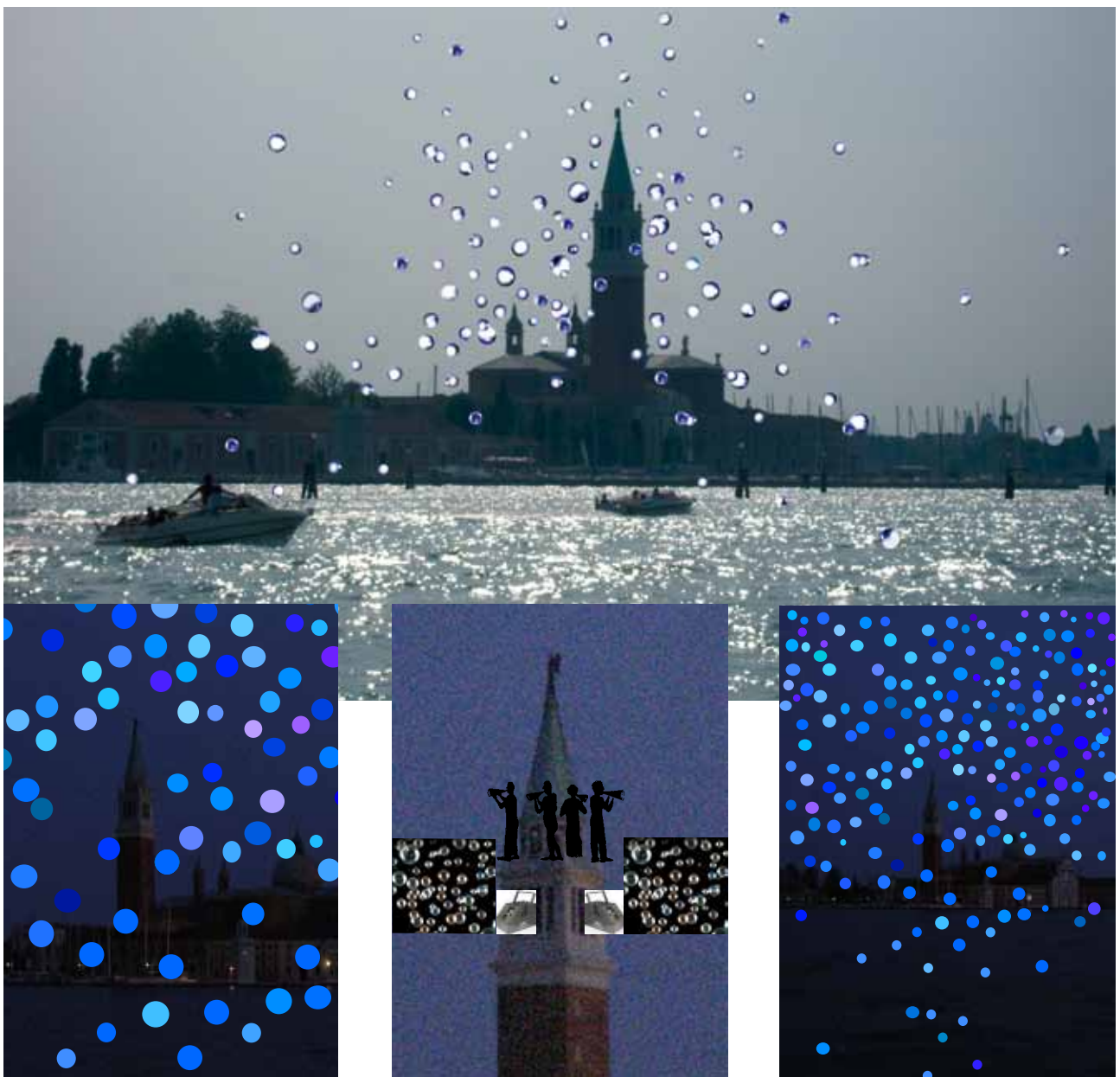
„Blue’ is the poetic colour of longing of German romanticism. In the English language ‚blue’ may describe a melancholic state of mind. Dreamlike poetry and still melancholy also overlie Venice and its hidden alleys, bewitched palaces and old churches. It is this unreal and timeless atmosphere that I wish to enhance with „La Notte Blu“.

Soap bubble machines are placed on the tower of San Giorgio (or San Polo) and fill the nightly sky with thousands of shimmering soap bubbles that are illuminated by blue spotlights and visible for miles around. Singers with megaphones stand on the upper platform of the tower facing south, west, north and east. They send out sacral doxologies from Christianity (e. g. overtone songs of Boethius or Medieval hymns to Maria), the Islam (Sufi chants), Judaism (liturgical recitation) and Buddhism (Brahman cantos) to the cardinal points. Like in a canon the voices set in individually, merge into a hymn of praise and detach themselves again from each other.

Idea, audio-visual concept and direction: Gisela Weimann / developed during the residency at the Emily Harvey Foundation in Venice, April-May 2009

Direction of music: Annunziata Dellisantii, Centro Veneto per le Donne in Musica

The project is dedicated with deep gratitude to Emily Harvey and to Ulrike Zirkel



Lettera da Venezia

To receive mail makes me happy. It connects me with all the places in the world where I have lived and allows my imagination to fly to those that I do not know yet. It conjoins me with the past and the future and expands my present immeasurably. The harmonious and stringent form of an envelope that is designed to receive a content complies with my requirement for an art with substance. It turns the envelope into a symbol for communication – in this case with shop keepers in Venice.



„Lettera da Venezia“ is a study about Venetian traditions, their change and loss. Old-established shop keepers continue to afford their individually designed wrapping papers whereas several new ones use standardised industrial papers or plastic bags. Mr. Manise and Mr. Mascari understood at once that my project documents the ‚traditional Venice‘ and at the bakery Bucintoro I was granted percents. I want to continue the project and produce a small book with images and interviews.

My shadow in Venice

For many years I have taken photos of my shadow at all the places where I have lived as an argument for my having been there.



Upper left: „On my balcony at Corte Ca' Michiel“

Lower left: „Mystery of two suns at Giudecca“

Upper right: „Mirror“

Lower right: „Giacometti's Lady of Venice and I at Palazzo Fortuny“



Canale Grande

Throughout my stay I have created painted water structures and also taken photographs of water for my projected picture sequence „Canale Grande“.

